



Police Department – Brian O’Hara, Chief of Police

350 S. Fifth St. - Room 130

Minneapolis, MN 55415

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TO: Benjamin Truong, Badge #7311
CC: Office of Police Conduct Review
DATE: July 10, 2023
RE: Administrative Investigation Case #21-10434

CHIEF’S DECISION: **Written Reprimand**

This memo summarizes my approach and reasoning for my decision as Chief of Police that the listed policy violation by Officer B. Truong is sustained. The memo accompanies the enclosed Notice of Discipline.

Summary of the Basis for Decision:

Allegation #1: MPD P/P 5-102 Code of Ethics: It is alleged that Officer Benjamin Truong behaved in an inappropriate manner with a victim after responding to a call.

- On 10/15/21, Officer Truong responded to the home of a robbery victim and took a report.
- Later that evening, Officer Truong made four phone calls to the victim, and when she returned the fourth call, Officer Truong stated that he couldn’t remember the spelling of her name.
- Officer Truong then offered to talk more about it over coffee.
- The complainant stated that she has been afraid to walk to her car after the robbery and asked Officer Truong if he was aware of a number, she could call for someone to escort her to her vehicle.
 - Officer Truong invited her to follow him on Instagram and stated that it was the best way to get in contact with him. He added that she could message him anytime she needed an escort, and he would stop by.
- The complainant followed Officer Truong on Instagram, but the next day she realized how “highly inappropriate” it was for him to ask her on a date and exchange social media with her.
- The complainant stated this conduct made her uncomfortable because she had just been the victim of one of the worst traumas she has experienced as an adult, and it seemed like Officer Truong was “preying on that vulnerability.”
- The Police Conduct Review Panel (PCRP) issued a recommendation of **MERIT** to this allegation
- I concur with the recommendation of the PCRP, that there is a preponderance of the evidence to support the allegation that Officer Truong violated the Code of Ethics when he asked the victim of a crime out for coffee and exchanged social media information. This allegation is **SUSTAINED**.


The facts noted in the case investigation support the conclusion that Officer B. Truong violated Minneapolis Police Department Policy 5-102. I concur with the recommendation from the Police Conduct Review Panel that the allegations are **Sustained**.

As Chief of Police, I am responsible for providing clear expectations about behavior and conduct in all situations, not just when it is convenient. These expectations extend from myself to the command staff and all levels of the Minneapolis Police Department. My predecessors have also borne responsibility for setting expectations, and it is incumbent on every Chief to hold officers accountable for breeches of those expectations. Legitimacy and reputation are of critical importance to police officers. Officers carry a badge and gun and are called upon to make some of the hardest decisions possible. It takes countless actions to build a reservoir of trust, and only one action to completely drain. We cannot afford to lose legitimacy with the people we serve.

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 departments core values of trust, accountability and professional service. Furthermore, I expect them to demonstrate procedural justice in their work. With this conduct, Officer B. Truong failed to meet our standards when he violated the Code of Ethics during this incident. The violation in this matter undermines public trust.

As 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 B. Truong for the following policy violation:

5-102 Code of Ethics – Sustained: **Letter of Reprimand**.

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Brian O'Hara
Chief of Police

Enclosure: Discipline Form
CC: OPCR Case File
Inspector Gomez