



**MEETING MINUTES
SESSION OF THE CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW BOARD
CITY OF KISSIMMEE
CITY HALL, COMMISSION CHAMBERS
101 CHURCH STREET, KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA 34741-5054
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024 AT 9:00 AM**

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER Members Present:** Chairperson Joseph Billittier, Vice Chairperson Nilisa Council, Board Member Kristin Camero, Board Member Nina Hill, Attorney Michael Roper
Staff Present: Chief Betty Holland, Deputy Chief Camille Alicea, Captain Ian Downing, Lieutenant Michael Thompson, Corporal Justin Lunsford,
Members Absent: David Bracy

Chairperson Joseph Billittier called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

2. **MEETING MINUTES** Motion to approve Board Minutes for January 3, 2024 passed 5-0.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** None.
4. **OLD BUSINESS** None.
5. **NEW BUSINESS** None.

5.a Consent Agenda

5.b Review of Investigations & Appearances

5.b.i Review IA 23-014 Standard of Conduct and Arrests

Lt. Michael Thompson presented Case IA 23-014, Officers Darrius Benjamin and Manuel Pepin. Lt. Omar Berrio filed the complaint. Open for discussion regarding the Body Worn Camera video of the incident. Both officers were found in Violation of Standard of Conduct and Arrests. Officers Benjamin and Pepin resigned in lieu of termination but had the disciplinary action taken place both Officer Benjamin and Pepin would have been terminated.

Board members asked questions about response to resistance policy, training to KPD officers on this incident, whether KPD provided training for mental health and de-escalation and frequency of that training, whether criminal charges were considered for Pepin and Benjamin, accountability for officers who violate policy, policy and procedure for preventing exposure of arrestee's breasts, whether officers Pepin and Benjamin felt remorse, this case's impact on Pepin and Benjamin's Law Enforcement Certification. Lt. Thompson and Chief Holland provided responses. The board voted to approve the findings of IA 23-014 5-0.

5.b.ii Review IA 23-023 Reporting and Conduct toward the Public

Lt. Thompson presented Case IA 23-023, against Community Service Officer (CSO) Sasha Leach. Complainant was Lt. Charles Willdigg. Open discussion with the board regarding complainant allegations on General Order 201.03(g) Reporting, and

General Order 201.09(f) Conduct toward the Public. Lt. Thompson stated a complaint was received by Catherine Ewer against CSO Leach alleging CSO Leach engaged in improper conduct towards the public.

During the interview CSO Leach disputed the complaint but admitted she should have filed a report. CSO Leach was not assigned a body worn camera. Shortly after this investigation, the police department changed this policy to require all CSO to wear a Body Worn Camera. CSO Leach was found in violation of General Order 201.03(g) Reporting. CSO Leach was not sustained in violation General Order 201.09(f) Conduct toward the Public because was no evidence to corroborate or contradict either the complainant or CSO Leach's statements.

Board Member Camero asked if CSO Leach was required to take a report regardless of the complainant declining prosecution. Lt. Thompson responded yes, if a crime occurs in the City of Kissimmee, they need to take a report. The board voted 5-0 to approve the findings of IA 22-017.

5.c Other Business

None.

5.d Next Meeting Announcements

No further Citizen's Police Review Board Meetings scheduled as City reviews House Bill 601.

5.e Update on House Bill 601

Attorney Curtis McGehee presented House Bill 601. The state passed a bill that states the CPRB can no longer review internal affairs investigations effective July 1, 2024. The board continues until it's repealed which the city is considering. Open discussion about House Bill 601. The board members thanked the police department. Chief Holland has also thanked them and has invited them for individual meetings in the future should they ask for one.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Citizen's Police Review Board, Chairman Joesph Billittier adjourned the meeting at 10:49 AM.

Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Board Secretary