



## DISCIPLINARY ACTION CONTROL / TRACKING

INTERNAL INVESTIGATION NUMBER

2021-237

DATE OF KNOWLEDGE BY DPS

11/04/2021

☐ Complaint☐ Vehicle Collision / Incident☐ Critical Incident

60-DAYS

01/03/2022

90-DAYS

02/02/2022

120 DAY

03/04/2022

150-DAYS

04/03/2022

180 DAY NOTICE

05/03/2022

## EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

LAST NAME

Shewey

SUFFIX

FIRST NAME

Ashton

(M.I.)

BADGE

10064

PROBATIONER

☒ NO

LOCATION CODE

CLASSIFICATION

YES

## REVIEW BOARD FINDINGS

☐ Vehicle Collision / Incident☐ Critical Incident☐ See attached memo

SIGNATURE

X

BADGE

DATE SIGNED (mm/dd/yyyy)

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S FINDINGS

☒ Sustained☐ Not Sustained☐ Exonerated☐ Unfounded☐ See attached memo☐ File Reviewed

Arizona Revised Statute 41-1830.15A.16:  
Causes for dismissal or discipline

CONDUCT ADVERSE TO THE DEPARTMENT OR EMPLOYEE - SUSTAINED

41-1830.15A.16K PREJUDICIAL BEHAVIOR OR RACIAL BIAS - SUSTAINED

SIGNATURE

X

BADGE

4582

DATE SIGNED (mm/dd/yyyy)

12/14/2021

## CHAIN OF COMMAND REVIEW

☐ Employee declined file review

DATE EMPLOYEE REVIEWED INVESTIGATIVE FILE

CHAIN OF COMMAND MEETING DATE

ATTENDEE BADGE

ATTENDEE BADGE

ATTENDEE BADGE

ATTENDEE BADGE

ATTENDEE BADGE

SUPPORT OBSERVER

BADGE

☐ NO☐ YES

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

## IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR

☒ File Reviewed☐ See attached memo

/ CONCUR WITH SEPARATION FROM AGENCY.

SIGNATURE

X

BADGE

5295

DATE SIGNED (mm/dd/yyyy)

1/12/2022

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# DISCIPLINARY ACTION CONTROL / TRACKING - Continued

INTERNAL INVESTIGATION NUMBER

2021-237

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complaint	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Collision / Incident	<input type="checkbox"/> Critical Incident	DATE OF KNOWLEDGE BY DPS: 11/04/2021	
60-DAYS 01/03/2022	90-DAYS 02/02/2022	120-DAYS 03/04/2022	150-DAYS 04/03/2022	180-DAYS 05/03/2022

## EMPLOYEE INFORMATION (from page 1)

LAST NAME Shewey	SUFFIX	FIRST NAME Ashton	(M.I.)	BADGE 10064	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES
LOCATION CODE	CLASSIFICATION				

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION - continued

### DISTRICT CAPTAIN / SECTION MANAGER

☒ File Reviewed ☐ See attached memo

*I RECOMMEND TERMINATION*

SIGNATURE X <i>[Signature]</i>	BADGE 6829	DATE SIGNED (mm/dd/yyyy) 1-11-2022
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### BUREAU MAJOR / MANAGER

☒ File Reviewed ☐ See attached memo

*SEPERATION FROM THE DEPT.*

SIGNATURE X <i>[Signature]</i>	BADGE 4193	DATE SIGNED (mm/dd/yyyy) 12/17/2021
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### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

☒ File Reviewed ☐ See attached memo

*CONVINE WITH TERMINATION*

SIGNATURE X <i>[Signature]</i>	BADGE 4532	DATE SIGNED (mm/dd/yyyy) 1/13/2022
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### DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

RECEIVED BY SIGNATURE X <i>[Signature]</i>	BADGE	DATE SIGNED (mm/dd/yyyy)
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AZPOST Review: ☒ YES ☐ NO "Brady" Material: ☒ YES ☐ NO

