
POLICE CONDUCT OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
Case Summary Data #08
May 2019

OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLAINT

Complainant, who wrote a blog several years prior about being wrongly identified by police as a suspect, alleges that a person identifying himself as a sergeant with the Minneapolis Police Department sent him an "unsolicited email," "undermin[ing] and diminish[ing]" his account. Also, Complainant asserts that the officer closes his city email with a quote from neo-conservative Richard Grenier, wrongly attributed to George Orwell, which states, "Good people sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." Further, it is alleged that the officer used his city email to send the message and appears to have been on-duty when the email was sent.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

1. MPD P&P § 4-220 – COMPUTER USE AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:
 - a. All use of the City's computer system shall comply with the City of Minneapolis Electronic Communications Policy.
 - b. Users are responsible for maintaining security of any computer to which they have logged on. When users leave the computer, they shall log off the system.
 - c. Internal Affairs may investigate reported violations of the City's Electronic Communications Policy, with the assistance of BIS ITS personnel. Any employee whose user name and password is determined to have been in use during any violation may be subject to an Internal Affairs investigation and held accountable.

2. MPD P&P § 5-105 – PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT:
 - a. Employees shall conduct themselves in the buildings and offices of the Department in a manner which would not discredit the Department.

COMPLAINT PROCESSING

Upon receiving the complaint, an intake investigation was conducted and the matter was brought before the Joint Supervisors. The Joint Supervisors then sent the matter to coaching.

EVIDENCE

1. Online Post

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

1. Online Post: Complainant, who wrote a blog several years prior about being wrongly identified by police as a suspect, alleges that a person identifying himself as a sergeant with the Minneapolis Police Department sent him an "unsolicited email,"

"undermin[ing] and diminish[ing]" his account. Also, Complainant asserts that the officer closes his city email with a quote from neo-conservative Richard Grenier, wrongly attributed to George Orwell, which states, "Good people sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." Further, it is alleged that the officer used his city email to send the message and appears to have been on-duty when the email was sent.

COACHING

Supervisor found no policy violation after reviewing the online post. The officer was coached and the supervisor "suggested removing the remark at the end of email." The officer stated that he "didn't think it was disrespectful" and that he was "just trying to make conversation with the guy."