



DISCIPLINE RECOMMENDATION

TO: Chief Lisa Davis, Austin Police Department
FROM: Director Gail McCant, Office of Police Oversight
DATE: May 30, 2025
SUBJECT: 2024-1188 Discipline Recommendation

Dear Chief Davis:

On November 25, 2024, the Office of Police Oversight (OPO) received an external citizen's complaint, 2024-1188, alleging that Austin Police Department (APD) Police Officer John-Matthew Hattaway, AP7994, used extremely unprofessional language during a traffic stop incident. The citizen asked OPO to process the complaint as a Supervisor Referral.

On December 11, 2024, Commander Jamie Jobs forwarded an internal memorandum to IAD requesting that Officer Hattaway's conduct during the above incident be investigated as an Administrative Investigation.

Recommendation by APD Chain of Command

On May 27, 2025, OPO was notified that Officer Hattaway's chain of command had recommended the Class A Investigation be sustained. The chain of command has also recommended discipline, "Up to or including a/an 15-day suspension, Mandated Counseling, Loss of Police Motor Unit for an indefinite Time," be assessed to Officer Hattaway for violation of General Orders;

- 301.2 Impartial Attitude and Courtesy
- 900.3.2 Acts Bringing Discredit Upon the Department

OPO Discipline Recommendation:

OPO reviewed multiple Internal Affairs Cases from 2021 to 2024 and recommends a 15-day suspension with no eligibility for Educational-Based Discipline.

Although several of these matters concluded with an inconclusive finding or exoneration of Officer Hattaway, the recurrence of similar allegations against the Officer may reasonably be viewed as lending them a degree of credibility that should not be overlooked.

In December 2021, it is alleged that Officer Hattaway stated to a motorist, "What the F are you doing? You are a stupid F...ing driver." In this case, Officer Hattaway denied all allegations and contends he did not violate GO 301.2 Impartial Attitude and Courtesy, nor did he take responsibility for violating GO 804.2 General Operation of Dept. Vehicle or 900.3.2 Acts bringing discredit upon the department.



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In September 2023, the Complainant alleged Officer Hattaway was involved in an incident in Garland, Texas, that was recorded by the motorist. In it, he called the motorist a f..ing asshole bitch. This incident was posted and viewed across social media and also received local news coverage. When asked if he violated GO 900.3.2, Acts Bringing Discredit Upon the Department, Officer Hattaway stated, “I believe so.”

In October 2023, another allegation was made in which the Complainant noted Officer Hattaway angrily gestured that she needed to slow down. The Complainant notes he appeared to be yelling, but never turned on his lights. The Complainant stated, *“I didn’t understand why he was so angry at me” “Even though I had my husband in the car with me, my heart was racing and I felt threatened and unsafe by this police officer who is supposed to protect us.”*

In December 2023, Officer Hattaway was once again involved in road rage with a USPS motorist, in which he is alleged to have used profanity while screaming at the motorist. When asked if he violated APD Policy 301.2 Impartial Attitude and Courtesy, Officer Hattaway replied, *“At no time do I believe that I treated anybody discourteously.”*

This most recent complaint occurred in November of 2024, in which Officer Hattaway once again unleashed his rage on a Pastor and his wife traveling to a UT game. The Complainant stated, *“I didn’t know what I did wrong. I got a F-bomb yelled at me.” “The real part that was going in my mind was his behavior, the way he treated us with so much anger and road rage.”* The Complainant stated, *“I’m super concerned about him as a person so my feelings towards him are he needs help whatever it is that’s going on if it continues its not healthy for him, and it’s not healthy for the public.”*

During his most recent interview with internal affairs, Officer Hattaway was asked if he thought he complied with APD Policy 900.3.2, Acts bringing discredit upon the department. Officer Hattaway stated, *“I believe I complied.”*

Officer Hattaway was also asked if he complied with APD Policy 300.2, Impartial Attitude and Courtesy. Officer Hattaway stated, *“I do”.*

This consistent denial of wrongdoing across all cases, despite credible civilian complaints, reflects a troubling lack of accountability on the part of this Officer. The repeated nature of these incidents over a multi-year span shows a perpetual pattern of misconduct rather than an isolated incident, and these are just the incidents we know about.

Officer Hattaway has received formal discipline for similar sustained policy violations in 2023. He received a Written Reprimand, with Educational Based Discipline (EBD), which he completed. However, this formal discipline has not served as a deterrent to his behavior. Progressive discipline should be imposed to inform Officer Hattaway that this unprofessional behavior will not



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be tolerated. I recommend formal discipline of fifteen (15) suspension days to be served by Officer Hattaway, with no eligibility for EBD. It is also recommended that Officer Hattaway be referred to professional counseling services, as available through the employee assistance program or other available resources, to support the development of improved emotional regulation and stress management skills.

In compliance with Section 2-15-5(B) of the City Code, I request the Chief to “provide a detailed public, written explanation for not following the recommendation of the Office of Police Oversight.”

Sincerely,

Gail McCant
Director
Office of Police Oversight

