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Baton Rouge, LA 70809

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State of Louisiana  
Department of Public Safety  
Louisiana State Police

JANUARY 4, 2023  
4750/0501/BJB/22-23972  
HQ-01-798

Master Trooper Justin Chiasson  
Louisiana State Police - Gaining

VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY  
LA #2200038; OLA #079167

Re: **TERMINATION**

Trooper Chiasson,

The response to my letter of intended termination submitted on your behalf has been received by me. I have duly considered the response. I find that there is sufficient evidence to support the facts as stated in the letter, which warrant termination.

Pursuant to the authority granted by State Police Commission Rules 12.1 and 12.2, and in accordance with 12.8, you are hereby notified that your employment with the Louisiana State Police is hereby terminated effective 4:30 pm on Friday, January 6, 2023. You are being terminated for the following reasons:

In response to a citizen complaint, an administrative investigation was conducted, and it was determined that on Saturday, July 2, 2022, at 2045 hours you were a passenger on a boat that was involved in a hit and run boat crash on Bayou Magazille in Assumption Parish. The driver of that boat, Mr. Bryan Nolan, fled the scene of the crash, and you and Mr. Nolan subsequently fled from the boat launch. As the passenger of Boat 1<sup>1</sup>, you and Bryan Nolan (drivers) fled the scene of the boat crash and proceeded to Attakapa Landing, approximately one quarter of a mile north of the landing, Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office (hereinafter "APSO") conducted a traffic stop on your pickup truck while towing Boat 1. You and Mr. Nolan were detained by APSO until the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (hereinafter "LDWF") arrived. LDWF agents subsequently arrested Mr. Nolan for Boating While Intoxicated.

On Saturday, July 2, 2022, at approximately 2100 hours, LDWF agents, Lieutenant (Lt.) Ivey Thompson and Corporal (Cpl.) Richard Bean responded to a hit and run boating crash on Bayou Magazille in Assumption Parish (hereinafter "the crash"). APSO was notified of the accident by off-duty APSO Captain Hayward Coddou, who was in the area of the crash shortly after it occurred. Captain Coddou stated he was waved down by occupants on a pontoon boat, Boat 2<sup>2</sup>, using flashlights and was advised by one of the occupants that they were involved in a

<sup>1</sup> Boat 1 - generally referred to as the at fault vessel in a crash  
<sup>2</sup> Boat 2 - generally referred to as the not at fault vessel in a crash

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boating accident. He quickly learned that the boat that struck Boat 2 was a Flanko-style (Aluminum) boat occupied by two individuals. The occupants of Boat 2 stated that the boat fled toward Atakapa Landing.

After being notified via dispatch, APSO deputies Sgt. Jean Carriere and Lt. Anthony Stelly headed toward Atakapa Landing to see if they could locate Boat 1. Both deputies observed a pickup truck pulling a boat on a trailer matching the description heading northbound on Hwy 901. Lt. Stelly activated the lights on his unit to attempt to stop the truck, but the driver continued to travel northbound. Sgt. Carriere had to activate his emergency lights and block the north and southbound lanes of Hwy 901 to bring the truck to a stop. Once the truck stopped, Sgt. Carriere identified the vehicle's driver as Bryan Nolan and noted you as a second male subject standing inside Boat 1. After confirming that the boat was involved in the crash, the deputies remained with you and Mr. Nolan until LDWF agents arrived. Once LDWF Lieutenant (Lt.) Joey Thompson and Corporal (Cpl.) Richard Bean arrived and had a brief discussion with Mr. Nolan, you was asked to perform Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. Mr. Nolan failed all three tests and was arrested for Operating a Boat While Intoxicated. Mr. Nolan subsequently submitted to a chemical test for intoxication and his blood alcohol concentration (BAC) was 0.152g%.

