

Internal Affairs Investigation

The Springfield Police Department's Professional Standards Division – Internal Affairs opened an investigation the day after this traffic accident. Internal Affairs examined the actions of the on-duty officers and worked with the Office of Corporation Counsel to ensure that all applicable laws and department policies were followed.

Internal Affairs collected and reviewed multiple hours of body-worn camera footage, along with citizen videos from the scene obtained through open sources such as social media. A canvass of the accident scene was conducted; however, no other useful surveillance footage was found.

Additionally, all relevant reports and documents from both within and outside our agency were gathered and analyzed. Investigators conducted in-depth interviews with all on-duty officers who were present at the scene. The investigation also included reviewing and conducting citizen interviews of persons present during this incident.

To provide a comprehensive overview of the officers' response, a detailed timeline was established, integrating body-worn camera footage, computer dispatch information, officer actions, civilian interactions, and other notable events.

Expert Opinions Sought

An expert in DUI investigations and prosecution was consulted to provide an independent, professional assessment of the response and on-scene actions of Springfield Police Department members. Internal Affairs explored many options while searching for an expert to weigh in on this case. Those options considered included several central Illinois State's Attorneys, DUI prosecutors and defense attorneys from both central Illinois and out of state, DUI-certified trainers, and DUI experts from other central Illinois law enforcement agencies. Aside from the subject matter expert listed below, all experts sought to provide a statement on this matter declined to comment for various policy, conflict or other logical reasons. Internal Affairs sought and obtained the professional opinion of DUI expert, Officer Larry Brooks.

Officer Larry Brooks has more than 20 years of experience as a law enforcement officer. Officer Brooks has spent his career focused in the field of DUI violations and training. Officer Brooks is currently assigned as the lead instructor at the Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center, instructing all traffic/DUI related cases at the state certified academy. Officer Brooks is also a Drug Recognition Expert, trained in identifying motor vehicle operators who are under the influence of drugs. Officer Brooks has completed over 3,000 DUI investigations and has made over 900 DUI arrests. Officer Brooks is a lead instructor for DUI related courses locally and all over the State of Illinois.

Officer Brooks was asked to provide input on two main concerns that were voiced by citizens on scene during this incident. The first concern was whether or not Michael Egan drinking water would affect any testing results related to his possible impairment. Officer Brooks noted:

“Water does not affect a BAC in the manner of the toxicology results whether it is a breath or blood draw.

In addition to Mr. Brooks’ assessment on water effects on BAC, the following article from Stanford University further explains this topic:

<https://vaden.stanford.edu/super/alcohol-drug-info/reduce-your-risk/what-blood-alcohol-concentration-bac>

Below is an excerpt from this online article from Stanford University:

“Contrary to popular belief, nothing can lower BAC except time; coffee, cold showers, and chugging glasses of water will not help you sober up any faster.”

Officer Brooks was asked to weigh in on the matter of detention and physical restraint of anyone who is suspected of driving under the influence. Brooks was asked to provide advantages or disadvantages of placing someone suspected of DUI in the rear of a squad car immediately vs. allowing them to remain outside of a squad car while the investigation is being conducted. Officer Brooks noted the following:

“I can understand how the general public's perception can be of this scenario. It is not common practice to immediately detain a person suspected for DUI. The circumstances will always dictate tactics and once the situation is going to involve waiting on another agency the suspect might be sat in the back of a squad car especially if there is a crowd around the scene. There are advantages of getting the suspected DUI driver walking around getting more evidence such as uncoordinated movements, slow or staggering steps. With body cameras and in car cameras there

is good evidence there as well with the slurred speech, mumbling or incoherent statements that do not pertain to the situation. I would say the other part about securing him in the car would limit your view of the suspected DUI driver and if the officer is not sitting in the squad car as well, they could miss maybe a medical issue or something like the person needing to vomit or use the bathroom. Allowing the person to stand can also show possible sway or balance issues.”

Internal Investigation Findings

The internal investigation took several months to complete. The investigation resulted in the following administrative findings:

- One (1) supervisor and three (3) patrol officers were disciplined as a result of the internal investigation.

- o Sgt. Zander was suspended for six (6) days for sustained violations of Springfield Police Rule #5 - Knowledge and Violation of Rules and Orders and Rule #9 – Failure to Supervise. These sustained violations and associated suspension time are a result of scene management issues and adherence to the rules and polices of the Springfield Police Department. Sgt. Zander was also ordered to attend and complete retraining.

o Officers Yanor, Wheeler and Singletary were issued written reprimands based on a sustained violation of Springfield Police Rule #5 – Knowledge and Violation of Rules and Orders. These officers were also ordered to attend and complete retraining.

Internal Affairs Commitment to Professionalism

The Springfield Police Department Internal Affairs Division is committed to providing thorough, independent and objective investigations into matters of the personnel of the Springfield Police Department. The Internal Affairs Division is trained and certified to conduct internal investigations, following nationwide best practices. Internal Affairs recognizes that the public must have the utmost trust in its investigative process. That expectation is at the core of any investigation conducted by Internal Affairs.

Lieutenant Jarod Maddox

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