

Johnstown Police Department
Disciplinary Action Report

Employee Name: William Ward	Case#: IA25-25
Date of Incident: 10/09/2023	Prior Disciplinary History:
Complainants [REDACTED] Name: [REDACTED] Address: [REDACTED] City, State, Zip: [REDACTED]	IA 23-09- Improper Supervision (UNFOUNDED) IA 23-02- False Arrest, Member Responsibilities (EXONERATED)
Applicable Section(s): 318.9.2(c)- Supervisor Responsibilities 309.3 Search and Seizure 318.11.5(a)- Standards of Conduct- Performance 318.11.4(b)- Standards of Conduct- Efficiency	
Date Assigned: 08/14/2025	
Date Completed: 12/19/2025	
Investigator: J. Strossner	

Summary of Allegation
(Required synopsis for permanent record)

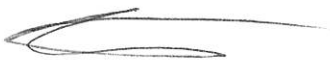
On May 3, 2025, [REDACTED] and Sergeant Ward responded to [REDACTED] on a [REDACTED] With Weapon call. [REDACTED] arrived on scene first, observing a distraught female in front of the dispatched address. [REDACTED] gave verbal commands, detained the female with handcuffs and sat the female down on the curb. [REDACTED] realized that the female was [REDACTED] who is the wife of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was eventually placed into the back of a patrol car while still handcuffed. [REDACTED] later unhandcuffed [REDACTED] and stayed with her while [REDACTED] and Sergeant Ward searched for the handgun.

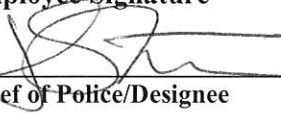
During the search a proper consent to search pursuant to C.R.S § 16-3-310 was not obtained. Officers did not specifically ask for voluntarily consent to search [REDACTED] vehicles and did not inform her of her right to refuse. They believed they had implied consent due to [REDACTED] giving them the code. It is very difficult to prove voluntariness when the person whose property you are searching for was detained at gunpoint, handcuffed, and eventually placed into a patrol car. Sergeant Ward was the supervisor on scene and should have been monitoring the validity of any search as it relates to a person's 4th amendment rights. His statement during the interview was, "we had cleared this with [REDACTED] for somehow to get into the safe," but doesn't recall how the code was obtained and assumed [REDACTED] asked for consent.

After the search was completed, [REDACTED] was taken on an [REDACTED] by [REDACTED]. Sergeant Ward put in his report that [REDACTED] was apprehensive about going to the [REDACTED] but ultimately agreed to go voluntarily, which was an untrue statement. Sergeant Ward said that this statement was entered into his report by Draft One. He admitted that it was his fault for not reviewing the report better and that part of the reason for the oversight was that it was Saturday night. Sergeant Ward also approved [REDACTED] report which contradicted his own report.

Final Disposition: SUSTAINED

Final Action: 3-DAY SUSPENSION, JAN 8-10TH

x  12/22/2025
Employee Signature Date

 12 22 2025
Chief of Police/Designee Date

Johnstown Police Department
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Staff Review

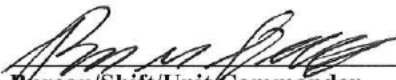
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Possible Violation: 318.9.2(c)- Supervisor Responsibilities

(c) Directing a subordinate to violate a policy or directive, acquiesce to such a violation, or are indifferent to any such violation by a subordinate.

Supervising and approving the unconstitutional search of [REDACTED] vehicles inside a private residential garage.

 Bureau/Shift/Unit Commander	12 22 2025 Date	☒ Sustained ☐ Unfounded	☐ Not Sustained ☐ Exonerated
 Chief of Police/Designee	12 22 2025 Date	☒ Sustained ☐ Unfounded	☐ Not Sustained ☐ Exonerated

Dispositions:

Sustained - the allegations supported by sufficient proof.

Not Sustained - the evidence is not sufficient to prove the allegation.

Unfounded - the allegation is false or otherwise not based on valid facts.

Exonerated - the incident or act occurred but was lawful and/or procedurally proper; or

Other Findings - during the course of the investigation it was determined other violations exist or training and/or procedures need to be modified in order to minimize further occurrences.

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Possible Violation: 309.3 Search and Seizure

The U.S. Constitution generally provides that a valid warrant is required in order for a search to be valid. There are, however, several exceptions that permit a warrantless search. Examples of law enforcement activities that are exceptions to the general warrant requirement include, but are not limited to, searches pursuant to the following:

- Valid consent
- Incident to a lawful arrest
- Legitimate community caretaking interests
- Vehicle searches under certain circumstances
- Exigent circumstances

Conducting an unconstitutional search of her personal vehicles inside of private residential garage.

	122225	☒ Sustained	☐ Not Sustained
Bureau/Shift/Unit Commander	Date	☐ Unfounded	☐ Exonerated
	12 22 25	☒ Sustained	☐ Not Sustained
Chief of Police/Designee	Date	☐ Unfounded	☐ Exonerated

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Possible Violation: 318.11.5(a) Standards of Conduct- Performance

(a) *Failure to disclose or misrepresenting material facts, or making any false or misleading statement on any application, examination form, or other official document, report or form, or during the course of any work-related investigation.*

Entered the false or misleading statement [REDACTED] *was apprehensive but ultimately agreed to go voluntarily,* in the official police report, when she was actually placed on an [REDACTED]. It is believed that statement was not placed in the report intentionally, but there was negligence in not properly reviewing your report for misleading statements generated by Draft One.

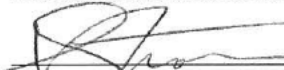

Bureau/Shift/Unit Commander

Date

12/22/2025

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☐ Unfounded

☐ Not Sustained
☐ Exonerated


Chief of Police/Designee

Date

12/22/2025

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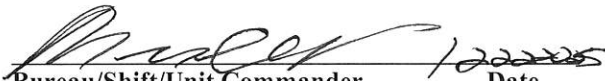
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Possible Violation: 318.11.4(b) Standards of Conduct-

(b) *Unsatisfactory work performance including but not limited to failure, incompetence, inefficiency, or delay in performing and/or carrying out proper orders, work assignments, or the instructions of supervisors without a reasonable and bona fide excuse*

Unsatisfactory work performance in completing and reviewing your police reporting documenting this incident and reviewing your subordinates reports.


Bureau/Shift/Unit Commander

Date



Sustained



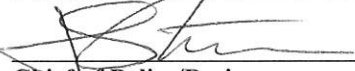
Unfounded



Not Sustained



Exonerated


Chief of Police/Designee

Date



Sustained



Unfounded



Not Sustained



Exonerated

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