



Lexington-Fayette Urban County
Division of Police

PERSONNEL ORDER

Lexington, Kentucky

DATE OF ISSUE

March 30, 2023

EFFECTIVE DATE

March 23, 2023

NUMBER

PO:23-132

TO:

WRITTEN REPRIMAND

AMENDS:

INDEX AS:

OFFICER

WESLEY WATKINS

RESCINDS:

Officer Wesley Watkins is hereby given a Written Reprimand for violation of General Order 1973-02K, Disciplinary Procedures of Sworn Officers, Appendix B, Operational Rule 1.40 – Preventable Collisions. In addition to this Written Reprimand, it was recommended and approved that Officer Watkins' Home Fleet Vehicle Privileges be suspended for two (2) weeks.

This Written Reprimand and Home Fleet Suspension was approved by the Urban County Council on March 23, 2023.

Lawrence B. Weathers

Lawrence B. Weathers
Chief of Police

LBW/rmh

LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

AGREEMENT OF CONFORMITY WITH KRS 95.450 / 15.520 AND RELEASE

FORM 113 (8/20)

An allegation has been made that:

Wesley Watkins #56235

has committed the offense of:

Preventable Collisions

which constitutes misconduct under the provisions of KRS 95.450 and/or KRS 15.520

(list other applicable law or rule)

General Order 1973-02K, Disciplinary Procedures, Appendix B, Operational Rule 1.40 - Preventable Collisions

in that on the Various day(s) of Various, 20 22-23 he/she allegedly:

Officer Wesley Watkins has been involved in three (3) at fault collisions within a twelve (12) month period. The collisions occurred on April 26, 2022, August 20, 2022 and January 12, 2023. The collisions resulted in minor property damage and no members of the police department or the public were injured. Officer Watkins completed driver retraining on September 13, 2022.

Officer Watkins took full responsibility for each of the collisions and he will continue to work on being more aware of his surroundings to prevent future collisions.

This is Officer Watkin's first formal complaint since being employed on October 23, 2017.

I have read KRS 95.450, 95.460 and 15.520, and attest that I fully understand all rights guaranteed by these statutes, including the rights to have formal charges preferred and a hearing conducted on those charges.

Further, I, with knowledge of the provisions and my rights under KRS 95.450, 95.460, and 15.520 and in consideration of the recommendation of the Chief of Police of the Lexington Police Department, acknowledge that the appropriate punishment for this conduct is:

Written Reprimand and two (2) week suspension of Home Fleet.

I do hereby voluntarily accept the above disciplinary action, provided that the punishment awarded by the Urban County Council will not exceed the above recommendation of the Chief of Police.

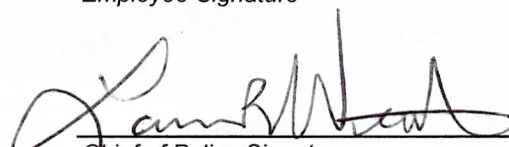
If the Urban County Council rejects the above recommendation, I will be so notified, in which case I may withdraw my acceptance, and will be entitled to all rights, as applicable, under KRS 95.450, 95.460 and 15.520, and this agreement will not be used against me or by me in any hearing in determination of my guilt of punishment.

In further consideration of the acceptance of the above recommendation and penalty by the Urban County Council, I do for myself, my heirs, legal representatives, as assigns hereby expressly release and forever discharge the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, its officers, agents, employees, and their successors and assigns from all claims, demands, actions, damages or causes of action and from all liability for damages of whatsoever kind, nature of description that I ever had, now have or may have against the aforementioned entities created by or arising out of the action contained herein.



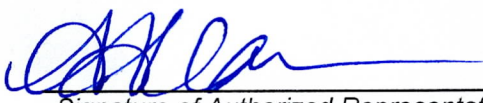
Employee Signature

3/15/2023
Date



Chief of Police Signature

3/16/2023
Date

ACTION BY URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	APPROVE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	DISAPPROVE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION
 _____ Signature of Authorized Representative of Urban County Council	

SUSPENSION SERVICE GUIDELINES:

Suspensions will be served as outlined in General Order series 1973-02 Disciplinary Procedures of Sworn Officers.



Lexington-Fayette Urban County
Division of Police
MEMORANDUM
Lexington, Kentucky

DATE OF ISSUE

March 2, 2023

EFFECTIVE DATE

NUMBER
COP:
23-0040

TO:

Kenneth Armstrong, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

FROM:

Lawrence B. Weathers
Chief of Police

SUBJECT:

Disciplinary Recommendation
PIU2023F-001
Officer Wesley Watkins

I met with Officer Wesley Watkins on February 28, 2023, and have determined this as
“Improper Conduct” for violation of:

- General Order 1973-02K - Disciplinary Procedures of Sworn Officers, Appendix B, Operational Rule 1.40 – Preventable Collisions.

