

# City of Cincinnati



Interdepartmental  
Correspondence Sheet

May 21, 2009

TO: Chief Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Department

FROM: Milton Dohoney, Jr., City Manager

COPPIES: Scott Stiles, David Holmes, Hilary Bohannon, John Curp

SUBJECT: Complaint Involving Mounted Patrol Unit

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The City Manager's Office was served with a complaint regarding the alleged actions of a Police sergeant who formerly worked in the Mounted Patrol Unit. It has traveled quite a circuitous route touching Citizen Complaint Authority, Human Resources, the City Solicitor's Office, and the media. At the center of all this is a patently silly incident that is the epitome of horse play gone awry (pun intended). In fact, the amount of time that has been devoted to this situation given everything else that we need to be doing to manage the city is a bit frustrating.

Nevertheless, this situation has brought forward some serious allegations that I simply can not ignore. At a time when we are forging a monumental effort to enhance the integrity of the Fire Department, turning a blind eye to charges of impropriety in the Police Department is just not acceptable. I was given certain tapes that reportedly illustrate one officer trying to get another one to lie, which is a particularly serious charge in the law enforcement arena.

In addition to the tapes that were turned over to me, additional tapes were turned over to the Solicitor's Office. While I have not personally heard these tapes, I did ask the Solicitor's Office to listen to them and summarize for me what was there. While I have not yet taken a position in the culpability of the officer being accused, I have heard enough that this does need to be looked into further. As you know, part of this story implies that it is not being probed because of the officer's relationship with your family.

I was prepared to direct you to have Internal Investigations examine this complaint so we can get various officers on the record explaining their actions. That was before I watched the full interview that you gave to Channel 9 on the subject. Asking you to do that now with Internal Investigations solely, in light of your expressed views, makes that untenable.

So we need to modify our approach so this situation can be examined, which will then lead us to some type of resolution.

I am directing that Internal Investigations examine the incident regarding the shaving of number 43 into a horse's neck and the subsequent actions of the officers involved. However, I am directing that Internal Investigations' review be conducted with the assistance of representatives of the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) Public Safety Services Section. Their members have investigative backgrounds with experience from various levels of law enforcement. The complete file on the investigation is to be given directly to me. There will be two people from ICMA who will come to Cincinnati and review the investigation, including communicating with the assigned investigator(s). After looking at the questions asked and answered, they will confer with me directly. I am making no predetermination about any

particular officer, but it is not in the City's best interest to let this go. Hopefully this can be done expeditiously and our attention can be redirected to external service delivery. Fortunately no member of the public we serve is directly involved but the standard for high integrity that I have insisted on is being called into question.

I will provide a profile of the two investigators shortly, along with some clarification on the logistics.

The Cincinnati Police Department is a professional organization; as such I know I can expect its full cooperation with the ICMA representatives assigned to this case. I consider my decision here to be a measured one to help us get to the bottom of this situation that is still lingering. The costs associated with the assistance of ICMA, which will be modest, are to be absorbed by the Police Department.