



JIM STRICKLAND  
MAYOR

DIVISION OF POLICE SERVICES

May 4, 2017

Virginia Wilson  
Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board  
3030 Poplar Avenue  
HR-RM L42  
Memphis, Tennessee 38111

**Re: ISB FILE # I2012-090**

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

I have reviewed the Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board's finding regarding the above referenced Inspectional Services Bureau Investigation ("ISB"). The investigation was conducted as a result of a complaint filed by Ms. Claudette Taylor regarding an incident that occurred on August 17, 2012.

The Board unanimously voted to sustain Ms. Taylor's complaint against the officers of the Memphis Police Department. Specifically, the Board concluded that the evidence presented by Ms. Taylor sustained that the police officers violated Policies and Procedures of the Memphis Police Department. The Board recommended that the involved officers attend sensitivity training, as well as further training on Policies and Procedures regarding "Necessary Force." The Board further recommended that the officers issue a letter of apology to Ms. Taylor.

Having reviewed both the Board's findings and the ISB file, I am not inclined to take any additional action in regards to the Board's recommendations based on the following findings:

- On August 17, 2012, officers were dispatched to a disturbance at Waldorf and McMillan Street. The disturbance required several officers to be dispatched into the area for crowd and traffic control.
- Officers made several arrests during their efforts to gain control of the scene and disperse the crowd which had gathered in the area.

- Several officers observed Ms. Taylor in the intersection of Waldorf and Miller cursing and yelling, creating a disturbance attempting to incite individuals in the area. Ms. Taylor's son may have been shot during the disturbance.
- Officers asked Ms. Taylor several times to cease attempting to create a disturbance and incite the crowd.
- Ms. Taylor disregarded the instructions from officers to stop creating a disturbance.
- When Ms. Taylor continued to disregard the officer's commands, Officer Parker approached Ms. Taylor and advised her to place her hands behind her back; and Ms. Taylor refused.
- Officer Parker then grabbed Ms. Taylor's arm, placed a handcuff on her when she yanked away and began to resist the lawful arrest.
- Two additional officers observed Ms. Taylor resisting with Officer Parker and came to render assistance to him and place Ms. Taylor in handcuffs.
- Ms. Taylor continued to resist; and as officers attempted to gain control, her momentum caused them all to fall into her yard.
- Civilian witness Mr. Johnnie Robinson observed Ms. Taylor struggling with three to four officers before they were able to take her to the ground.
- After placing handcuffs on Ms. Taylor and attempting to get her off the ground, it was discovered that Ms. Taylor suffered an injury to her left leg.
- Officers requested the Memphis Fire Department to the scene to render medical treatment.
- It was determined that Ms. Taylor suffered a six-inch laceration to her left leg as a result of an iron planter in the yard during her fall to the ground.
- Ms. Taylor was treated on the scene, transported to the Regional Medical Center for additional treatment and then transported to jail.
- Ms. Taylor was arrested for Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest.

I do not concur with the Board's conclusion that officers violated Policies and Procedures of the Memphis Police Department during the arrest of Ms. Claudette Taylor. Ms. Taylor sustained injuries during the course of her lawful arrest. The injury Ms. Taylor suffered was not the result of any intentional or negligent act by any of the arresting officers. Ms. Taylor's injury was not the result of any force used by any of the arresting officers. I must conclude that the arresting officers used the minimal amount of force necessary to complete the arrest.

As to the Board's recommendation that sensitivity training be provided for the officers involved in this incident, such training is and will continue to be provided during the Department's yearly In-Service Training. Having concluded that the officers acted within policy during this incident, I will not issue an order requiring the arresting officers to

issue a letter of apology. I will in the coming days personally contact Ms. Taylor to discuss this matter with her.

Based upon the above findings, I will take no other action as to the Board's recommendations regarding the complaint of Ms. Claudette Taylor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael W. Rallings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael W. Rallings, Director  
Memphis Police Department

cc: Zayid A. Saleem, Police Legal Advisor