



OFFICE OF POLICE OVERSIGHT

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

August 5, 2022

ICMS #: 2022-0640

On August 3, 2022, the OPO received an online complaint.

The complainant alleges: This complaint is directed towards the [REDACTED] Sector dayshift supervisors who were on duty on [REDACTED] during this incident. Please refer to Case [REDACTED]. Due to a serious crash located at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], I shutdown the southbound lanes on [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. I announced the shutdown and that I would conduct traffic control (which was on foot). Due to the large intersection and vehicles running through my barrier, I requested another unit for assistance. When I recognized how long this shutdown may be, I requested relief from dispatch due to the 100 plus degree temperatures and 100 plus degree heat index. When I did not receive a response or relief. I announced over the radio, to any [REDACTED] supervisor listening, that relief was needed. When I did not get a response, I asked dispatch if we could at least get some water to our location. Dispatch sent me a message saying she sent the Watch Commander a message about getting us some water. Eventually, I was provided a 12 oz bottle of water for conducting traffic control, on foot, for almost 2 1/2 hours. General Order 343 Escorts and Traffic Control states the following: 343.5 Traffic Control Guidelines When officers must provide traffic control and direction it is important to remember the inherent dangers involved. These Guidelines should be followed to make it as safe and efficient as possible. (a) Officers will notify Communications of their location prior to directing traffic in the roadway. (b) Officers will keep Communications informed of any lane or street closures during major situations. (c) IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT FATIGUE AND MONOTONY CAN INCREASE THE DANGER OF THIS TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT. SUPERVISORS SHOULD SCHEDULE BREAKS FOR OFFICERS WORKING TRAFFIC FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME. "EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME" is not defined in our policy, however, if you were to contact our Academy an instructor who teaches traffic control could give you an answer on how often officers should be given breaks. I believe this incident is a failure on the [REDACTED] Sector leadership and is in violation of the Austin Police Department General Orders. I went home that evening, sunburned, fatigued, with a headache and feeling nauseous.

This notice of complaint is a request for Internal Affairs to initiate an investigation to determine if the employee conduct is within compliance of APD policy, Civil Service Rules, and Municipal Civil Service Rules.