



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

Lamar A. Davis, COLONEL
DEPUTY SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

December 9, 2022

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY (louisianavoice@outlook.com)

RE: PRR/internal Affairs Files on Scott Lopez
OLA: 079855

Dear Mr. Aswell:

Attached please find the Letter of Reprimand in response to your public records request. Please be advised that pursuant to Louisiana State Police Commission Rule 12.9, investigations that do not result in discipline are not considered "public." With best regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Gail C. Holland
Deputy General Counsel,
Louisiana Department of Public Safety
and Corrections Public Safety Services



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

Lamar A. Davis, Colonel
DEPUTY SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

RECEIPT

I, TFC Scott Lopez, acknowledge that I have received the below listed document(s) in reference to Case #N21-078:

1. Letter of Reprimand

DATE/ TIME	SIGNATURE	TROOP/SECTION
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DELIVERED BY:

Once the receipt has been signed, please scan and email a copy to Internal Affairs. Please mail the original to:

RETURN RECEIPT TO: LSP INTERNAL AFFAIRS
P.O.BOX 66614
BATON ROUGE, LA 70896

Date: 02/28/2022

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JOHN BEL EDWARDS
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State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

FEBRUARY 24, 2022
4750/0501/MMG/22-23842
HQ-01-630

TFC SCOTT LOPEZ
TROOP I

IA#N21-078; OLA#075845
VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY

RE: LETTER OF REPRIMAND

TFC Lopez:

In accordance with State Police Commission Rules 12.1, 12.2, you are hereby formally reprimanded for the following reasons:

On November 19, 2021, Internal Affairs received a Personnel Complaint Affidavit from Mr. [REDACTED] arising out of a traffic stop you conducted on one of his employees, Mr. [REDACTED]. The traffic stop occurred on June 14, 2021, on Duchamp Road in Broussard, LA. Mr. [REDACTED] who was not present during the traffic stop, alleged that you turned your Body Worn Camera (BWC) off and belligerently harassed Mr. [REDACTED]. He further alleged that you used your status as a Louisiana State Trooper to coordinate with neighbors and St. Martin Parish President, Chester Cedars, to shut down Mr. [REDACTED]'s farming operations on Duchamp Road.

During the investigation, it was determined that on June 14, 2021, you conducted a traffic stop on Mr. [REDACTED] while he was operating a truck on Duchamp Road. There is signage on Duchamp Road that notifies the motoring public that it is closed to trucks driving through. As evidenced by video from your In-Car Camera (ICC) of the traffic stop, the vehicle Mr. [REDACTED] was driving was not marked in any way to indicate that it belonged to Mr. Broussard. You advised Lt. Jonathan Neck during your interview that you did not know that the truck belonged to Mr. [REDACTED] until after it turned onto Mr. [REDACTED]'s property.

Although your In-Car Camera (ICC) was activated and video recorded your interaction with Mr. [REDACTED] on June 14, 2021, your BWC was not activated, so there was no audio recording of your interaction with Mr. [REDACTED]. However, Mr. [REDACTED]'s allegations that you harassed Mr. [REDACTED] were not supported by the evidence, including Mr. [REDACTED]'s statements to Lt. Neck during his administrative investigation. Nor was there any evidence to support the allegations that you used your position as a Louisiana State Trooper to influence your neighbors or Mr. Cedars with regards to Mr. [REDACTED]'s farming operations.

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With regards to your BWC not being activated, you advised Lt. Neck that you worked from 0600 hours to 1700 hours on June 14, 2021. At the time you saw the truck, you were in your driveway completing paperwork when you saw Mr. [REDACTED] operating the truck. You stated that your BWC battery was low and you turned the camera off before you removed it to recharge the battery in the docking station. When you saw the truck, you failed to put your BWC on and activate it. You admitted that you did not note or ask anyone to note in the CAD system that you failed to activate your BWC on the traffic stop.

By failing to activate your BWC on June 14, 2021, when you made a traffic stop on Mr. [REDACTED] and failing to cause documentation to be created noting that you failed to record the stop, you violated Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 1117 – Body Worn Camera and In-Car Camera Systems, Section 5 – Body Worn Camera Activation, which states in pertinent part:

...
iii) Officers equipped with the BWC shall ensure their BWC is powered on, ready to record or receive a signal to record, during any tour of duty, which requires the use of the BWC in accordance with this policy, when the officer is subject to call.

...
v) Officers equipped with a BWC and/or in-car camera system shall record all traffic stops, foot pursuits, vehicle pursuits, arrests, transportation of prisoners, incidents, and any emergency vehicle operations that require, or should require, the use of emergency lights and/or sirens. Officers shall also record other events, situations, and circumstances including, but not limited to: armed encounters, acts of physical violence, and felonious activity.

...
x) If an officer fails to activate the BWC and/or in-car camera system, fails to record the entire contact, or interrupts or terminates the recording, the officer shall document the reasons for not recording in the arrest / incident report narrative or in the desk log if a report is not generated.

Any future violations of this or any nature may result in more severe discipline, up to and including termination, and this letter of reprimand can be used to support the severity of future discipline.

TFC Lopez
February 24, 2022
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You have the right to appeal this action to the Louisiana State Police Commission. The time limits and procedure for appealing are contained in Chapter 13 of the State Police Commission Rules. A copy of Chapter 13 can be obtained from the State Police Commission. Their current mailing address is P.O. Box 66555, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-6555. Their current telephone number is (225) 925-7057 and their fax number is (225) 925-7058.

Sincerely,



Colonel Lamar Davis
Superintendent, Louisiana State Police

c: Lt. Col. M. Doug Cain, II
Lt. Col. Chavez Cammon
Major Benny Broussard
Captain Beau Comeaux
Internal Affairs
Office of Legal Affairs
Human Resources Management

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