



ACRB Members

Joy Morrissey
Chairperson

Alan Morris
Vice Chairperson

Charis Johnson
Secretary

Roderick Edmond

Barbara Hubbard

Ryan C. Johnson

Owen Montague

Sharese Shield

Maceo Williams

Cristina Beamud
Executive Director

MAYOR of ATLANTA
KASIM REED

Atlanta City Council

Cesar C. Mitchell
President

Carla Smith
District 1

Kwanza Hall
District 2

Ivory Lee Young, Jr.
District 3

Cleta Winslow
District 4

Natalyn Mosby Archibong
District 5

Alexander Wan
District 6

Howard Shook
District 7

Yolanda Adrean
District 8

Felicia A. Moore
District 9

Clarence T. Martin
District 10

Keisha Lance Bottoms
District 11

Joyce Sheperd
District 12

Michael Julian Bond
Post 1-At-Large

Aaron Watson
Post 2-At-Large

H. Lamar Willis
Post 3-At-Large

October 18, 2010

Chief George Turner
Atlanta Police Department
226 Peachtree Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: #10-17 Complaint of Trenton Boyd

Dear Chief Turner:

The Atlanta Citizen Review Board (“the ACRB”) completed its investigation and adjudication of the complaint that was filed by Trenton Boyd alleging that Officers Pettis and Guevara of the RED DOG unit engaged in unnecessary and excessive force by repeatedly striking and kicking him in the head and chest when he was arrested on January 29, 2010.

Mr. Boyd said that he was a passenger in a car driven by his friend, Robert Burr, and the police tried to stop the car. Mr. Burr initially stopped and when the officers approached the driver’s window, Officer Guevara began to yell and threatened to break the window and Burr abruptly sped off. The police chased them and Burr stopped the car at an apartment complex and Boyd and Burr ran. The police chased them and drew their weapons and ordered them to stop and get on the ground. Mr. Boyd alleges that they both complied. More police cars arrived and an unidentified officer handcuffed him. He alleges that Officer Pettis and two other officers began to punch and kick him in his face and chest. He claims that both he and Mr. Burr were repeatedly struck and kicked. Mr. Boyd says that he was then dragged down a hill where he was evaluated by the fire department. He complained of pain and chest pains so they called an ambulance. He was transported to Grady Hospital and medical records reveal that he sustained bruises and two fractures to his face, as well as, bruises to his chest and buttocks. The medical record and photographs are part of the investigative record. Mr. Boyd was charged with two counts of obstruction and trying to remove a weapon from a public official. While he claims that the charges were unfounded, he took a plea deal to avoid having a felony conviction on his record. He is currently a college student.

Continue please...

Mr. Burr was interviewed and said that when he was stopped, he lowered his window and the officers began yelling and he became frightened and sped off. When they got into an area with other people, he stopped and ran into the woods. He said that when the officers caught up with them, they were ordered to get on the ground. He complied but Boyd stood frozen with his hands up. Burr said that two officers began beating Boyd and kicked him in the chest and he could hear Boyd complaining. He said they were both dragged down the hill to the police wagon. Mr. Burr said that Boyd did not resist or strike any of the officers.

Gary Davis, a resident in the area, stated that he observed some police activity on the day of the arrest. He said that the situation had ended by the time he came outside; however, he did see the police dragging an individual down the hill.

Four officers who were at the scene were interviewed: Sergeant Taylor, Officer Mayes, Officer Guevara and Officer Pettis. Sgt. Taylor did not see the force that was applied; however, he said that Officer Pettis told him he had to use force because Boyd tried to take his gun or OC spray. Officer Guevara said that he and Officer Pettis were involved in the foot chase and when they caught up to Mr. Burr and Mr. Boyd, he ordered them to get on the ground. Officer Guevara handcuffed Mr. Burr and Officer Pettis tried to control Mr. Boyd. He observed Boyd grab Officer Pettis' duty belt but did not see any physical force exchanged because he was busy with Mr. Burr.

Officer Pettis said that when Mr. Burr and Boyd were stopped, they dropped to their knees but continued to rise up. He repeatedly ordered them to get down on the ground and when Officer Pettis approached Mr. Boyd, Boyd got up and started to run. He grabbed his shirt and pulled him and Boyd resisted. He used a leg sweep to bring Boyd to the ground and then straddled his waist and told him to put his hands behind his back. Boyd refused and continued to resist and reached for his neck. Boyd then reached for his duty belt in an attempt to take his gun and OC Spray. Boyd swung a fist to Officer Pettis' face, and Pettis punched him and hit him in the head. They continued to struggle for a few more seconds and he managed to get one handcuff on Mr. Boyd. Officer Mayes arrived and assisted.

Officer Pettis admitted to striking Mr. Boyd but contends that the force was justified because Boyd resisted arrest by fighting and attempting to grab his weapon and OC Spray. Boyd pleaded guilty to the associated charges. None of the other witnesses or officers could verify either of the versions of the incident.

Chief George Turner
RE: #10-17 Complaint of Trenton Boyd
October 18, 2010
Page 3

The Board carefully considered the evidence in this case and voiced considerable concern about the nature of the injuries that were sustained by the complainant, including two fractures and significant bruising to his face. However, because there was no confirmation of either version of the events, the Board voted unanimously to **Not Sustain** the allegation of excessive force against Officer Pettis and Guevara.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to have a copy of the full investigation. The ordinance requires the Chief to respond in writing regarding which recommendations are accepted, rejected, or will be implemented with modifications within thirty (30) days of the submission of a recommendation for action of the Board to the Chief.

Sincerely,



Joy Morrissey
Board Chair

cc: Mayor Kasim Reed
Council President Ceasar Mitchell
Members of Council
ACRB Board Members