



Sheriff Richard A. Reigenborn

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Division Chief
FROM: Sergeant Daniel Monares
DATE: 06/29/2021
SUBJ: Executive Summary IA2021-0004

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: WB I-76 and 74th Avenue

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: 01/21/2021

EMPLOYEE(S) INVOLVED: Deputy Sheriff Stanley Joseph Watson

EMPLOYEE(S) SUPERVISOR: Sergeant's [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND:

On January 21, 2021 at about 2204 hours, Deputy [REDACTED] initiated a vehicle pursuit around I-76 and E. 88th Ave. The pursuit traveled west bound on I-76 reaching speeds of 100 mph. Deputy Stanley Watson was able to place himself in front of the pursuit and advised he had stop sticks ready for deployment west of 74th Ave. Sergeant [REDACTED] terminated the pursuit and deputies immediately disengaged. The suspect vehicles continued, and Deputy Watson observed the deputies shut emergency equipment off and terminate the pursuit. Deputy Watson observed the suspect vehicle and deployed the stop sticks on the suspect vehicle after the order to terminate the pursuit was given.

ALLEGATION #1 Adherence to Standards

The Standards of Conduct contained herein are applicable to all employees of the Adams County Sheriff's Office, whether acting in an official or unofficial capacity. Sheriff's employees shall not commit any act or fail to perform any act that violates these Standards of Conduct - or any of the policies, procedures, rules, orders or directives, whether verbal or written, of the Adams County Sheriff's Office.

ALLEGATION #2 Unsatisfactory Performance

Sheriff's employees shall maintain sufficient competency to properly perform their duties and assume the responsibilities of their positions. They shall perform their duties in a manner that will maintain the highest standards of efficiency in carrying out the functions and objectives of the Sheriff. Unsatisfactory performance may include, but is not limited to:

- A lack of knowledge of the application of laws required to be enforced
- An unwillingness or inability to perform assigned tasks
- Excessive use of sick leave
- The failure to conform to work standards or performance standards established for the employee's rank, grade or position
- The failure to take appropriate action on the occasion of a crime, disorder or other condition deserving law enforcement attention
- Absence without leave.

In addition to other indications of unsatisfactory performance, the following will be considered "prima facie" evidence of unsatisfactory performance:

- Repeated poor evaluations or a written record of excessive use of sick leave
- Repeated infractions of rules, regulations, directives or orders of the Sheriff.

ALLEGATION #3 Insubordination

Sheriff's employees shall promptly obey any lawful orders of a supervisor. This includes orders relayed from a supervisory employee to an employee of the same or lesser rank or position.

WITNESS: Sergeant [REDACTED]

On May 6, 2021, I conducted an interview with Sergeant [REDACTED] in the Internal Affairs Office at the Adams County Sheriff's Office Headquarters, 4430 S. Adams County Parkway, 1st Floor, Suite W5400 Brighton, CO 80601. I recorded the interview and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview please see the attached recording.

Sergeant [REDACTED] has been employed with the Sheriff's Office since July 2014. Sergeant [REDACTED] has been assigned as a B-platoon sergeant for the last seven months.

On January 21, 2021 at about 2204 hours, Deputy [REDACTED] attempted to stop two vehicles for traffic violations around I-76 and E. 88th Avenue. The vehicles failed to stop and a pursuit was initiated. Sgt. [REDACTED] stated the pursuit reached speeds of 100 mph and the charges were traffic charges only. Sgt. [REDACTED] aired over the radio to terminate the pursuit and the pursuing deputies stopped chasing the suspect and turned their emergency equipment off. Sgt. [REDACTED] stated several seconds later he heard Deputy Stanley Watson air over the radio that stop sticks were successfully deployed on the suspect vehicle. Deputies [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] continued to follow the vehicle with their emergency equipment off. The deputies later found the vehicle on the side of the highway and the suspect(s) had fled the scene in the other vehicle.

Sgt. [REDACTED] stated he later talked to Deputy Watson. Deputy Watson told Sgt. [REDACTED] he heard him say over the radio to terminate the pursuit and observed the pursuing deputies turn off their emergency equipment. Deputy Watson told Sgt. [REDACTED] he made a conscious decision to deploy stop sticks on his own and told Sgt. [REDACTED] "Why should they get away?"

I played the ADCOM recording of the pursuit for Sgt. [REDACTED]. Sgt. [REDACTED] explained that after he calls for the pursuit to be terminated and the deployment of the stop sticks sounds very quick. He stated when ADCOM sends files, they come in a compressed file and that is why everything sounds close together. Sgt. [REDACTED] stated Deputy Watson had plenty of time to observe what was going on and not deploy the stop sticks. Sgt. [REDACTED] confirmed Deputies [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] discontinued the pursuit when he told them to.

Sgt. [REDACTED] stated he has not experienced any bad behavior from Deputy Watson. He stated Deputy Watson is a young, eager deputy.

WITNESS: Deputy [REDACTED]

On May 6, 2021, I conducted an interview with Deputy [REDACTED] in the Internal Affairs Office at the Adams County Sheriff's Office Headquarters, 4430 S. Adams County Parkway, 1st Floor, Suite W5400 Brighton, CO 80601. I recorded the interview and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview please see the attached recording.

