

From: [David Barefield](#)
To: [Eric Smith](#)
Subject: FW: OFC Esquina injury
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:46:54 AM
Attachments: [OPS Investigation Request Memo Esquina.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)

Sgt. Smith,

Please see the email thread below and the attachment.

Thank you sir,

Lieutenant David Barefield
Savannah Police Department
Office of Professional Standards
Office (912) 691-6237 Cell (912) 677-0440
dbarefield@savannahga.gov
SavannahPD.org | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

From: Roy Minter
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:44 AM
To: David Barefield <DBarefield@Savannahga.Gov>
Cc: Lenny Gunther <LGunther@Savannahga.Gov>; Devonn Adams <DAdams@Savannahga.Gov>; George Gundich <GGundich@Savannahga.Gov>; Stephenie Price <SPrice@Savannahga.Gov>
Subject: FW: OFC Esquina injury

Lt. Barefield,

Please assign this matter for a formal IA investigation.

From: Lenny Gunther
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:39 AM
To: Roy Minter <RMinter@Savannahga.Gov>
Subject: FW: OFC Esquina injury

Chief,

Please see the attached memorandum from Capt. Gundich requesting that the incident(s) involving Officer Esquina be investigated by IA.

Lenny B. Gunther
Assistant Chief of Police
Savannah Police Department

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Savannah, GA. 31401
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From: Devonn Adams
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:35 AM
To: Lenny Gunther <LGunther@Savannahga.Gov>
Subject: FW: OFC Esquina injury

From: George Gundich
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:25 AM
To: Devonn Adams <DAdams@Savannahga.Gov>
Subject: FW: OFC Esquina injury

Major Adams

Here is the OPS investigation request.

Thank You
Captain Gundich

From: Romel Petit-Frere
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 10:34 PM
To: David Barefield <DBarefield@Savannahga.Gov>
Cc: Timothy Lewis <TLewis@Savannahga.Gov>; Shamonica Badie <SBadie@Savannahga.Gov>; Brian Smith <BSmith02@Savannahga.Gov>; George Gundich <GGundich@Savannahga.Gov>
Subject: OFC Esquina injury

Sir,

As per our conversation, we have some areas of concern pertaining to officer Luis Esquina. The following is a timeline of events in regards to an injury and subsequent false statements to supervisor.

- Thursday April 30th: Officer Esquina reported, landing on his “knee wrong” while making an arrest. The officer was instructed by Sgt. B Smith to fill out a first report of injury form. Officer Esquina left for the day without filling out the form.
- Sunday May 3rd: Officer Esquina leaves a message for Sgt. Smith that he will be checking off for Monday May 4th to rest his knee. He also calls the Sergeant on Duty Brian Spence and informed him of the check off. SGT Spence inquires had Esquina done a first report of injury. Esquina tells Sgt. Spence “I didn’t fill it out”.

- Monday May 4th: Esquina calls Sgt. Smith and informed him that he would be reporting to work Tuesday May 5th. Sgt. Smith ask him why he had not completed the first report of injury form. He stated that he forgot to do it.
- Tuesday May 5th: Esquina works a shift a shift without incident concerning his knee.
- Thursday May 7th: Esquina emails Sgt. Smith and I and states that he will be taking a sick day for Friday may 8th.
- Friday May 8th: 1920 hours Esquina calls Sgt. Smith and stated that he would be returning to work on Saturday May 9th. He stated he went to the doctor's office and he was told he sprained his knee and to take Motrin and return to work. At that time Sgt. Smith asked Esquina which doctors office he went to. He stated he went to St. Joseph's immediate med on Canal St. in Pooler. At that time Sgt. told Esquina since he saw the doctor, a have to do a workman's Comp folder would have to be completed. He was asked for the paperwork given to him by the doctor's office. Esquina stated that left without taking the paperwork. Over several phone conversations through this period Esquina was asked did he have the receipt from where he paid the co-pay, he stated he did pay a co-Pay cause he used his insurance from New York. He was asked which Doctor he saw he stated that he could not remember. He was also asked what time did he see the Doctor , he stated he couldn't remember but he think it was about 1830 hours.
- Friday May 8th : 1925 Hours: Sgt. Smith makes contact with Ben Lewis with Risk management. Ben Lewis then calls Esquina. Esquina calls and states that he is returning the clinic. It was determined he would need a drug screen. I headed to the clinic in order to ensure the screening was completed and to collect the paperwork.
- Friday May 8th: 2000 hours; I arrived at the clinic and made contact with Esquina who was in the process of being discharge. I asked him to wait for me as I spoke to the staff. I spoke to Briana Dingle (Medical Assistant) I asked Ms. Dingle if Officer Esquina had come to the office earlier in the day. She stated No as matter fact he asked a Staff member to lie and say the he had been there.
- Friday May 8th 2030 hours: I asked Esquina for the paperwork from the doctor's office. He further asked me was he going to get an OPS number for the incident today. I asked him why he thinks he would get an OPS number, he stated for being injured. I then asked him directly, had he been to the clinic when he stated he was there. Esquina said he came earlier and sat down in the lobby and called his wife's doctor in New York. He then stated he didn't go inside but sat in the parking lot. He then changed the story to say that he was in a different parking lot thinking about going but didn't do it. He stated he instead called Dr. Adodo in New York who told him to ice his Knee.

Eastside PCT
(912) 658-7930