

GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF SOUTH FULTON

ODIE DONALD II
CITY MANAGER



KEITH MEADOWS
CHIEF OF POLICE

September 23, 2019

Ronnie Wyatt, Jr.
109 Southern Magnolia Lane
Rex, GA 30273

Dear Ronnie Wyatt:

The City of South Fulton Policies and Procedures provide that a Department Head, in consultation with the Human Resources Director, may dismiss, suspend without pay, demote or otherwise discipline a classified employee for cause upon furnishing written notice to the employee setting forth in detail the reason(s) for such action.

On July 2, 2019, Acting Precinct Commander, Capt. E. Woods, made the Internal Affairs Commander aware of a complaint levied against you that resulted in an internal investigation. The complaint alleges violation of the following:

SFPD General Order Canon 3: Insubordination

Failure or deliberate refusal of any employee to obey a lawful order given by a superior officer or an employee acting in a supervisory capacity shall be insubordination. Ridiculing a superior officer/supervisor or their orders, whether in or out of their presence, is also insubordination. Employees will promptly obey all proper and lawful orders and will not be discourteous, abusive, disloyal, profane, bitter or threatening to any higher authority.

SFPD General Order 20: Preliminary Investigations

The Patrol Division is responsible for conducting preliminary investigations of all incidents and categories of crime. Procedures are established to aid in conducting a preliminary investigation:

- Upon arrival at a scene, the officer shall observe all the conditions, events, and remarks, to include
- Provide aid to the injured
- Determining if an offense has actually been committed and if so, the exact nature of the offense
- Locate and identify witnesses, if applicable
- Full name, telephone number, and address
- Maintain the crime scene and protect evidence
- Interview the complainant, victim, and witnesses when available
- Obtain description of suspects (name, address, physical description)
- Determine what information witnesses, victim, or complainant knows
- Furnish other field units through radio the descriptions, method, and direction of flight and other relevant information concerning wanted person or vehicles
- Arrange for the collection of evidence
- Notify investigators and / or identification section (if necessary) to collect evidence and photograph the scene
- Collect evidence if there is no need to notify investigators
- Effect the arrest of the criminal or suspect
- Determine the identity

of the suspect and affect an arrest if it can be accomplished at the scene or through an immediate pursuit • Interview the suspect • Read Miranda Warning • Once the suspect receives the Miranda Warning and requests counsel, questioning must stop until the subject has the opportunity to consult with counsel • Use field interview techniques • Take suspect into custody, complete any related incident and arrest reports and complete the Complaint Room Procedure (see “Complaint room”, General Order 37) • Complete an incident report.

SFPD Rules and Regulations 1.32- Truthfulness

All members of the South Fulton Police Department must tell the truth whether under oath or otherwise. He/she will not willfully or recklessly depart from the truth.

SFPD Rules and Regulations 1.60- Crime Reports

An officer will make a report on all crimes that come to his/her attention in which a previous report has not been filed. The officer will be thoroughly familiar with the crime reporting system in procedures and General Orders and follow the same.

SFPD Rules and Regulations 1.60A – Duty to Make Reports

No member of the South Fulton Police Department shall fail to make any required official police report.

CoSF Policies and Procedure #201-18 – Discipline. Article 22 - Miscellaneous.

Violations of City Policies and Procedures and any other violations or actions not specifically enumerated in this manual which impair or reflect adversely upon the integrity, efficiency, good order or operation of any segment of City government.

TO WIT:

On April 14, 2019 following a 911 call/dispatch to a motor vehicle accident at 5185 Old National Highway, it is alleged that you failed to conduct a thorough preliminary investigation, was insubordinate, untruthful, and failed to generate a report. Upon your arrival on scene, we discovered that you failed to perform GCIC inquiry on both vehicles, which is outlined as a requirement in SFPD General Order 20. If a thorough preliminary investigation had been performed, you would have discovered that one of the vehicles involved was stolen from a neighboring jurisdiction. As the call for service progressed, you requested an accident case number to generate a police report. You were provided 2019-004871 by Fulton County Communications. In your failure to generate the report in a timely manner, another officer using your case number was able to generate a report. This action created confusion for your supervisor and the citizen who was given the incorrect case number. By this fact, the citizen did not receive a police report.

Following the initial incident, you went on official military duty for approximately two months. Prior to your departure, you were questioned by supervision regarding the status of your assigned reports. You stated that all your reports were complete. This response was untruthful due to accident number 2019-004871 being incomplete. The affected citizen had been contacting the City of South Fulton Police inquiring about his accident report during your two-month military obligation.


Upon your return, you attempted to contact the citizen to gather more information to complete the accident report. At the time you were contacting the citizen, it was approximately two months later. Although, you were able to create a police report after the fact, your deliberate deception and mishandling of this incident reflected adversely upon the integrity, efficiency, good order or operation of any segment of City government.

Your actions, on scene and following the accident, resulted in an Internal Affairs investigation.

After a thorough review of the information provided, I am considering suspending you for violation of the infractions articulated above. Before I make my final decision, I will give you an opportunity to meet with me to discuss this issue or to otherwise respond to me in writing with any information that you would like for me to take into re-consideration. You must contact Ms. Tracy Woodard at [REDACTED] no later than 12:00 noon, Wednesday, September 25, 2019 to confirm a meeting with Deputy Chief C. Rogers. If you fail to attend or otherwise respond, I will move forward with the suspension.

Sincerely,


Keith Meadows
Chief of Police



Officer Acknowledgement

cc:

Anquilla Henderson, Human Resources Director
Employee File: Wyatt, Ronnie