Body Worn Camera (hereinafter "BWC") footage from APSO Sgt. Carriere, which began at 2113 hours, recorded the following:

The video begins with you standing behind Boat 1, and Bryan Nolan standing on the left side, between the truck and trailer. Sgt. Carriere asks Mr. Nolan if he remembers the boat crash with Boat 2. Mr. Nolan replies that he cannot remember the impact with Boat 2, nor statements made to him by passengers of Boat 2 that he was driving in Boat 2's lane of travel. Sgt. Carriere then asks you and Mr. Nolan, who was driving Boat 1 at the time of the crash. Mr. Nolan states that he was driving. Mr. Nolan also states that his father, Gregory Nolan, is the owner of Boat 1. You ask Sgt. Carriere, "what LDWF agent is en route?", and Sgt. Carriere responds, "Lt. Joey Thompson." You then state that you know who Lt. Thompson is. The video ended at 2123 hours.

LDWF corporal from APSO Lt. Stelly, which began at 2117 hours, recorded the following:

The video begins with Lt. Stelly asking you if you are hurt, and you responding "no". Lt. Stelly continues to speak with you, and advises you that the passengers on Boat 2 suffered injuries. Lt. Stelly asks you what happened. You respond that you were sleeping on the passenger side of the boat during the crash. You further state that you thought Boat 1 struck Boat 2, and when you awoke, you described how the passengers in Boat 2 began cursing at you and Mr. Nolan. You conclude by stating to deputies that you were tired due to the fishing and cooking throughout the day. Lt. Stelly also observed that Mr. Nolan had defecated on himself. He instructed Mr. Nolan to flush himself off at a nearby water hose. Acadian Ambulance arrived on the scene at 2138 hours, and Mr. Nolan refused medical care at that time.

Boat 2 remained unoccupied.

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LDWF Lt. Joey Thompson also arrived at 2140 hours. He instructed Lt. Stelly to make sure Mr. Nolan did not eat or drink anything until his investigation was complete. Lt. Stelly relayed the message to Mr. Nolan at 2141 hours. The video ended at 2215 hours.

Louisiana State Police, Office of Internal Affairs (hereinafter "IA") investigators interviewed all of the nine (9) occupants of Boat 2, including Cade Sheets, Jodi Sheets, Claire Sheets, Colton King, Benjamin Parker, Alec Ortego, Lauren Lambert, Mikinzie Louque, and Grace Mohon. The statements provided by all of Boat 2's occupants corroborated the following: Boat 1 moved into Boat 2's lane of travel; Boat 2's occupants waved their arms in an attempt to alert Boat 1's occupants; Boat 1 struck Boat 2 on the front left corner; Boat 2 occupant Claire Sheets asked Boat 1 occupants if they had been drinking; and Boat 1 fled the scene and sped away toward the Attakapa Landing.

On August 11, 2022, the driver of Boat 2, Mr. Cade Sheets, was interviewed by IA investigators Sgt. Karan Sharma and Trooper Tony Washington at Louisiana State Police – IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Mr. Cade Sheets:

Mr. Sheets stated that he drove Boat 2 with eight (8) passengers onboard to Lake Verret to watch the sunset, and then traveled down Bayou Magazille. After the sunset, they began their journey toward Belle River. The waterway that connects the two is named Bayou Magazille. As he traveled west down the bayou, he witnessed another boat (Boat 1) traveling east and slowly moving into their lane. The passengers on Mr. Sheets' boat began waving their arms to notify the driver of Boat 1. Mr. Sheets stated that they were unsuccessful, and Boat 1 struck the front left corner of his pontoon boat (Boat 2). After impact, Boat 1's occupants and Boat 2's occupants (all parties) asked if each were okay. Mr. Sheets stated that Mr. Nolan was in the driver's seat of Boat 1 and you were in the passenger seat. Ms. Claire Sheets, Mr. Sheets' daughter, asked Mr. Nolan and you if you had been drinking. Then, you and Mr. Nolan fled the scene of the crash. Mr. Sheets stated that Boat 1 and Boat 2 were the only two (2) boats on the waterway at the time of impact. After Boat 1 left the scene of the crash, off-duty APSO Captain Hayward Coddou came to assist them, and escorted them back to Attakapa Landing. At the landing, Mr. Sheets met with Lt. Stelly from APSO. Lt. Stelly told Mr. Sheets, when he stopped the two men fleeing the scene, you were driving the truck, and Mr. Nolan was in the boat being pulled by the truck. The day after the crash, Mr. Nolan contacted Mr. Sheets via telephone to apologize. However, Mr. Sheets has not spoken to, nor was ever contacted or approached by you.

