

Amelia Huffman
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 Minneapolis Police Department
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TO: Juan Alonzo Jr., Badge 0077
CC: Office of Police Conduct Review
DATE: September 17, 2022
RE: Administrative Investigation Case #20-12979

CHIEF'S DECISION:

- Discharge
- Suspension **Duration:**
- Permanent Demotion
- Temporary Demotion, **Duration:** _____
- Written Reprimand
- No Merit

This memo summarizes my approach and reasoning for my decision as Chief of Police that the listed policy violations by Officer Alonzo Jr. are sustained. The memo accompanies the enclosed Notice of Discipline.

Allegations:

<u>Policy Number</u>	<u>Sub-Section</u>	<u>Policy Description</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
7-402	(III)(A)	Pursuit Policy	B	Sustained
7-402	(IV)(B)(2)	Pursuit Policy	B	Sustained

13.43 - Personnel Data

Summary of the Basis for Decision:

The facts noted in the case investigation support the conclusion that Officer Alonzo Jr. violated the two Minneapolis Police Department Policies related to pursuits **13.43 - Personnel Data**
13.43 I concur with the recommendations from the Police Conduct Review Panel in this decision. violations.

Allegation #1

- Officer Alonzo was the passenger when he and his partner observed two vehicles racing and driving in a reckless manner.
- Officers attempted to stop the vehicle by activating their emergency lights and sirens, but the vehicle did not stop.
- The vehicle continued to drive in what officers described as a flagrantly reckless manner, nearly causing multiple accidents.
- Both officers admitted to there being confusion about whether to pursue or stop, but ultimately the pursuit continued until the fleeing vehicle crashed and the occupants fled on foot.
- The Police Conduct Review Panel (PCRP) recommended that there is merit to this investigation.
- I agree with the recommendation of the PCRP. The preponderance of the evidence shows that Officer Alonzo, though the passenger, continued this pursuit while the driving conduct of the fleeing vehicle posed a danger to the public. Officer Alonzo did not articulate specific facts to support the necessity of engaging in the pursuit despite the danger. This allegation is **Sustained**.

Allegation #2

- Officer Alonzo was the passenger during this pursuit, and it was his responsibility to follow MPD policy related to the role of officers in a pursuit.
- Officer Alonzo aired that they were not pursuing, but when they continued the pursuit, did not update dispatch with any of the required information about the pursuit (location, speed, direction of travel and reason for the pursuit).
- The Police Conduct Review Panel recommended that there is merit to this allegation.
- I agree with the recommendation of the PCRP. The preponderance of the evidence shows that Officer Alonzo failed to follow the requirements described in policy for officers involved in pursuits. This allegation is **Sustained**.

13.43 - Personnel Data

As the interim Chief of Police, I am responsible for providing clear expectations for what is acceptable behavior in our workplaces as well as what will not be tolerated. The Police Conduct Review panel recommended a finding of merit for two **13.43** policy violations in this case, and I concur with their recommendations.

I hold officers of the Minneapolis Police Department to a high standard. I expect them to live up to our oath of office, our professional code of ethics and our department's core values of trust, accountability and professional service. Furthermore, I expect them to demonstrate a commitment to preserving safety and the sanctity of life. With this conduct, Officer Alonzo failed to meet MPD standards. He allowed a dangerous pursuit to continue absent specific, articulable facts which would necessitate the pursuit despite the danger. Additionally, he failed to comply with policy requirements that officers in pursuits air information critical for dispatch, other officers and the pursuit supervisor to have. The violations in this matter undermine public safety.

As interim Chief of Police with authority to discipline for violations of policy under Minn. Stat 626.89 Subd. 17, I am issuing a Letter of Reprimand to Officer Alonzo for his failure to follow the pursuit policy.

13.43 - Personnel Data

DocuSigned by:
Amelia Huffman
13.37

Amelia Huffman
Interim Chief of Police

CC: OPCR Case File
Inspector Blackwell

Enclosure: Notice of Discipline Form