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employee Declined Interview	DATE EMPLOYEE INTERVIEWED WITH DIRECTOR	SUPPORT OBSERVER <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SUPPORT OBSERVER BADGE
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*TERMINATION HAD HE NOT RESIGNED*

SIGNATURE X <i>[Signature]</i>	BADGE 4294	DATE SIGNED (mm/dd/yyyy) 1/13/2022
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### INTERNAL AFFAIRS

RECEIVED BY SIGNATURE X <i>[Signature]</i>	BADGE 4608	DATE SIGNED (mm/dd/yyyy) 1/14/2021
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### BRADY

"Brady" notification to employee: ☐ YES ☐ NO

SIGNATURE X <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE SENT: BADGE	DATE SIGNED (mm/dd/yyyy)
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**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**



**HESTON SILBERT**  
**DIRECTOR**

**DATE:** November 10, 2021  
**TO:** Colonel Heston Silbert, #10000, Director  
**FROM:** Sergeant Jason Coughlin, #7458, Internal Affairs  
**SUBJECT: INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE – INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMPLAINT  
#2021-237**

On November 4, 2021, the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) became aware of possible misconduct on the part of DPS Detective Ashton Shewey, #10064. An Internal Affairs (IA) case number was drawn alleging *Conduct adverse to the Department or employee, and Prejudicial behavior or racial bias*. The alleged misconduct occurred between June 2, 2021 to July 7, 2021.

**Summary**

Prior to November 4, 2021, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) became aware of inappropriate, threatening, and racial comments posted on YouTube by Detective Shewey. Between June 2, 2021, to July 7, 2021, Detective Shewey wrote twelve comments to eleven different videos.

The FBI contacted the DPS after finding out Detective Shewey worked for the Department. The DPS was supplied a summary of the comments made on YouTube.

On November 5, 2021 the case was assigned to IA Sergeant Jason Coughlin, #7458, for completion.

During his IA interview, Detective Shewey admitted to writing each of the comments that were alleged. He claimed the comments were not meant to be threatening or racially motivated. Detective Shewey said the comments were made out of frustration due to personal, work, social, and political reasons.

The following classifications of complaints have been established by Law Enforcement Merit System Council (LEMSC) Rule and Arizona Revised Statute § 41-1830.15A, causes for dismissal or discipline:



The Director of the Department of Public Safety may dismiss or discipline any classified employee based on any of the following causes:

16. Any other failure of good behavior or acts either during or outside of duty hours that are incompatible or inimical to the interest of the Department of Public Safety.

- i. Conduct adverse to the Department or employee*
- k. Prejudicial behavior or racial bias*

The following DPS policies and procedures are pertinent to this investigation:

General Order 1.2.10, *DPS Mission, Values, and Code of Ethics*<sup>1</sup>  
General Order 8.2.60, *Social Media*<sup>2</sup>

### **Background**

Detective Shewey was employed with the Department since July 11, 2015, and he was assigned to the Border Strike Force Bureau, Vehicle Theft Task Force. For approximately seven months, Sergeant John Mouret, #5295, was his supervisor.

### **Investigation**

Based on supporting documents and interviews, the investigation revealed the following facts about the incident:

Prior to November 4, 2021, the FBI became aware of inappropriate, threatening, and racial comments posted on YouTube by a viewer with the email [REDACTED]@gmail.com. Between June 2, 2021, to July 7, 2021, [REDACTED]@gmail.com made twelve comments to eleven different videos that the FBI were alerted to on YouTube.

The FBI contacted the DPS after finding out the email address was potentially used by Detective Shewey. The DPS was supplied a summary of the comments made to YouTube. The summary of the comments was originally sent to Captain Satit Gardner, #4674, from the Office of the Director, then forwarded to IA.<sup>3</sup>

IA investigators viewed each of the YouTube videos listed on the summary provided by the FBI and saw all the videos were political in nature.

