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July 19, 2011

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

RE: Complaint of George Nelson, #11-14

Dear Chief Turner:

MAYOR OF ATLANTA

Kasim Reed

ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

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The Atlanta Citizen Review Board (“ACRB”) completed its investigation and adjudication of the complaint that was filed by George Nelson alleging abusive language and excessive force by Officer Leif Reddick. The complaint was investigated by Investigator Marc Addington.

Mr. Nelson filed a complaint on March 22, 2011 alleging that on October 1, 2010, near the intersection of Carol Drive and Chattahoochee Avenue, he was confronted by Officer Leif Reddick. Mr. Nelson explained that he was out with two clients of his security business and was approached by Officer Reddick who told him to put his hands up or he would “blow his fucking head off.” Nelson claimed that the officer repeated this phrase four times. The officer also pointed a gun at him and handcuffed him and detained him for four hours.

An interview was conducted with Adam Brock, who was the client who was present at the time of the stop. He said that Mr. Nelson had a red strobe light activated on his dash board, as they were discussing security for a property owned by his father. The officer approached and began to ask questions about their identity and what they were doing on the street. Mr. Brock claimed that he did not recall whether the officer approached with his weapon drawn or whether he heard the officer use any abusive language. He said that both Nelson and his brother, Matt Brock, were handcuffed by the officer. The officer appeared concerned about the identification and the badge that Mr. Nelson presented to the officer. He estimated that the detention of his brother was for one to two hours and Mr. Nelson remained at the scene after he and his brother were allowed to leave the location.

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Officer Reddick stated that he observed a car with a red strobe light as he was en route to the APD Property office. He said that he was informed at previous roll calls that there had been some robberies perpetrated by persons who were impersonating police officers, so he decided to turn around and investigate the situation. According to Officer Reddick, he observed three men at the location and one was dressed in dark clothing and was wearing a gun belt which contained a firearm. He said he approached with his weapon drawn and ordered them to place their hands on the vehicle for his safety. Officer Reddick said that he keyed the microphone of his radio so that the dispatcher would hear and send more units. He handcuffed Mr. Nelson and one other person. He removed a Glock semi-automatic pistol from Mr. Nelson's holster and Mr. Nelson gave him an identification card that looked like those that are issued to Atlanta Police officers. He also produced a badge that resembled the badges worn by Georgia State Patrol Troopers. Officer Reddick requested the presence of a Georgia State Patrol Officer in order to investigate whether the Mr. Reddick was in lawful possession of this badge. After a period of time, Officer Reddick was informed that there was no trooper available to respond. He discussed the situation with his supervisor and spoke with a Georgia State Patrol officer by telephone. He cited Mr. Nelson for using the red strobe light without a permit. When asked whether he used profanity, he could not recall the exact words he used but said that he probably did.

Given the evidence in this matter, the Atlanta Citizen Review Board voted to **Not Sustain** the allegation of Excessive Force and to recommend a finding of **Sustained** as to the Abusive Language. Officer Reddick has no disciplinary history. For that reason, the Board recommends that you issue an oral reprimand to Officer Reddick for the use of abusive language.

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 that the Chief 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 by the Board to the Chief. See Sec. 2-2211(O) of Ordinance 07-0-0141.

Sincerely,



Joy Morrissey,
Board Chair

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