I have recommended a Written Reprimand and two (2) week Home Fleet Suspension for this violation. I have included the summary of this formal complaint for your information.

Officer Watkins accepted this discipline on March 1, 2023.

Lawrence B. Weathers
Chief of Police

LBW/rmh

Attachment



LEXINGTON POLICE
DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM
Lexington, Kentucky

DATE OF ISSUE
February 15, 2023

EFFECTIVE DATE

NUMBER
PIU: 23-021

TO: Chief Lawrence Weathers Chief of Police	SUBJECT: Formal PIU2023F-001 Officer Wesley Watkins 5623 Summary
FROM: Lieutenant Jeff Jackson Bureau of Investigation Public Integrity Unit	

This memorandum will provide a synopsis of the investigation; however, other supporting documents may be viewed in conjunction with this memorandum.

On January 30th, 2023 Lieutenant Paul Boyles filed a formal complaint against Officer Wesley Watkins for violation of General Order 1973-02K, Disciplinary Procedures, Appendix B, Operational Rule 1.40, Preventable Collisions.

The formal complaint was a result of three at fault collisions Officer Watkins was involved in on April 26, 2022; August 20, 2022; and January 12, 2023. The Incident Review Committee (IRC) reviewed all three collisions and determined each collision was preventable.

I interviewed Officer Watkins on February 7, 2023 at 1609 hours in the Public Integrity Unit office. Lt. David Biroshik was also present for the interview. Officer Watkins stated the following:

- Regarding collision , which occurred on April 26th, 2022 at 2200 hours, Officer Watkins was stopped at a red light at Loudon and North Broadway when he picked his phone up to look at an incoming text. His foot slipped off the brake pedal, causing him to roll into the vehicle stopped in front of him. He exited the vehicle and conferred with the driver, who stated there was no damage and left the scene. Officer Watkins was on-duty during this event. Officer Watkins believes he was stopped too close to the vehicle and intends to be more mindful of stopping distance and his surroundings in the future.
- Regarding collision , which occurred on August 20th, 2022, Officer Watkins was responding to a possibly armed shoplifter in the Hamburg Shopping Center. Officer Watkins had his emergency equipment (lights and sirens) activated due to the nature of the call. He attempted to swerve around a truck that had stopped for his emergency equipment in front of him, but slid due to the slick roadway conditions and struck the truck from behind. Officer Watkins was on-duty during this event. This incurred no repair bill due to lack of damage, per Technical Services. Officer Watkins will be more mindful of weather and its effects on driving in the future.

- Regarding collision , which occurred on January 12, 2023. Officer Watkins was on an investigation on Liberty Road when he observed a vehicle drive by and throw a plastic bag out of the window. In the course of making a U-turn to perform a traffic stop on the vehicle, the front right tire of Officer Watkins cruiser left the roadway, with the right front bumper contacting the curb and causing damage to the bumper. He was on-duty during this event. Officer Watkins will be more mindful of clearances in the future.
- Officer Watkins attended driver retraining on September 13, 2022, which was confirmed with the Training Section.
- I asked Officer Watkins what the department could do to assist him in avoiding collisions in the future. He indicated that the department could not do any more for him and immediately discussed what he could do, himself, to avoid collisions in the future, as outlined in each incident above.

Officer Watkins does not dispute any of the findings and is aware that he was at fault in all the incidents investigated. The collisions resulted in minor property damage and no members of the police department or the public were injured.

Please advise if you require anything further regarding this investigation.

(e-mailed)

Lieutenant Jeff Jackson
Bureau of Investigation
Public Integrity Unit

cc: file - PIU2023F-001



Lexington Police Department
MEMORANDUM
Lexington, Kentucky

DATE OF ISSUE

January 30, 2023

EFFECTIVE DATE

NUMBER

PIU: 23-003

TO:

Assistant Chief Brian Maynard
Bureau of Patrol

SUBJECT:

FORMAL COMPLAINT

FROM:

Lieutenant Jeffery Jackson
Bureau of Investigation
Public Integrity Unit

COMPLAINANT: Lieutenant Paul Boyles

ACCUSED OFC.: Officer Wesley Watkins

ALLEGATION: Violation of General Order 1973-02K, Disciplinary Procedure, Appendix B,
Operational Rule 1.40 - Preventable Collisions

ALLEGED CIRCUMSTANCES: On January 12, 2023, Officer Wesley Watkins was involved in an at-fault vehicle collision while operating his assigned patrol vehicle which was documented via Health and Safety #5542. Officer Watkins was previously reported to be involved in at-fault collisions while operating a police vehicle on April 26, 2022 as documented on Health and Safety #5176 and also on August 20, 2022 which is documented on Health and Safety #5344. Officer Watkins has previously received as well as driver retraining in response to these incidents.

