

CITY OF TOLEDO



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OPERATIONS

NEWS RELEASE

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Officers Disciplined for May 30 Riot Actions

Toledo, OH (July 22, 2020): The Internal Affairs (IA) investigations revolving around officer actions from Toledo's May 30 riots have been completed. Officer Melvin Russell, Officer Jeffery Breeze and Officer Cristopher Guanilo received departmental discipline for their actions on May 30, 2020.

Officer Russell was investigated through Toledo Police's IA Section for violating department rules: Unnecessary Use of Physical Control Techniques and Reporting Use of Physical Control Techniques. Through investigation, IA found the charges "Sustained," meaning the investigation established sufficient evidence to clearly show that the wrongful act alleged in the complaint did occur. Of note, a previous version of the release included that Officer Russell was investigated for Discourteous Treatment of the Public – which was not correct.

Officer Russell received a 75-day suspension and also signed a Last Chance Agreement. This means that if the officer has another sustained complaint regarding Unnecessary Use of Physical Control Techniques, he can be terminated. The Last Chance Agreement is in effect for five years.

Officer Breeze was investigated for two separate cases stemming from the unrest on May 30th. The first case, he was investigated for violating department rules: Unnecessary Use of Physical Control Techniques, Reporting Use of Physical Control Techniques, and Discourteous Treatment of the Public.

In an additional IA case, Officer Breeze was also investigated for Unnecessary Use of Physical Control Techniques, Reporting Use of Physical Control Techniques, and Body-Worn Video Camera System.

For both IA cases, the charges were "Sustained," meaning the investigation established sufficient evidence to clearly show that the wrongful act alleged in the complaint did occur.

Officer Breeze received a 120-day suspension. Officer Breeze has also signed a Last Chance Agreement meaning that if the officer has another sustained complaint regarding Unnecessary Use of Force, he can be terminated. The Last Chance Agreement is in effect for five years.

Officer Cristopher Guanilo was investigated for Unnecessary Use of Force Techniques and Reporting Use of Force Techniques. Both charges were "Sustained," meaning the investigation established sufficient evidence to clearly show that the wrongful act alleged in the complaint did occur. Officer Guanilo received a Written Reprimand for the sustained complaint of Unnecessary Use of Force Techniques and he received a Counseling for the sustained complaint of Reporting Use of Force Techniques.

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz said that this discipline concludes the review that Safety Director Karen Poore has led during the past seven weeks to investigate the events that took place on May 30th. He also thanked citizens for sending photos, videos and statements to the email address he established.

“The input we received from the public was invaluable in arriving at the discipline that was announced today,” Mayor Kapszukiewicz said. “We are fortunate to have an excellent police department in Toledo, but we know that we can be even better. The unprecedented system we created to investigate what happened on May 30th – a system led by Safety Director Poore and fueled by input from everyday citizens of our community – will help make TPD better, which is a goal we all share.”

Chief Kral stated “Police legitimacy cannot improve if departments fail at policing their own. I will ensure that officers are held accountable when their actions are found to violate department policies, and I will always support the hundreds of officers that positively represent Toledo Police.”

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