On August 11, 2022, Mr. Sheets' wife, Mrs. Jodi Sheets, a passenger on Boat 2, was interviewed by IA investigators Sgt. Sharma and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police – IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Mrs. Jodi Sheets:

Mrs. Sheets stated that she sat in the passenger seat behind her husband (Cade Sheets) as they and seven (7) passengers departed Lake Verrett en route to their camp on Graveyard Island. As they traveled on Bayou Magazille, they witnessed a boat traveling directly toward

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them from the middle of the bayou. She and the other passengers began waving their arms at Boat 1 to get their attention. According to Mrs. Sheets, Mr. Nolan was seated in the driver's seat and you were seated in the passenger seat of Boat 1. She stated that her husband steered right to avoid being struck; however he was unsuccessful, and Boat 1 struck them. After impact, Mrs. Sheets asked Mr. Nolan and you if you were okay, and began to check on the passengers of Boat 2, (boat she was traveling). Eight of the nine passengers on Mrs. Sheets' boat responded that they were okay. Mrs. Sheets' daughter, Claire, asked Mr. Nolan and you if you were drinking, at which time neither man answered, and then drove away. Mrs. Sheets stated that APSO Captain Hayward Coddou assisted them back to Attakapa Landing. According to Mrs. Sheets, APSO Lt. Stelly stated to her that the driver of Boat 1 was arrested for DWI. When she asked about the driver of the pickup truck, whom she believed was you, Lt. Stelly said it was out of his jurisdiction. Soon after, Mrs. Sheets and her family left the landing. According to Mrs. Sheets, she did not know who Stalecracker<sup>4</sup> or Justin Chiasson was prior to that incident.

On August 11, 2022, Mr. and Mrs. Sheets' daughter, Ms. Claire Sheets, a passenger on Boat 2, was interviewed by IA investigators Sgt. Sharma and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police – IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Ms. Claire Sheets:

Ms. Claire Sheets stated she and her parents (Cade and Jodi Sheets), along with six (6) friends were on Lake Verret to watch the sunset. Later that evening, they began their journey on Bayou Magazille back to their camp. Ms. Sheets stated that an aluminum boat (Boat 1) traveled into their direction very close to their lane. Ms. Sheets and the other members on her boat began waving at Boat 1 to get their attention. Ms. Sheets stated that Mr. Nolan was the driver, and you were the passenger in Boat 1. She further stated that neither of you (driver or passenger in Boat 1) were looking at them just prior to the crash. She stated that she recognized you from social media. Ms. Sheets stated that Boat 1 struck the front left corner of their boat (Boat 2), which caused everyone to fall. After impact, Ms. Sheets stated someone from Boat 1 said, "Y'all were in our lane." In response, Ms. Sheets asked, "Are y'all drinking?" Then, Mr. Nolan slowly idled away toward Attakapa Landing. APSO Captain Hayward Coddou escorted Ms. Sheets and guests to the landing. They were met by Acadian Ambulance, APSO deputies Sgt. Jean Carriere and Lt. Anthony Stelly, and the LDWF agents Lt. Joey Thompson and Cpl. Richard Bean. Ms. Sheets stated that APSO would not allow anyone from her party to speak to you or Mr. Nolan at the landing. IA investigators asked Ms. Sheets if she believed you were intoxicated, to which Ms. Sheets responded, "Stalecracker posted videos of him drinking and cooking all day." Her statement was in reference to alleged videos posted by you that day prior to the crash on Bayou Magazille.

On August 12, 2022, Mr. Colton King, a passenger on Boat 2, was interviewed by IA investigators Sgt. Richard Buckland and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police –IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Mr. King:

Mr. Colton King stated that while traveling on Bayou Magazille, they observed another

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<sup>4</sup> Social media personality for M/T Justin Chiasson

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boat (Boat 1) traveling towards their direction. He stated that Boat 1 began to drift left into their lane. Mr. King stated that everyone on their boat (Boat 2) attempted to get Boat 1 driver's attention. As Boat 1 got closer, Colton observed that the driver had a bald head, but he could not see the passenger. After impact, Colton asked the driver and passenger in Boat 1 if they were ok. Their response was, "Y'all were in our lane." After being asked, "Were y'all drinking" by Claire Sheets, a passenger on Boat 2, Boat 1 driver sped away. Mr. King stated that an off-duty APSO captain escorted their boat to Attakapa Landing.