IA Sergeant Mark Biver, #5546, watched the video titled, "Tucker Carlson: They have lost control." He saw in the comment section of the video "War is coming. The killing season" which was the comment provided to IA for the video. The comment was made by YouTube username "Ashton." The YouTube username "Ashton" was established on October 13, 2012.

<sup>1</sup> Addendum 1 - General Order 1.2.10, DPS Mission, Values, and Code of Ethics

<sup>2</sup> Addendum 2 - General Order 8.2.60 Social Media

<sup>3</sup> Addendum 3 - Summary of YouTube post/comments

Of the eleven YouTube videos, only two comments made by the username "Ashton" were found.

**Case Note:** The number of comments on each video ranged from 2,152 to 22,914.

When Detective Shewey arrived for the IA interview, he did not know what the investigation was regarding. Detective Shewey said he talked to his support observer on the way to the interview and said, "If it's anything, it's probably what I've written online."

Prior to commencing the interview, Detective Shewey was given a copy of the YouTube comments. When Detective Shewey looked at the YouTube comments, he looked at his support observer and nodded his head up and down. Detective Shewey and his support observer were given time together to review the YouTube comments prior to the interview. Detective Shewey showed visible signs of frustration by taking multiple deep breaths, covering his face and mouth, and dropping his head. He said to his support observer that most of the comments stemmed from his frustrations with the political climate and his drinking (alcohol). Detective Shewey said, "I didn't say anything about the department or what I would do. General statements out of anger."

During the IA interview, Detective Shewey confirmed he used his Gmail account, [REDACTED]@gmail.com, when using/posting to YouTube, and he confirmed a profile page shown to him by IA sergeants, showing his account started October 13, 2012, using the username "Ashton."<sup>4</sup>

Prior to reviewing the YouTube posts with investigators, Detective Shewey said, "My actions are completely wrong...It doesn't represent me, and it doesn't represent the Department."

Detective Shewey went on to discuss his frustrations with the protests and the political climate against police officers during the past year. Detective Shewey described himself as a "conservative," but that "politically" he tried to "stay out of it," and he deleted his social media accounts. Detective Shewey said he was involved in working the protests.

Following the protests and his [REDACTED] in-law being diagnosed with terminal cancer, Detective Shewey's wife asked him to "get help" with everything going on, to include his anger. Detective Shewey said he was "battling a lot of things, one of them is drinking." Detective Shewey did not seek help.

Detective Shewey said he did not deny writing what the IA sergeants presented to him (YouTube posts). He said he did not recall writing all of it, however. Detective Shewey said some of the posts were made after drinking (alcohol), and some were made in anger. Detective Shewey said it did not reflect the core values of the Department, and he was a "good cop." Detective Shewey said none of what he wrote reflected in his work. He said, "I'm not a racist. I don't hate, I would never act on any of this stuff. It's a frustration; a release of my anger."

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<sup>4</sup> Addendum 4 – YouTube profile page



The eleven YouTube videos referenced during the interview were downloaded to a thumb drive.<sup>5</sup>

**Conduct adverse to the Department or employee**

**YouTube Video:** “Democrats criticized after yelling and screaming as Ohio Republicans Attempts to amend bill”

**Video Summary:** The video’s summary on YouTube reads: Furious Democrats have behaved “childishly” by yelling and pounding their desks while Ohio Republican Jena Powell attempts to speak on an amendment to a state bill banning biological males from female sports.

**Comment:** “Cut their heads off”

Detective Shewey did not remember the video. He did not remember making the comment. Sergeant Coughlin asked, “You don’t remember it but you’re not denying it?” Detective Shewey said, “If it’s on there, I wrote it.” He added, he may have been drinking at that time.

**YouTube Video:** “Tucker Carlson: They have lost control”

**Video Summary:** The video’s summary reads: Tucker Carlson Tonight host examines the ongoing crisis at the southern border.

**Comment:** “War is coming. The killing season”

Detective Shewey watched the video for approximately one minute but did not remember it. He could not remember the comment but did not deny making it.