Deputy [REDACTED] has been employed with the Sheriff's Office since January 2016. He is currently assigned to B-platoon on patrol.

On January 21, 2021 at about 2204 hours, Deputy [REDACTED] observed two vehicles traveling south bound in about the 9400 block of Monaco Street. Deputy [REDACTED] stated one of the vehicles was following closely to the other and it appeared to be a road rage to him. Deputy [REDACTED] turned around and both vehicles sped up. The two vehicles turned onto west bound I-76 from 88th Avenue. Deputy [REDACTED] activated his emergency equipment and the two vehicles failed to yield. They continued west bound I-76 reaching speeds of 100 mph. When the chase got to the area of I-76 and Hwy 85, Sgt. [REDACTED] terminated the pursuit. Deputy [REDACTED] let off the accelerator and his speeds lowered to about 60 mph. Deputy [REDACTED] observed the vehicles continue west bound on I-76 toward the Hwy 270 and Hwy 36 exit. Deputy [REDACTED] heard a deputy over the radio say, "Good sticks." Deputy [REDACTED] asked which vehicle was stop stuck and he was told the truck. Deputy [REDACTED] observed the vehicles traveling east bound 270. Deputy [REDACTED] stated he followed from a distance without his emergency equipment activated. They traveled a couple miles east bound on 270 and observed the two vehicles on the shoulder of the highway. Deputy [REDACTED] observed a female jump into another vehicle and it took off. Deputy [REDACTED] did not continue to pursue and recovered the vehicle that was left behind.

Deputy [REDACTED] did not observe the stop sticks get deployed. Deputy [REDACTED] understands when the sergeant terminates a pursuit, that means to stop any chasing or throwing stop sticks.

WITNESS: Deputy ██████████

On May 12, 2021, I conducted an interview with Deputy ██████████ in the Internal Affairs Office at the Adams County Sheriff's Office Headquarters, 4430 S. Adams County Parkway, 1st Floor, Suite W5400 Brighton, CO 80601. I recorded the interview and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview please see the attached recording.

Deputy ██████████ has been employed with the Sheriff's Office since January 2019. He is currently assigned to the patrol division on B-platoon.

On January 21, 2021, Deputy ██████████ was on duty at about 2204 hours. Deputy ██████████ heard Deputy ██████████ involved in a vehicle pursuit traveling west bound I-76 approaching 74th Avenue. Deputy ██████████ was driving a vehicle equipped with Star Chase. Deputy ██████████ started toward I-76 from the substation to enter I-76. By the time he got to I-76 the pursuit was terminated by Sgt. ██████████ Deputy ██████████ was never able to deploy a Star Chase dart on the suspect vehicle.

Deputy ██████████ stated when he heard the order to terminate the pursuit, he shut his emergency equipment off and slowed his speeds. Deputy ██████████ did not witness Deputy Watson deploy the stop sticks and stated the stop sticks were deployed after the sergeant gave the order to terminate the pursuit.

No suspects were apprehended out of this incident. A stolen vehicle was recovered from this incident.

SUBJECT: Deputy Stanley Watson

On May 20, 2021, I conducted an interview with Deputy Stanley Watson in the Internal Affairs Office at the Adams County Sheriff's Office Headquarters, 4430 S. Adams County Parkway, 1st Floor, Suite W5400 Brighton, CO 80601. I recorded the interview and the information below is a summary of the conversation. For the complete interview please see the attached recording.

Deputy Watson has been employed with Sheriff's Office since January 2014. He is currently assigned to the patrol division on B-platoon. His current supervisors are Sergeant's ██████████.

On January 21, 2021 at about 2204 hours, Deputy Watson stated he was at the substation and heard Deputy ██████████ air over the radio he was in pursuit of two vehicles traveling west bound on I-76. Deputy Watson stated he got onto I-76 west bound ahead of the pursuit and said he would have stop sticks set up just west of 74th Ave. on I-76. Deputy Watson observed the two pursuing vehicles. He stated as they were passing 74th Ave., he heard Sgt. ██████████ terminate the pursuit. Deputy Watson observed the emergency equipment turn off on the pursuing vehicles and slow down. As the vehicles passed him, he decided to throw stop sticks in the path of the vehicles. The stop sticks were successful on one of the fleeing vehicles. Deputy Watson aired over the radio "Good stick." Deputy Watson stated about five seconds passed after he heard Sgt. ██████████ terminate the pursuit.

Deputy Watson stated he was aware of the pursuit being terminated. He stated he has worked for other sergeants that have told deputies it's okay to throw the stop sticks after the pursuit is terminated if it's done safely. Deputy Watson stated he was new to working with Sgt. [REDACTED] and was not aware of his expectations.

Deputy Watson stated he was later called into Sgt. [REDACTED] office. He said in the closed-door conversation, he explained to Sgt. [REDACTED] he understood why the pursuit was terminated but he still threw the stop sticks.

Deputy Watson stated he was never a part of the pursuit other than putting stop stick out.

End of Interviews