On August 15, 2022, Mr. Benjamin Parker, a passenger on Boat 2, was interviewed by IA investigators Polygraphist William Kirkland and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police – IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Mr. Parker:

Mr. Benjamin Parker stated that on Saturday, July 2, 2022, while on an evening cruise down Bayou Magazille, he witnessed Boat 1 approach from the opposite direction, drifting right to left, toward them. As Boat 1 came near, Mr. Parker and other passengers on Boat 2 attempted to wave their arms to get the driver of Boat 1's attention. However, the driver of Boat 1 did not see them, and collided with their boat. Mr. Parker stated that he knew the passenger was you but did not know who the driver was. He stated he recognized you because of your social media personality. After impact, Boat 2's occupants asked if Boat 1's occupants were ok, to which everyone said yes. Ms. Claire Sheets asked Boat 1's driver and passenger if they were drinking. After Ms. Claire Sheets asked this question, the driver of Boat 1 drove away. Mr. Parker stated an off-duty APSO deputy escorted them back to the landing where they met APSO Lt. Stelly. Lt. Stelly stated that Mr. Nolan was still in the boat at the time of the traffic stop. Mr. Parker stated that the crash was traumatic and hoped to receive an apology from you.

On August 15, 2022, Mr. Alec Ortego, a passenger on Boat 2, was interviewed by IA investigators Polygraphist Kirkland and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police – IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Mr. Ortego:

Mr. Alec Ortego stated that they were leaving Lake Verret when he noticed Boat 1 in the middle of the bayou heading towards them. He stated that Boat 1 was occupied by two men. Both men were seated facing forward. Mr. Ortego stated that as Boat 1 came closer, the driver of Boat 2, Mr. Cade Sheets, attempted to maneuver to avoid Boat 1, but it was too late. After impact, the occupants of Boat 1 stated that they were okay. After being asked if they had been drinking, the two men sped off towards Attakapa Landing. Mr. Ortego stated that an off-duty APSO deputy escorted Mr. Ortego and passengers of Boat 2 to Attakapa Landing.

On August 15, 2022, Ms. Lauren Lambert, a passenger on Boat 2, was interviewed by IA investigators Polygraphist Kirkland and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police – IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Ms. Lambert:

Ms. Lauren Lambert stated that she was the first to witness Boat 1 drift from right to left in the opposite direction. She stated that she could see the driver of the boat, but could not see a passenger. Ms. Lambert stated that she laid on the floor of Boat 2 to brace for impact. After

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impact, she attended to other guests on the boat. One of the two men on Boat 1 stated, "Y'all were in our lane." She said that Claire Sheets then asked Boat 1's occupants if they had been drinking. They did not answer but instead sped away toward Attakapa Landing. Ms. Lambert stated that an off-duty deputy escorted them to Attakapa landing.

On August 16, 2022, Ms. Mikinzie Louque, a passenger on Boat 2, was interviewed by IA investigators Sgt. Sharma and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police - IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Ms. Louque:

Ms. Mikinzie Louque stated that she suffered a concussion in the boat crash and cannot remember much of what happened that day. However, Ms. Louque remembered Ms. Claire Sheets asked the other boat's party, "Are y'all drunk." She also remembered observing you near the landing and stated she was told you were the passenger on Boat 1. Ms. Louque stated on Sunday, July 3, 2022, Mr. Nolan spoke to her mom via telephone. He apologized for leaving the crash scene and for injuring Ms. Louque. He stated he would take care of her medical fees if need be.

On August 16, 2022, Ms. Grace Mohon, a passenger on Boat 2, was interviewed by IA investigators Sgt. Sharma and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police - IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Ms. Mohon:

Ms. Grace Mohon stated that she and friends enjoyed watching the sunset on Lake Verret. After the sunset, they departed down Bayou Magazille en route to the Sheets' Camp. In the distance, from the opposite direction, Ms. Mohon witnessed Boat 1 veer into their lane of travel. As the boat came near, the driver of Boat 2, Mr. Cade Sheets, attempted to make an evasive maneuver but was unsuccessful. As a result, Boat 1 struck their boat on the front left side. After the impact, Boat 1's occupants and Boat 2's occupants made sure everyone was okay. Everyone responded that they were okay, except for Ms. Mikinzie Louque, who sustained a concussion. Ms. Claire Sheets asked Boat 1's occupants if they were drunk. Both men on Boat 1 did not answer, and then sped away toward Attakapa Landing. Ms. Mohon stated that an off-duty deputy arrived at the scene of the crash, and escorted them back to the landing.