**YouTube Video:** “Reaction: Katie Perry & Orlando Bloom's Crazy Voter Suppression Ad”

**Video Summary:** The video’s summary on YouTube reads: Ben Shapiro reacts to a strange commercial promoting the “For the People Act” in Katy Perry and Orlando Bloom are elderly and living in a post-apocalyptic society.”

**Comment:** “I say we kidnap and torture them.”

Detective Shewey watched the video for approximately forty-five seconds until acknowledging he remembered the video. Detective Shewey remembered making the comment. He said the comment was to “stir the pot” and a “mental release” on a video that depicts voter suppression is real. Detective Shewey said the comment was not meant as a direct threat. He said the comments were made to “get a jab in on somebody. To make someone comment back.”

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<sup>5</sup> Addendum 5 – YouTube videos

**YouTube Video:** “Giant cop manhandles belligerent drunk – LEO recap”

**Video Summary:** One of the topics of the video was about a Black male (Dreasjon Reed) who was killed by police after shooting at them. The National Football League (NFL) honored Reed by allowing players to put his name on their helmets.

**Comment:** “Let’s capture and kill all the NFL execs. Make a bold statement. They won’t do it again.”

Sergeant Coughlin was not able to upload the video to view; however, Detective Shewey remembered it. Detective Shewey described the comment being made out of “pure frustration.” He said, “I don’t want anybody kidnapped. I don’t want anyone killed. But at the time, it’s like, hey, if you say, if I say something like this, it will get something... It will piss somebody off.” Detective Shewey understood how his comment could lead another viewer to potentially act on the comment.

**YouTube Video:** “Tucker: Latin American tell Kamala Harris to “buzz off”

**Video Summary:** The video’s summary on YouTube reads: Tucker Carlson Tonight host examines the Vice President’s trip to Central America and her vision for immigration.

**Comment:** “Let’s get this political war started. Dems going to [skull and crossbones]”

Detective Shewey remembered the video and did not need to view it. Detective Shewey stated the comment was based on how the media “clearly divided us.” Detective Shewey said he does not want war or any kind of violence.

**YouTube Video:** “Tucker: Fauci deserves to be under “criminal investigation.””

**Video Summary:** The video’s summary on YouTube reads: Tucker Carlson host reacts to Dr. Fauci’s emails exposed.

**Comment:** “Hang this little mother fucker”

Detective Shewey remembered the video and did not need to view it. Detective Shewey said the comment stems from his frustration with the vaccine mandate and having to wear a mask. He said, “I let it get to me.” Detective Shewey added he did not mean for the comment to be a direct threat to Dr. Fauci.

Detective Shewey said he started drinking alcohol more frequently this year. Detective Shewey said, “When I start in a bad place mentally, it’s not a good combination with alcohol. And, I know that, and I should’ve taken my wife’s advice, and I should’ve gotten help. I should’ve gotten help for a lot of the stuff I’ve seen on the job over the years. And, with all of the political



stuff going on, and letting it get to me, losing hope in society, I've let it affect me. I'm a good cop. I'm sure you guys hear that all the time in here. I don't mean to be malicious with this stuff. But I shouldn't have said it."

**Prejudicial behavior or racial bias**

**YouTube Video:** "Thieves robbing high end stores during broad daylight in Nancy Pelosi's SF"

**Video Summary:** The video shows a white male narrating a video of a Neiman Marcus being robbed by multiple Black individuals in downtown San Francisco. The narrator criticizes democrats, police, politicians, and Black Lives Matter.

**Comment:** "They are all black shit sticks. Light em up pew pew"

Detective Shewey watched the video for approximately thirty seconds then stated he remembered it. Detective Shewey said the comment was not racially motivated and it expressed his frustrations with how he had been treated as a police officer. Detective Shewey said, "I'm not a racist. I am not a racist; I'm not, I promise you that. I promise you that. I'm not a goddamned racist. But I think when I watch these videos, they clearly defined it as Republican or Democrat, or Liberal, or Black and White. It's, it's a divide, and I feel like I have, when I don't talk to somebody, I feel like I have no voice. And, for me to have an outlet and say stupid shit to stir the pot, it's not meant to be, I mean it, the comments are meant to stir the pot, to cause friction between people, to let out frustration. It's not anything that I would ever act on, I would ever have any malicious intent of doing anything. I think it's, it's more of a mental, it's more of a mental release for me. I, I have no excuse, I wrote it. I, I wrote it. I mean, I [unintelligible] each one of these. Some of them I'm not going to be able to remember. I, I need help; I do."

