October 28, 2019

Ms. Cecilia Houston-Torrence, Chairwoman
Atlanta Citizen Review Board
City Hall Tower - Suite 9100
55 Trinity Avenue SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: APD Control # RNO-18-019 / ACRB File # 18-091

Dear Ms. Cecilia Houston-Torrence:

I am in receipt of the Atlanta Citizen Review Board’s letter regarding the complaint of Mr. [redacted] the alleged actions of Atlanta Police Officer Corey James on the 17th of September 2018, and the Board’s determination of Not Sustained. The investigation by the Atlanta Police Office of Professional Standards has concluded. This letter serves, in accordance with Sec. 2-2213 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, as a delineation of actions taken with respect to the Atlanta Police investigation of the event.

The Office of Professional Standards has reviewed the completed ACRB Investigative Report (covering the Citation, Display Call Report & Radio Transmissions for Incident 190191516, Officer Corey James’ September 17th, 2018 Daily Activity Report, no Motors Units were equipped with BWC at this time). Officer Corey James executed a traffic stop on Complainant’s [redacted] black Ford Mustang at I-75/85 North at Williams Street at the HOV on-ramp of the interstate highway. The Complainant Davis admits in his on-line complaint [1] that he was following the directions of his GPS navigation into the HOV lane where Officer Corey James stopped him, [2] that he was not familiar with HOV lane laws, and [3] that he was driving by himself in the HOV on-ramp lane. The Complainant also states [4] his belief that his GPS navigation would not lead him into an illegal lane.

Officer Corey James completed a traffic stop on September 17th, 2018 with Complainant Brian Davis within 3 minutes, per APD records. Officer James advised he [1] addressed Complainant Davis about the HOV lane violation as the reason for the stop, [2] noted an additional violation for holding a cellular telephone in his hand but chose not to cite Mr. [redacted] for that, [3] briefly explained the multiple lane directions on that on-ramp, and then [4] issued the citation as the Complainant continued to request a break for following his GPS navigation as the reason for his violation of the HOV lane law.
While we cannot view a recorded interaction of the traffic stop (the incident pre-dates BWC issuance to the Motors Unit), the Complainant has made admissions against interest regarding the HOV violation and expressed a tenuous belief that his GPS navigation would not lead him into such a violation. These are issues to be addressed in a courtroom setting as opposed to the roadside traffic stop where the complainant was cited.

It is for these reasons that the Office of Professional Standards does not see an articulable reason to formally accuse the involved employee of wrongdoing or policy violation, which precedes a formal investigation.

I appreciate the opportunity to correspond with the Atlanta Citizen Review Board, and to be made aware of the concerns of the Board. Please do not hesitate to reach-out with any future questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Erika Shields
Chief of Police
City of Atlanta Police Department