On August 18, 2022, Lt. Kirk Soileau was interviewed by IA investigators Sgt. Sharma and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police - IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Lt. Soileau:

Lt. Kirk Soileau stated that you reported the incident to him on Saturday, July 2, 2022, at approximately 2200 hours. He stated that you were still at the landing when you called. Lt. Soileau stated that you told him you and your cousin were involved in a crash with another boat. Per Lt. Soileau, you told him that your cousin was nervous, and fled the scene. Once at the landing, you and Mr. Nolan loaded the boat onto the trailer, and APSO deputies arrived as you pulled from the ramp.

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On August 18, 2022, Sgt. Jarrod Miles was interviewed<sup>5</sup> by IA investigators Sgt. Karan Sharma and Trooper Tony Washington at Louisiana State Police – IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Sgt. Miles:

Sgt. Miles stated that he occasionally sends weekly Monday morning text messages to his team members, and asks how their weekend was. On Monday, July 4, 2022, Sgt. Miles stated that he sent a similar group text message, checking on his team members, to which you contacted him and asked if he was referring to you when he sent the text message out to the group. Sgt. Miles stated you then proceeded to inform him that you had been involved in an incident over the weekend, and that you had already notified Lt. Soileau about the incident. You told Sgt. Miles, that you were sleeping on a boat that your cousin was driving. You stated that you were awakened when the crash occurred. You stated that your cousin told you that you had struck a tree stump, and continued to drive to the landing. You stated that you had minor injuries due to the crash. You also stated that when your cousin pulled up to the landing, APSO was waiting for you.

On September 21, 2022, you were interviewed by IA investigators Trooper Butler and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police – IA. The following was obtained from your interview:

You began the interview by describing the day before the crash date (Friday, July 1, 2022). You stated that you awoke at 0500 hours at your home. You drove two hours to Labadieville, LA, and met with your cousin Mr. Gregory Nolan II. You both traveled to Lake Verett where you fished during the day, and frogged at night. You arrived at a camp on Lake Verett on Saturday, July 2, 2022, at 0400 hours. You slept until 0630 hours. After a two and a half hour nap, you and your other cousin Mr. Bryan Nolan departed the camp for a day of fishing and 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend gatherings at multiple camps.

Your last stop of the evening was at Rene Esneault's camp. You stated that you stayed for two hours. At 2030 hours, you decided to leave and return to Attakapa Landing for your journey home. You stated that you loaded the boat, which contained your equipment used to cook throughout the day. You stated that Mr. Nolan was in the driver's seat, and you sat in the passenger seat. You stated that you later moved to the floor near the gas tanks and motor. You stated that you were in and out of sleep while you and Mr. Nolan were traveling down Bayou Magazille when you observed Mr. Nolan holler and steer hard to the left. You stated that you felt the crash simultaneously stating, "I felt like I got hit with a bowling ball."

After the crash, you heard Mr. Nolan say, "They ran us into the trees, they ran us into the trees." You stated that you could hear Mr. Nolan and people from another boat arguing, but you were then on your hands and knees gasping for air. You stated that you sustained five (5) broken ribs due to the crash. You stated that you remembered you looked up and saw moss but you never attempted to look at the other boat because it was 2045 hours and very dark. You then remembered

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<sup>5</sup> Sergeant Jarrod Miles IA interview 1

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the boat getting back on plane<sup>6</sup>, and heading toward Attakapa Landing. You stated that you never saw Boat 2 until the WBRZ interview. You also stated that you did not ask Mr. Nolan what happened because you were having trouble speaking and needed fresh air.