Sergeant Coughlin asked Detective Shewey if he would agree the comment reflected a racist statement. Detective Shewey said, "Hundred percent. Yep. It could be taken in that context very easily."

**YouTube Video:** "Bronx bodega workers save teen from mob attack."

**Video Summary:** News story from PIX11 news that narrates a teenager being attacked by multiple men in a bodega. The teenager is rescued by the workers of the bodega. The attackers appear to be Black males.

**Comment:** "Start shooting these little hood rat bitches. Cleanse the streets."

Detective Shewey remembered the video and did not need to watch it. Detective Shewey said the comment was made out of frustration from seeing "good people" in society being attacked. He added, "The antipolice rhetoric, it just bothers me." Detective Shewey said he was embarrassed for himself, and he "never ever tried to tarnish this badge and this profession." Detective Shewey understood how the term "hood rat" could be viewed a racist.



**YouTube Video:** "Guy tries to John Wick 3 cops in Chicago"

**Video Summary:** The video's summary on YouTube reads: Two Chicago police officers responding to an alert from Shot Spotter, the city's gunshot detection system, were shot and wounded early Sunday on the West Side, authorities confirmed.

**Comment #1:** "Kill all these fucking shit sticks. Cleans (cleanse) the city. Purge"

Detective Shewey remembered the video and did not need to watch it. According to Detective Shewey, the comment was directed at people who kill cops. Detective Shewey added, the comment was based on policing in Chicago and was "political" to him. He stated he was "extremely embarrassed" about the comments.

**Comment #2:** "Burn the hoods kill the thugs."

Detective Shewey did not think the comment was racially motivated but understood it could have been depicted that way due to the content of the video.

**YouTube Video:** "Juneteenth celebrates with the beating, shooting, and assassination"

**Video Summary:** Commentator discusses Juneteenth Day becoming a holiday. Also shows video of white people being assaulted and violence during Juneteenth celebrations.

**Comment:** "Let's go to war"

Detective Shewey said he vaguely remembered the video after he watched it. Detective Shewey remembered making the comment. He said the comment was in "pure frustration" and a call to "take back the street, take back our world." Detective Shewey said he should have got help and not let his frustration "build up," instead of putting it on a public forum. Detective Shewey claimed he did not know the meaning Juneteenth before making the comment. He stated he thought it might have to do something with reparations.

**YouTube Video:** "Shapiro reacts to viral shoplifting video (San Francisco, Ca)"

**Video Summary:** The video's summary on YouTube reads: A shocking video, posted to social media, appears to show a man shoplifting a garbage bag full of items from a San Francisco Walgreens in broad daylight as a security guard and several customers look on.

**Comment:** "Time to start killing these people. They do t (don't) contribute to society they die."

Detective Shewey remembered the video after only watching a few seconds. He remembered making the comment but stated, "It has nothing to do with him being African American. It has

nothing to do with it.” He said the comment has to do with “their complete disregard to the rule of law in society.” Detective Shewey added he did not think people who commit crimes should be killed, and then he said, “There’s a place in the world for everybody.”

**General Orders:**

Detective Shewey was provided with General Order 1.2.10 – *DPS Mission, Values, and Code of Ethics*. Detective Shewey reviewed the general order and said he was not in compliance with it. He said his comments did not “stand up for the core values of the Department.”

Detective Shewey was provided with General Order 8.2.60 – *Social Media*. Detective Shewey said he was not in compliance with the general order. He said, “My statements online were in complete opposite of what should’ve been...”