



**LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF**

GREG FISCHER
MAYOR

ROBERT J. SCHROEDER
CHIEF OF POLICE

June 23, 2020

Detective Brett Hankison #6120
Criminal Interdiction Division

Public Integrity Case #20-019

Dear Detective Hankison:

Please be advised effective this date your employment with the Louisville Metro Police Department is terminated. I am taking this action based upon my review of Public Integrity Unit investigation file #20-019, which was initiated on March 13, 2020, and your Pre-Termination meeting held on today's date. The original investigation was conducted by the Louisville Metro Police Department's Public Integrity Unit. The following is the result of my subsequent review of the Public Integrity Unit file.

Violations of:

Standard Operating Procedure 5.1.2 Obedience to Rules and Regulations (4 counts)

-Sustained

Standard Operating Procedure 9.1.12 Use of Deadly Force (10 counts)

-Sustained

I have determined you violated Standard Operating Procedure 5.1.2 Obedience to Rules and Regulations when your actions displayed an extreme indifference to the value of human life when you wantonly and blindly fired ten (10) rounds into the apartment of Breonna Taylor on March 13, 2020. These rounds created a substantial danger of death and serious injury to Breonna Taylor and the three occupants of the apartment next to Ms. Taylor's. I make my determination pursuant to the preponderance of the evidence.

You also violated Standard Operating Procedure 9.1.12 Use of Deadly Force when you used deadly force by blindly firing ten (10) rounds into Breonna Taylor's apartment without supporting facts that your deadly force was directed at a person against whom posed an immediate threat of danger or serious injury to yourself or others. In fact the ten (10) rounds you fired were into a patio door and window which were covered with material that completely prevented you from verifying any person as an immediate threat or more importantly any innocent persons present.

You further failed to be cognizant of the direction in which your firearm was discharged. Some of the rounds you fired actually travelled into the apartment next to Ms. Taylor's endangering the three lives in that apartment. You have previously been disciplined for reckless conduct that injured an innocent person in Professional Standards Case #17-062 for which you were disciplined on January 9, 2019.

Based upon my review, these are extreme violations of our policies. I find your conduct a shock to the conscience. I am alarmed and stunned you used deadly force in this fashion. You have never been trained by the Louisville Metro Policed Department to use deadly force in this fashion. Your actions have brought discredit upon yourself and the Department. Your conduct has severely damaged the image of our Department we have established with our community. The result of your actions seriously impedes the Department's goal of providing the citizens of our city with the most professional law enforcement agency possible. I cannot tolerate this type of conduct by any member of the Louisville Metro Police Department. Your conduct demands your termination. I have the utmost confidence in my decision to terminate your employment for the best interest for the Louisville Metro Police Department and our community.

Pursuant to Louisville Metro Police Merit Board Rules and Regulations 9.3(4), "Any police officer removed, suspended, laid off, reduced in grade or reprimanded by the Chief shall be allowed a period of ten (10) days from the date of notice from the Chief to file a written response to the disciplinary action which shall be made a part of the officer's permanent personnel record in the Police Department. No trial or examination of witnesses shall be required in any such case except at the discretion of the Chief."

Pursuant to Louisville Metro Police Merit Board Rules and Regulations 9.3(4), "Disciplinary action taken by the Chief involving suspension, demotion, or dismissal of any permanent officer shall be subject to review by the Board on an appeal by the employee. If such a review is requested in writing, within ten (10) days from the effective date of the disciplinary action, the Board shall schedule and conduct a public hearing to review the action of the Chief subject to the Hearing Procedures of the Board and applicable statutes."

Pursuant to Section 10.1(2) of the Louisville Metro Police Merit Board Rules and Regulations, an appeal requesting the Louisville Metro Police Merit Board (the "Board") to review my action in this case must be made in writing to the Board with a copy to me within ten days of the effective date of the disciplinary action set forth in this letter, and must include a statement of the grounds for appeal.

Once an appeal for review is properly filed, the Board will schedule a public hearing to review the disciplinary action set forth in this letter pursuant to Section 9.3(4) of the Louisville Metro Police Merit Board Rules and Regulations. A copy of the Louisville Metro Police Merit Board Rules and Regulations may be obtained from the Board. The rules are also available at: <http://MyMetro/HumanResources/CivilService/PoliceMeritBoardRulesandRegulations.pdf>.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Schroeder
Chief of Police

RJS/WDS/dng

Cc: Lieutenant Colonel L. Chavous
Major J. Schwab
Major K. Burbrink
Wm. Dennis Sims
Professional Standards Unit
Human Resources
Metro Human Resources