ACTION REQUESTED:

- The Bureau Commander and Officer Watkins should sign the Acknowledgment Sheet and process this complaint.
- The Commanding Officer should provide the attached copy of the Form 111 and the Officer's Rights Packet to Officer Watkins.
- Officer Watkins should contact the Public Integrity Unit to arrange for a time to provide a formal statement.

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Bureau Commander <u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/1/23</u>	<u>1020</u>
Supervisor <u>LT. P. J. [Signature]</u>	<u>01-31-23</u>	<u>1630</u>
Officer <u>Wesley Watson</u>	<u>01-31-23</u>	<u>1630</u>

Accused officer would like the Public Integrity Unit to notify the FOP President or their designee that a formal complaint is filed against them. (Circle One) YES or NO

Returned to the Public Integrity Unit [Signature] 2/1/23 1115

[Signature]
Lieutenant Jeffery Jackson
Bureau of Investigation
Public Integrity Unit

mrv

enclosures

cc: Chief Lawrence Weathers
file – PIU2023F-001

**LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
FORMAL COMPLAINT FORM**

FORM 111 (5/21)

File #: PIU2023F-001

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Employee Involved: Watkins, Wesley			Employee #: 56235	Hire Date: 10/23/2017
Present Assignment: Bureau of Patrol / Central Sector				
Complainant: Lieutenant Paul Boyles		Complainant Address: 150 E. Main Street		
Complainant Phone #: (859) 258-3600	Alternate Complainant Phone #: N/A	Complainant Email: N/A		
Date of Incident: Various	Time of Incident: Various	Location of Incident: Various	Date and Time Reported: 01/20/2023	How Reported: <input type="checkbox"/> Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email

DESCRIPTION OF ALLEGATIONS:

On January 12, 2023, Officer Wesley Watkins was involved in an at-fault vehicle collision while operating his assigned patrol vehicle which was documented via Health and Safety #5542. Officer Watkins was previously reported to be involved in at-fault collisions while operating a police vehicle on April 26, 2022 as documented on Health and Safety #5176 and also on August 20, 2022 which is documented on Health and Safety #5344. Officer Watkins has previously received _____ as well as driver retraining in response to these incidents.

If the above is true, Officer Watkins has been involved in three (3) at fault collisions within a twelve (12) month period and is in violation of General Order 1973-02K, Disciplinary Procedure, Appendix B, Operational Rule 1.40 - Preventable Collisions, which States:

"Officers shall operate department vehicles at all times in such a manner so as to avoid being involved in preventable collisions."

I swear/affirm that the facts set out in the allegations herein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Complainant Signature: *LT. P.J. Boyles* Date: 01-30-23

Subscribed and sworn before me this date: 1-30-23 *Melanie R. Votaw*
(Date) (Notary)

My Commission Expires: 2-3-2025

Witness:

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

Recorded By: Bureau of Investigation, Public Integrity Unit

File #: PIU2023F-001Employee: Watkins, Wesley**CHIEF OF POLICE**[Finding: PC=Proper Conduct, IC=Improper Conduct, IE=Insufficient Evidence, PF=Policy Failure, UC=Unfounded Complaint]
Finding Policy Violation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Order 1973-02K, Disciplinary Procedure, Appendix B, Operational Rule 1.40 - Preventable Collisions
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Chief of Police Recommendation: ☐ Case Be Closed ☐ Corrective Training ☒ Disciplinary Action (see below)

Materials Reviewed: Reviewed PIU synopsis.

Comments:

Reommended: Written Reprimand and two weeks suspension of home fleet privilege.

Signature: *Andrew B. Weather*Date: March 2, 2023**DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD**

Finding

Policy Violation

<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Disciplinary Review Board Recommendation: ☐ Case Be Closed ☐ Corrective Training ☐ Disciplinary Action (see below)

Comments:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

CHIEF OF POLICE FINAL RECOMMENDATION☐ Case Be Closed ☐ Corrective Training ☐ Disciplinary Action (see below)

Comments:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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