

INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW AUTHORITY

Log #1081377

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT:

Police Officer A, #XXXXXX, is assigned to the 1st Watch in the 016th District. On 09 July 2016, Officer A was issued a taser but had not yet performed the spark test. At approximately 2305 hours, Officer A attempted to complete the spark test, but mishandled the taser and accidentally pulled the trigger causing the probes to deploy.

ALLEGATIONS:

On 09 July 2016, at 2339 hours, Sergeant A, #1293, Unit XXX, registered this complaint with Police Officer B, #XXXXXX, Unit XXX. Sergeant A alleged that on 09 July 2016, at 2305 hours, at XXXX North Milwaukee Avenue, **Police Officer A, #XXXXXX, Unit XXX:**

1. Was inattentive to duty, in that he accidentally discharged a taser in violation of Rule 10.

APPLICABLE RULES AND LAWS:

Rule 10: Inattention to duty.

INVESTIGATION:

In his **Initiation Report**, dated 10 July 2016, Sergeant A, #1293, Unit XXX, reported that on 09 July 2016 at approximately 2305 hours, Officer A accidentally pulled the trigger of his taser when he was sitting at the front desk. (Att. 4)

Officer A completed a **Tactical Response Report** that reported that the incident was an Accidental Discharge and no injuries occurred as a result.¹ (Att. 5)

A **TASER Deployment Data Sheet** showed that a one cartridge from a taser, Serial #XXXXXXXXXX, was deployed at 2257 hours on 09 July 2016. (Att. 6)

In a statement with the Independent Police Review Authority on 21 July 2016, **Police Officer A, #XXXXXX**, admitted that he accidentally discharged a taser on 09 July 2016 at approximately 2305 hours. Officer A stated that he was using a computer at the district desk. While sitting down, Officer A remembered that he needed to perform a spark test with the taser he had been issued. Officer A mishandled the taser while attempting to take it out of the holster. He had his finger on the trigger while pulling on the taser, and accidentally pulled the trigger, which deployed the taser probes. The probes did not strike anyone and Officer A identified himself as the person who discharged a taser. Officer A collected the discharged probes and completed a Tactical Response Report. Officer A stated that he has been assigned to 016 for about three weeks at the time of the statement. Officer A stated that he had received one day of taser training in February or March at the Police Academy. Officer A stated that he has never

¹ The Member's Response section of the TRR was not completed, and did not identify that Officer A discharged a taser.

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deployed a taser during the performance of his duties and that he has only taken a taser out of a holster in order to perform a spark test. (Att. 12, 13, 15)

INVOLVED OFFICER BACKGROUND:

Police Officer A, #XXXXXX, left the Academy in July of 1996 and was assigned to the 025th District until June of 2002. Officer A left the 025th District and worked in the 023rd District from June 2002 until January 2009. In January 2009, Officer A was detailed to Gang Enforcement North until February 2010 when he transferred to Gang Enforcement North. Officer A was assigned to Gang Enforcement North from February 2010 until June of 2016. Officer A started working in the XXX District on 19 June 2016.

CONCLUSION:

ACCUSED OFFICER: **Police Officer A, #XXXXXX**

ALLEGATION #1: **SUSTAINED**

The Reporting Investigator recommends that the Allegation against Police Officer A, #18903, Unit XXX, that he was inattentive to duty, in that he accidentally discharged a taser, be **SUSTAINED**. The facts of this case are not in dispute as the incident was reported promptly and Officer A admitted that he mishandled the taser, causing it to discharge. All available evidence supports this allegation.