



Department of Public Protection

Report of Incident

TO: Joseph E. Pozzo, Interim Director
Department of Public Protection

FROM: David Vanis, Captain
Public Protection Administration
Internal Affairs

DATE: October 15, 2018

SUBJECT: IA 2018-11, VCDC Lieutenant Andre Isaac

References:

1. Request for internal affairs investigation from Director Mark Flowers (Dated September 11, 2018).
2. VCSO reports (VP180021163).
3. VCSO body worn camera video for VP180021163.
4. Chanel Barrow witness interview transcript (Dated September 19, 2018).
5. Lieutenant Andre Isaac subject interview transcript (Dated September 26, 2018).
6. "Announcement of no information" (Dated October 4,, 2018).
7. Letter from Chanel Barrow to Judge Belle Schumann (Dated September 24, 2018).

Complaint:

On Monday September 11, 2018, VCDC Lieutenant Andre Isaac was arrested by the Volusia County Sheriff's Office for Domestic Violence Battery [FSS 784.03(1)(A)1]. He was transported to the Volusia County Branch Jail and released on his own recognizance on the same day. VCDC Director Mark Flowers requested an internal investigation into the arrest and I was subsequently directed to conduct the investigation by Public Protection Director Terry Sanders. I served Lt. Isaac notice of this investigation and notice of administrative leave on September 11, 2018 at the Branch Jail.

Information:

Lt. Isaac's arrest was documented under VCSO case number 180021163. VCSO was initially contacted by Lt. Isaac's sister-in-law who advised he had been involved in a family disturbance with her sister (Lt. Isaac's wife Chanel Barrow). Deputies initially contacted Lt. Isaac who advised that he and his wife were no longer living together. She came to his parent's house and was texting on her cell phone. A verbal argument ensued because Mrs. Barrow would not show Lt. Isaac who she was texting. Barrow left the residence and returned several minutes later to retrieve her children. Lt. Isaac asked for Barrow's cell phone and she told him it was in her car under the front seat. Lt. Isaac began to search for the phone and Mrs. Barrow jumped on his back and bit him on the upper right portion of his back. This bite was documented by the responding deputies. At this point, Lt. Isaac stood up and pressed Barrow against the car so she would release him. Lt. Isaac advised in a written statement that he did not wish to pursue charges against his wife. He was given a domestic rights pamphlet by the deputies since they believed, at this point, that Mrs. Barrow was the primary aggressor.

Later that evening, Deputies contacted Chanel Barrow at her residence in South Daytona. She described a similar sequence of events but added that after Lt. Isaac saw her texting on her cell phone, she attempted to leave the residence and "Isaac bear hugged Barrows from behind in attempt to get the keys from her. Barrows was able to break free of Isaac, but Isaac then grabbed the back of Barrows' neck causing two lacerations on her neck." These lacerations were documented by the Deputy. Due to this description of the incident, Lt. Isaac was arrested for domestic violence Battery and transported to VCBJ. I obtained and reviewed the body worn camera (BWC) video through VCSO and it confirms the description as stated above.

Chanel Barrow:

I conducted a sworn and recorded interview with Chanel Barrow on September 19, 2018, at her residence in South Daytona. She advised that she and Lt. Isaac had been married for nine years and had five children. She described the incident on September 11, 2018 similar to how Lt. Isaac described it to the deputies. When asked if anything physical had occurred prior to him searching through her car she replied "Nothing physical had happened at that time." Once Lt. Isaac gained access to her car, she jumped on his back and bit him on the shoulder. He then pressed her against the car, pinched her inner thigh, and she fell to the ground. While on the ground, Mrs. Barrow advised that she bit Lt. Isaac on his lower leg causing him to kick away. She believes this kick may have hit her on her side but described it as unintentional. Mrs. Barrow told me she visited a physician after the altercation and just to be checked out but did not receive any injuries as a result of the altercation.

Mrs. Barrow told me that she petitioned the court for a temporary injunction for protection at the suggestion of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). She insisted that this whole situation was "blown out of proportion" and did not want to see Lt. Isaac's employment in jeopardy.

This interview was downloaded to disc and transcribed.

Lieutenant Andre Isaac:

I conducted a sworn and recorded interview with Lt. Isaac on September 26, 2018 at Public Protection Administration. He was provided an opportunity to review all the documents and video relating to this case prior to the interview. He did not have a representative and he advised this was his own choice.

Lt. Isaac described the incident on September 11, 2018 as he did with the Deputies the night of the incident. He told me that he and his wife are in the process of separating and he requested that she return the phone that he had purchased. She advised the phone was located under the front seat of her vehicle and he entered the vehicle to look for the phone. Once he was inside the vehicle, Mrs. Barrow jumped on his back and bit him on the shoulder. He stood up and pressed her on the side of the vehicle so she would release him. He added that he was also trying to push her off his back. Once he pressed her against the car, she fell to the ground. He did not recall her biting him on the leg. He was adamant that he did not bear hug or grab her at any point during the altercation.

Lt. Isaac told me that he and his wife have been having marital difficulties for several years. He provided me with a signed letter from VCDC Captain Christopher Stormer that indicated he (Stormer) had overheard a phone call in early 2017 where Mrs. Barrow told Lt. Isaac something like "I will have you arrested and have your job before I let you leave me."

This interview was downloaded to disc and transcribed.

Information:

On September 27, 2018, the temporary injunction that was issued on September 12, 2018 was dismissed.

On October 4, 2018, the Clerk of Court website indicated that "No information" was filed in Lt. Isaac's criminal case and the charge was dismissed. Also located on the website was a notarized letter from Mrs. Barrow to Judge Belle Schumann. The letter requests the charge and the no contact order be dismissed. She also explains that her previous statement was "written under pressure from my family." These documents were added to the case file.

Conclusion:

Based on the evidence obtained through this investigation, I am unable to substantiate that Lt. Isaac was the primary aggressor during the altercation with his wife on September 11, 2018. He adamantly denies that he "bear hugged" her during the altercation as she originally alleged to the investigating deputies. Mrs. Barrow even indicated in her sworn statement to me that there was no physical contact from Lt. Isaac prior to her jumping on his back while he was going through her car looking for a cell phone.

Findings:

This case was presented to Interim Director Joseph Pozzo, Deputy Director Mark Swanson, and VCDC Director Mark Flowers. Interim Director Pozzo determined the following allegations are NOT-SUSTAINED:

VCDC Policy 102.09. Correctional Officers shall conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and remain cognizant of his/her responsibilities to the Division and the inmates in his/her charge.

