

## Police Department - Brian O'Hara, Chief of Police

350 S. Fifth St. - Room 130 Minneapolis, MN 55415 TEL 612.673.3559

www.minneapolismn.gov

**TO:** Jamie Arriola, Badge #0224 **CC:** Office of Police Conduct Review

**DATE:** December 8, 2022

**RE:** Administrative Investigation Case #21-03803

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

## **Summary of the Basis for Decision:**

## Allegation #1:

It is alleged that Officer Arriola violated MPD P/P 7-106 Assigned Calls after observing a property damage accident that was more urgent than the music call to which he had been assigned. Officer Arriola failed to address the call that occurred in front of him.

- Officer Arriola was the passenger in a squad, which was driven by his partner Officer Brenny.
  Officers were dispatched to a low priority music call, when they observed a property damage accident occur in front of them.
- Both officers acknowledged the accident, and choose to continue to their assigned call, without addressing the accident.
- The Police Conduct Review Panel issued a unanimous recommendation of **Merit** to this allegation.
- I concur with the recommendation of the Police Conduct Review Panel. Officer Arriola admitted to being aware of the accident but choose to continue to a lower priority call. There is a preponderance of the evidence to support the allegation that Officer Arriola violated MPD P/P 7-106 Assigned Calls, and this allegation is **Sustained.**

The facts noted in the case investigation support the conclusion that Officer Arriola violated Minneapolis Police Department Policy 7-106 Assigned Calls. I concur with the recommendation from the Police Conduct Review Panel that Officer Arriola observed a property damage accident occur in front of him, but he ignored the incident and proceeded to the lower priority call to which he had been assigned.

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 Arriola failed to meet our standards when he ignored the property damage accident he observed. The violation in this matter undermines public trust and accountability.

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 Arriola for the listed policy violation:

Allegation #1: MPD P/P 7-106 Assigned Calls. Sustained – Letter of Reprimand

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-DocuSigned by:

Chief of Police

Enclosure: Discipline Form

CC: OPCR Case File Inspector Gomez