
POLICE CONDUCT OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
Case Summary Data #6
May 2017

OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLAINT

Complainant alleges that a "black woman started beating on a...white mentally[-]ill woman" and an officer failed to intervene. Complainant further states that after talking to both women, the officer put the mentally-ill woman into custody. Complainant also contends that the officer was very rude.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

1. MPD P&P § 5-104.01–PROFESSIONAL POLICING: Officers shall use the following practices when contacting any citizen, regardless of the reason for the contact: Be courteous, respectful, polite and professional.
2. MPD P&P § 5-105 (E) (2)–PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT: On-duty officers shall, at all times, take appropriate action within their jurisdiction, to protect life and property, preserve the peace, prevent crime, detect and arrest violators of the law, and enforce all federal, state and local laws and ordinances.

COMPLAINT PROCESSING

Upon receipt of the complaint, an intake investigation was conducted and the matter was subsequently brought before the Joint Supervisors for intake review. Upon review of the complaint, the Joint Supervisors sent the matter to the appropriate precinct for coaching. After the officer's supervisor completed the coaching investigation, the coaching documentation was received by the Joint Supervisors, who then approved it.

EVIDENCE

1. Complaint
2. VisiNet Report

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

Complaint: Complainant asserts that he saw a white mentally ill woman walking around. There was a black woman that began "beating on" that mentally ill woman. A Minneapolis Police Officer was there and did not intervene.

The MPD officer did talk to both women and, after doing so, he took the mentally ill woman into custody.

The MPD officer was "incredibly rude" and yelled at the caller to get out of the street.

VisiNet Report: The report shows the officer responding to a call regarding a woman yelling and then two women fighting at the location alleged by the Complainant.

COACHING

The matter was sent to coaching due to the officer's alleged actions in responding to this fight and alleged unprofessionalism when interacting with Complainant. The supervisor spoke with the Complainant and the officer involved.

The supervisor noted that in his conversation with the Complainant, the Complainant seemed most concerned with the fact that he believed the mentally ill woman was arrested unfairly. After a review of the documentation, and talking with the officer, the supervisor was able to confirm that the woman was not taken to jail by the officer, but to the hospital, where she was put on a 72-hour mental health hold. The supervisor stated that this seemed the appropriate response to the woman who appeared to be suffering a mental health crisis.

In regard to the officer being allegedly rude to the Complainant, the officer did admit to his supervisor that he did shout at the Complainant to get out of the street. But the officer did so because the Complainant had stopped his car in the middle of the street and was obstructing other traffic. This too was determined to be reasonable by the supervisor.

The officer was not coached and no policy violation was found. But the supervisor did offer the officer "performance mentoring" by encouraging the officer to more fully document incidents either as notes in VisiNet or by writing a full CAPRS report, even when one is not required by policy. The supervisor noted that the officer was very receptive to this feedback.