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September 22, 2016

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

RE: Complaint of James Jackson, ACRB File #16-031

Dear Chief Turner:

Please be advised that the Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB) has concluded its investigation and adjudication of the complaint filed by James Jackson alleging that on February 17, 2016, while at the Zone 5 precinct, Atlanta Police Officers Alex Crawford (Unique ID #3765) and Laszlo Szutor (Unique ID #5383) engaged in unnecessary excessive force when they grabbed him out of a chair, slammed him against the wall, pulled his neck back and then pushed him back into the chair.

The Board determined that the Excessive Force allegation against both Officers Crawford and Szutor be assigned a finding of **Sustained (and disagreed with the Staff's recommendation of Not Sustained for the following reasons:**

The standard for the board to decide these complaints is preponderance of the evidence which is also described as more likely than not. In this case, Mr. Jackson said excessive force was used against him and described his injuries very specifically. After the incident, Mr. Jackson was sent to jail for six days and immediately upon his release he went to Grady Hospital and reported the exact same injuries. Also, the officers failed to include vital information pertaining to the case in their reports. Mr. Jackson had injury complaints/requests for medical attention and the officers made a stop while Mr. Jackson was in custody. There was no reason to leave this information out of the reports and this goes directly to the officers' credibility. When you combine the evidence of Mr. Jackson's consistent medical complaints, his determination to still go to Grady Hospital for treatment six days after the incident and the failure to include vital information in the reports, the Board found that the officers more likely than not were excessive in the force they used against Mr. Jackson.

As penalty, the Board recommends that Officers Crawford and Szutor receive written reprimands and training on de-escalation.

The Board further recommends that the APD does the following:

1. Both Officers Szutor and Crawford failed to put in their reports that both arrestees (Mr. Jackson and Mr. Johnson) were relocated to the Zone 5 precinct before transporting them to jail. APD.SOP.2010, Section 4.2.21 requires officers to submit complete and accurate reports. Therefore, the Board should recommend that the APD reviews the evidence (the incident reports) and takes appropriate action against both officers that is in accordance with APD's disciplinary matrix.
2. Look into Mr. Jackson's claim that, while at the Zone 5 precinct, his request for medical attention to Officers Szutor, Crawford and an unidentified lieutenant or sergeant was denied.

The file is available for review upon request. 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 the Ordinance 07-0-0141).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sherry'.

Sherry B. Williams
Board Chair

cc: Mayor Kasim Reed
Council President Ceasar Mitchell
Members of the Atlanta City Council
ACRB Members
Executive Director Lee Reid