You stated that at the landing, Mr. Nolan attempted to explain what happened, but you told Mr. Nolan that you did not want to hear it because it was hot, you were in pain, and you were being stung by mosquitos. You stated the truck and trailer were parked in a private parking spot owned by Rene Esneault just north of Attakapa Landing. When you returned to the original location of the truck where Mr. Nolan dropped you off, Mr. Nolan was no longer there, but was instead at the landing's loading ramp. You stated that you backed your truck and trailer down the ramp, Mr. Nolan loaded the boat and you returned to the private parking spot to secure the boat. Upon exiting your truck and while Mr. Nolan was still in the boat, you observed two APSO units behind you with their overhead lights on. You stated that you came in contact with one of the deputies. The APSO deputy asked if you and Mr. Nolan were involved in a boat crash and you replied, "My cousin can provide you with the details." You stated that you learned from the conversation between Mr. Nolan and the deputy, that you were involved in a crash with another boat.

You stated you contacted Lt. Kirk Soileau while near the landing to discuss the "two boat" crash. You stated that you disclosed the information to Sgt. Jarrod Miles on Monday, July 4, 2022. You stated Lt. Stelly's and Sgt. Carriere's statements about you being in the boat at the time of the traffic stop are false. You also stated that Sgt. Miles' statements are false with regard to what he communicated to you about the crash. You stated that you told Sgt. Miles you were involved in a two boat crash.

On September 22, 2022, Sgt. Jarrod Miles was interviewed<sup>7</sup> by IA investigators Trooper Jacob Butler and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police – IA. The following was obtained from the interview with Sgt. Miles:

Internal Affairs re-interviewed Sgt. Miles regarding your statements to him on Monday, July 4, 2022, about the events that occurred on Saturday, July 2, 2022. Sgt. Miles re-iterated that you told him, you were sleeping on a boat while your cousin drove. You further stated that you were awakened when the crash occurred. He stated again that you told him that you and your cousin had struck a log. Sgt. Miles stated that you did not mention that there was a second boat involved in the crash.

On September 26, 2022, you were interviewed<sup>8</sup> by IA investigators Sgt. Sharma and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police – IA. The following was obtained from your interview:

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<sup>6</sup> As more power (and speed) is applied, lift increases, and the boat, in effect, rides over its bow wave, reducing wetted area and thus reducing drag. At this point, the boat is said to be "on a plane" or simply "planing."

<sup>7</sup> Sergeant Jarrod Miles IA interview 2

<sup>8</sup> Master Trooper Justin Chiasson IA interview 2



You were re-interviewed regarding the specific details of the boat incident that occurred on Saturday, July 2, 2022. You stated that you showed video surveillance from Rene Esneault's camp to Sgt. Robert Powell (Troop L) of yourself and Mr. Nolan getting into Boat 1 moments before the crash. You received the video from Mr. Nolan, and showed the video to Sgt. Powell via your cellphone. You stated that you sat in the passenger seat upon departing the camp, but later moved to the floor because the seat was unstable. During the interview, you read the witness statements from APSO deputies Sgt. Carriere and Lt. Stelly regarding who was driving your pickup truck at the landing. You stated that the two deputies were lying about who was driving the truck, and who was in the boat at the time of the stop. You re-iterated to investigators that you were driving your pickup truck and Mr. Nolan was in the boat at the time of the traffic stop. IA investigators printed Louisiana State Police, Procedural Order 901, Code of Conduct, 15. False Statements, which you read and stated you understood.

On September 27, 2022, Sgt. Robert Powell was interviewed by IA investigators Sgt. Sharma and Trooper Washington at Louisiana State Police - IA. The following was obtained from your interview:

IA investigators asked Sgt. Robert Powell about the surveillance video you stated you had shown him. Sgt. Powell stated that he was not presented with a video, but instead you talked about the video. Sgt. Powell stated that he never observed any video that you had spoken about. Sgt. Powell further stated that you said the video was of you and Bryan Nolan leaving Rene Esneault's camp in an aluminum boat moments before the crash. Sgt. Powell stated that his recollection of events during and after the crash were based on what you told him.

