



GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

FILE CLASS:	Administrative Review	DATE OCCURRED:	July 31, 2022
TYPE OF COMPLAINT:	Internal	INTERNAL AFFAIRS #:	22-061
DATE RECEIVED:	August 15, 2022	DATE CLOSED:	November 3, 2022
RELATED CASES:	02-22-011467	ASSIGNED TO:	Sgt. Leah Hayes

LOCATION OF COMPLAINT					
ADDRESS:	3800 SW 34th Street	CITY:	Gainesville	ADDITIONAL INFO:	

ASSOCIATED NAMES						
CO:	Sgt. V. Nicoloff	RACE:	White	SEX:	Male	DOB:
SO:	Ofc. E. Armstrong	FINDINGS:	Sustained	ACTIONS:	Employee Notice, loss of take home vehicle for 4 weeks (28 days)	

APPLICABLE RULE OF CONDUCT	
City of Gainesville Code of Conduct E-3 Rule 23, "Carelessness which affects the safety of personnel, equipment, tools or property or causes materials, parts, or equipment to be damaged."	

City of Gainesville Code of Conduct E-3 Rule 30, "Violating a safety rule or a safety practice."

COMPLAINT / NOTES / SUMMARY

On August 15, 2022 Internal Affairs received a referral from Sergeant L. Valdes of the Traffic Safety Team in reference to a preventable crash involving Officer Erin Armstrong. Based on the preliminary review, the crash was determined to be preventable and Officer Armstrong's actions contributed to the crash. The total damage amount is greater than \$15, 000.00, which according to Gainesville Police Department General Order 61.7 Department Traffic Crashes and Vehicle Damage Investigations categorizes it as a "Major Crash".

The crash occurred on August 1, 2022 at approximately 0325 hours. Officer Armstrong was travelling south on SR 121 (SW 34th Street) in the center lane of travel. She last remembered passing through the intersection of SW 34th Street and SW 35th Place. Officer Armstrong fell asleep and crashed into the center median of SW 34th Street at approximately the 3800 block based on the damage to the median. She awakened when her vehicle struck the center median and the airbags in her vehicle deployed. Officer Armstrong reported that after the crash, the brakes on her vehicle were not working, so she rode the median until she was able to maneuver the vehicle off of it. No one was injured in the crash. The crash was documented under GPD case number 02-22-011467.

Officer Armstrong's vehicle, a 2018 Dodge Charger, sustained disabling damage that was estimated to cost \$16,965.15 in parts and labor to repair. Ultimately, the vehicle was totaled as it was not cost effective to repair it.

Officer Armstrong does not have an in-car camera in her vehicle. Her body worn camera activates after the crash. The photos taken the night of the crash are consistent with the accounts given to Sergeant Nicoloff, who completed the internal Vehicle Crash report in Blue Team. Drug Free Workplace protocols were followed.

I spoke with Officer Armstrong informally about this case and she stated that she did not wish to participate in an interview as she does not dispute the facts of the crash as it was documented.

Gainesville Police Department General Order 41.3 Department Vehicles states in part, *"Department members shall operate Department vehicles in a safe and skillful manner as set forth within the guidelines of Department policies and Florida State Statutes."* Based on a review of the crash report, photographs, the Vehicle Crash internal report, and the estimate to repair from University Collision Center, Officer Armstrong failed to use due care while operating vehicle G4254 during this incident. Officer Armstrong was therefore not in compliance with City of Gainesville Code of Conduct E-3 Rule 23, *"Carelessness which affects the safety of personnel, equipment, tools or property or causes materials, parts, or equipment to be damaged."* Officer Armstrong was also not in compliance with City of Gainesville Code of Conduct E-3 Rule 30, *"Violating a safety rule or a safety practice."* As a result, the allegation that Officer Armstrong violated City of Gainesville Code of Conduct E-3 Rule 23 and Rule 30 is **SUSTAINED**.

According to General Order 61.7 Department Traffic Crashes and Vehicle Damage Investigations, an employee who is involved in a preventable "major crash" is assessed **3 points** toward GPD's point system matrix for vehicles crashed or damaged during preventable incidents. Officer Armstrong received a written warning and was assessed 1 point toward GPD's point system matrix in the 24 months prior to this incident, for a total of 4 points within 2 years. Therefore, Officer Armstrong will receive an Employee Notice and loss of his take home vehicle for 4 weeks (28 days) starting on the first day of her work week. In addition, Officer Armstrong will attend remedial driving training. Future violations, similar in nature will result in progressive discipline up to and including suspension and/or dismissal.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing document and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the facts stated in it are true. Furthermore, I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the subject of the investigation of any of the rights contained in ss. [112.532](#) and [112.533](#), Florida Statutes.

IA#: 22-061

Investigator:

Sgt. Leah Hayes

Date:

11/08/22

IA Commander:

T. DUBST

Date:

11-09-2022

Bureau Commander:

R. Fall

Date:

11-18-22

Chief Inspector:

Paul Mink

Date:

11-16-22

Acting

Assistant Chief:

Paul Owen

Date:

11-16-22

Chief:

Jonas Jones

Date:

11-16-2022