

**OFFICE OF POLICE CONDUCT REVIEW**

**CLOSED CASE SUMMARY**

**OPCR-21-02**



PUBLISH DATE: January 27, 2022

FROM: Office of Police Conduct Review

CASE SUMMARY NUMBER: OPCR-21-02

**ALLEGATIONS**

	<b>Policy Implicated</b>	<b>MPD Policy Manual Range</b>	<b>OPCR Outcome</b>	<b>PCRP Finding</b>	<b>MPD Outcome</b>
<b>Allegation 1</b>	4-401.02 Vehicle- Seat Belts	A-B	Sent to Review Panel	Merit	Discipline - Suspension
<b>Allegation 2</b>	7-401 (D)(4) Normal and Emergency Vehicle Operation	A-D	Sent to Review Panel	Merit	Discipline - Suspension
<b>Allegation 3</b>	7-401 (D)(5)(a) Normal and Emergency Vehicle Operation	A-D	Sent to Review Panel	Merit	Discipline - Suspension

**REPORTED DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Race:** N/A

**Gender:** N/A

**Police Precinct:** 1<sup>st</sup>

**SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT**

It is alleged that officers deactivated the squad's lights and sirens prior to arriving to an unrelated call to assist another agency a few blocks away. The squad entered an intersection against a posted stop sign and did not stop for it. At the same time, a civilian vehicle entered the intersection and the squad struck the civilian along the passenger side. Both officers in the squad were transported to the hospital and the lone occupant in the SUV was transported to another hospital. All parties sustained non-life-threatening injuries. Both vehicles involved sustained significant damage.

It is also alleged that that both officers were not wearing their seatbelts.

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**SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION**

*1) INTAKE INVESTIGATION*

a) VisiNet report

- i) The “Problem” is listed as “Property Damage Accident”. The call log indicates that several officers responded to the scene to assist in the squad involved accident.

b) Police Report

- i) Public Section of the report states that while enroute to a call, a squad struck another vehicle that was crossing an intersection. Two EMS ambulances arrived on scene and one transported the injured officer and the other transported the civilian driver.

c) Other

- i) Initial complaint summary  
ii) Bosh CDR Data  
iii) MN State Accident Report  
iv) MNCIC Case Details

*2) VIDEO ANALYST REVIEW*

a) Body Worn Camera (BWC) Review

Video from Officer 1 (driver) BWC reveals that their body camera activation was twenty minutes long and captures the moment of impact with the civilian vehicle.

Officers were located a few blocks away at the time they were dispatched. Officer 1 buckled their seatbelt and began driving to the dispatch location with emergency lights and sirens. While enroute to the dispatch location, the audio navigation system was activated and provided directions. As Officer 1 passed several traffic light-controlled intersections, officers realized that the navigation system failed to provide accurate directions, and officers decided to modify their direction of travel. As Officer 1 drove near the dispatch location, the squad’s siren was de-activated, and Officer 1 unfastened their seatbelt. Per Officer 1’s BWC, one can see the stop sign and yelling was heard right before the squad collided with the civilian vehicle.

BWC footage also exists for Officer 2 (the passenger). It revealed that Officer 2 body camera activation was roughly forty minutes in duration. Officer 2 activated their BWC while seated in the passenger side of the squad a few moments after being dispatched to an unrelated call. Officer 2 recited the original information to assist another agency while Officer 1 drove to the location. Officer 2’s BWC captured Officer 2 activating the navigation and Officer 1’s driving conduct with lights and sirens activated. Officers

realized that the navigation system took them off course and modified their direction of travel. Officer 2's BWC captures the moment the squad's sirens were de-activated and approached an intersection where the squad collided into a civilian car.

Officer 1 and Officer 2 remained on the scene until they de-activated their BWC.

The video was archived for future use by OPCR.

b) Squad Video Review

The squad's Mobile Video Recorder (MVR) was activated once officers were dispatched to assist with another agency. MVR footage shows that the squad's emergency lights and sirens were activated as they began traveling to the incident location. MVR footage captures officers de-activating their sirens about two blocks ahead of the dispatch location. MVR footage shows the squad failing to stop for the posted stop sign and enter the intersection. Squad breaks were activated prior to colliding with the civilian vehicle.

3) *CASE REVIEW & JOINT SUPERVISOR ROUTING*

a) After reviewing the relevant and available evidence collected during intake, the Joint Supervisors agreed the complaint warranted an administrative investigation to further assess why the officers de-activated their lights and sirens prior to arriving to the scene and causing an accident.

b) The case was assigned to a sworn investigator.

4) *ADMIN/PRELIM INVESTIGATION*

a) Summary of the following:

i) Complainant Statement

ii) Witness(s) Statement

iii) Focus Officer(s) Statement

iv) Additional Evidence (i.e., Minnesota State Accident Report, Bosch Crash Data Retrieval)

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**CASE OUTCOME**

*5) OFFICE OF POLICE CONDUCT REVIEW*

- a) An administrative investigation was completed and forwarded to panel.

*6) POLICE CONDUCT REVIEW PANEL*

- a) Review panel found merit on Allegation 1: Vehicle- Seat Belts
- b) Review panel found merit on Allegation 2: Normal and Emergency Vehicle Operation
- c) Review panel found merit on Allegation 3: Normal and Emergency Vehicle Operation

*7) MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT*

- a) The focus officers were suspended. Officer 1 was suspended 20 hours while Officer 2 received a suspension of 10 hours.