

Delaware Criminal Justice Council

11 Del. C. §9210 Authorized Disclosures

Agency Information

Law Enforcement Agency: Dover Police Department

Date of Incident: June 26, 2024 through June 27, 2024

Incident Details

Law Enforcement Officer has discharged a firearm at a person. Yes | No

Law Enforcement Officer's use of force that results in serious physical injury. Yes | No

An investigation that results in a sustained finding that a Law Enforcement Officer engaged in a sexual assault or sexual harassment. For purposes of this paragraph, "sexual assault" means the commission or attempted initiation of a sexual act by means of force, threat, coercion, extortion, or offer or implication of leniency or official favor, under the color of authority. Propositioning sex or commission of a sexual act while an officer is on duty is deemed a "sexual assault." Yes | No

An investigation that results in a sustained finding that a Law Enforcement Officer engaged in dishonest conduct. This includes, but is not limited to sustained findings of perjury, false statements, filing false reports, witness tampering, and destruction, falsification, or concealment of evidence. Yes | No

A sustained finding of domestic violence by a Law Enforcement Officer. Yes | No

Detailed Narrative

Please include a detailed narrative of the incident. A "detailed narrative" means a complete description of the facts, steps taken to further an investigation, evidence collected, conclusions reached, the names of officers involved for whom misconduct was substantiated, any discipline assigned in connection with the event, and the employment status of disciplined officers. 11 Del. C. § 9200(b)(1).

The detailed narrative may not reveal the name or any personal identifying information of a victim or witness. In a domestic violence case where revealing the name of the officer would also allow identification of the victim, the officer's name may be redacted.

The Criminal Justice Council shall post the narratives they receive under this paragraph on their website within 30 calendar days of receipt.

I. Complete Description of the Facts:

See attached narrative.

II. Investigatory Steps:

Reviewing the patrol vehicle mobile video recordings, body worn camera videos and external video from local business.

III. Evidence Collected:

Digital recordings from assigned vehicle mobile recorder, AXON body worn camera videos, digital recording from local business.

IV. Conclusions Reached:

The investigation findings were that the involved officer had violated (sustained) numerous departmental code of conduct violations. These include Standard of Conduct, Obedience to laws (x3), Obedience to orders, recording/reporting of collisions, operation of departmental vehicles, security related to the use of computer systems, compromising criminal cases, and truthfulness. Additionally, a warrant was obtained and executed for 21 Del Code for use of cell phone, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, and failing to provide information at a collision scene.

V. The names of officers involved for whom misconduct was substantiated:

Ryan Dellerba

VI. Any Discipline Assigned in Connection with the Incident:

N/A: Officer resigned during the Internal Affairs investigation

VII. The Employment Status of Disciplined Officers:

Resigned July 16, 2024

On June 27, 2024, significant unreported damage was discovered on the passenger side of a departmental vehicle, indicating a recent motor vehicle accident. The investigation was assigned to the night shift supervisor, who was responsible for the period when the vehicle was last used.

The supervisor obtained video recordings from the vehicle's Coban system and initially questioned Dellerba, the last known user of the vehicle. Dellerba denied involvement in any accident during his night shift on June 26, 2024, claiming he had only accessed the trunk to store his gear and had not observed the vehicle's passenger side.

Upon reviewing the video footage, the supervisor observed the following sequence of events on June 26, 2024:

1. After securing a city gate, Dellerba was driving on Washington Street, Dover.
2. The vehicle veered to the right multiple times before colliding with a legally parked, unattended vehicle.
3. Dellerba failed to report the collision to any supervisors.
4. He continued his shift and parked the vehicle at the end of his tour without reporting the incident.
5. Dellerba was seen checking the damaged passenger side of the vehicle several times.
6. He used CJIS (Criminal Justice Information System) to run information on the struck vehicle, potentially interfering with the future investigation, taking substantial steps to ensure that he would be the investigating officer of the related accident.

Body-worn camera (BWC) footage revealed additional details:

1. Dellerba was actively using his cell phone before and during the accident.
2. After the collision, he placed his BWC into sleep mode, likely to prevent buffer recording.
3. He briefly left the scene before returning to check the damage.

Furthermore, evidence was obtained from external video at a local establishment, showing Dellerba examining the damaged vehicle and taking pictures with his cell phone during his shift. The investigation concluded that Dellerba's initial statement to his supervisor denying involvement in the accident was untruthful, based on the comprehensive video evidence collected. Additionally he failed to remain on scene or report the motor vehicle accident that he was responsible for because of the use of his cell phone while the operating a departmental vehicle.