

May 28, 2024

Evandro Carvalho
Executive Director
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency
2201 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02119

Re: Case #18—Officer Matthew Conley; Officer Sui Muhammad; Several Unknown Officers
Notification of Non-Concurrence

Dear Executive Director Carvalho,

Pursuant to City of Boston Ordinance 12-16.11(e), I am writing to notify the Civilian Review Board (“CRB”) of the decision to not implement the actions recommended in the above referenced case. Specifically, the CRB voted to sustain multiple rule violations against the above referenced officers relative to an incident that occurred on February 21, 2022. Further, the CRB recommended that Officer Matthew Conley (“Officer Conley”) be terminated and that Officer Sui Muhammad (“Officer Muhammad”) receive a four (4) day suspension with training for their alleged involvement in the incident. For the reasons detailed below, I am not accepting the recommendations of the CRB and have directed that the Internal Affairs Division (“IAD”) complete its investigation into this matter before taking any further action.

Earlier this month, the Department learned that one of the involved officers received notification of the recommended findings and disciplinary action; however, no such notification was provided to the Department.¹ As a result the Department requested a copy of the recommendation, along with the case summary, to properly evaluate the recommendations made by the CRB and comply with its obligations set forth in the City Ordinance. While the notice of findings was subsequently provided, it did not contain the names of the officers involved and was limited to the case number, recommended rule violations and recommended discipline. Contrary to past practice, no additional materials, including the Case Summary, were provided. Only after retrieving the Case Summary from the OPAT website was the Department able to identify the officers involved and gain additional details about the underlying incident and allegations. To date, no further information has been provided in response to the Department’s requests.

With that information, IAD was able to verify that the allegations investigated by OPAT are the subject of an ongoing investigation. As a result, no further action will be taken regarding this matter until that investigation has concluded and I determine which, if any, Department Rules and Regulations were violated. In the interim, I look forward to working together to establish a process that allows for effective information sharing so that both of our organizations have the necessary information to comply with the Ordinance.

¹ The original notification of this complaint was received on April 29, 2022; however, the date of incident noted in the correspondence was incorrect.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Cox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael A. Cox
Police Commissioner

cc: Superintendent Phillip Owens
Chief, Bureau of Professional Standards