On October 3, 2022, you were scheduled to be interviewed<sup>9</sup> by IA investigators Lt. Arman Douglas and Polygraphist Kevin Ducote at Louisiana State Police - IA. Further, you were also scheduled to submit to a polygraph examination. On October 3, 2022 during the interview, you refused to take the polygraph test after being ordered to participate in a polygraph examination. The following was obtained from your interview:

After arriving at Internal Affairs on October 3, 2022, you were given four (4) policies to read regarding refusal to participate in the polygraph process. You read Policy and Procedural Orders 209-7 Employee Responsibility (During an IA investigation), 901-13 Lawful Orders, 901-56 Cooperation with Administrative Investigations, and 901-57 Polygraph. After reading the policies and being ordered to cooperate with the IA investigation, you stated that you understood, and again, refused to take the polygraph test.

Based on your interview, APSO Axon body worn camera video footage, and information gathered during the investigation, it was determined that on Saturday, July 2, 2022, you were a passenger on a boat operated by Mr. Bryan Nolan when he crashed into another boat

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<sup>9</sup> Master Trooper Justin Chiasson IA interview 3

on Bayou Magazille. You and a passenger on the other boat were injured. Mr. Nolan left the scene of the boat crash and you subsequently assisted Mr. Nolan in loading the boat and leaving the landing. After impact, passengers on Boat 2 identified Mr. Nolan as the driver, and you as a passenger on Boat 1. The boat you were a passenger in then fled the scene shortly after the impact. Once you reached the Attakapa Landing, you aided the driver of Boat 1 in loading the vessel, and leaving the scene. During this crash with injuries, you did not conduct yourself in a favorable manner, and your actions may reasonably destroy the public's respect for LSP Troopers. Your conduct violated Louisiana State Police, Procedural Order 901, Code of Conduct and Ethics, 4. Conduct Unbecoming an Officer, which states:

- i) A commissioned officer shall conduct himself at all times, both on and off-duty, in such a manner as to reflect most favorably on himself and the Department.
- ii) Unbecoming conduct is defined as conduct which:
  - a) Brings the Department or any of its subdivisions into disrepute.
  - b) Reflects discredit upon the officer as a member of the Department.
  - c) Impairs the operations or efficiency of the Department, the officer, or state service.
  - d) Detrimentially affects the morale of the Department's personnel.
  - e) May reasonably be expected to destroy public respect for State Police Officers and/or confidence in the Office of State Police.

During the traffic stop with APSO, you stated to deputies that you were not aware that you were involved in a crash with another boat. However, passengers on Boat 2 witnessed you make comments toward them after the crash, which contradicts your statement to the deputies. Both on scene deputies stated verbally, and in their written statements, that you were in the boat, which was in tow by Mr. Nolan. You stated in your interview with IA that you were driving the pickup truck, and Mr. Nolan was in the boat. This is another contradictory statement by you. After the traffic stop, you stated that you contacted Lt. Kirk Soileau, and informed him that you were involved in a "two (2) boat" injury crash, but did not contact Sgt. Miles until Monday, July 4, 2022.

During Sgt. Miles' interview, he stated that you called him and advised that you were involved in a boat crash with your cousin (Nolan) and you had struck a log. You stated in your interview with IA that you told Sgt. Miles that you were involved in a crash with another boat, not a log. Sgt. Miles was brought into IA again for questioning regarding his conversation with you. Sgt. Miles again stated that you never stated that you were in a crash with another boat. During your second interview, you stated that you showed a video to Sgt. Robert Powell (Troop L) of you and Mr. Nolan leaving Rene Esneault's camp, where you were the passenger in the boat. Sgt. Powell was brought in to confirm this statement; however, he stated that you spoke about the video to him, but never showed him the video. This again contradicted what you related to Internal Affairs investigators. Your conduct in issuing multiple contradictory statements to APSO deputies, IA investigators, and others violated Louisiana State Police,

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Procedural Order 901, Code of Conduct and Ethics, 15. FALSE STATEMENTS, which states:

- i) A commissioned officer shall make no false statement or falsify any written report to a superior officer knowing such statement to be incorrect or misleading.
- ii) No commissioned officer shall willfully and/ or intentionally withhold any information from a report or statement, knowing such information to be relevant to the report or statement.

On Monday, October 3, 2022, you refused to participate in the polygraph examination after being ordered to do so. Your refusal to submit to a polygraph examination on October 3, 2022, after being ordered to do so violated Louisiana State Police, Procedural Order 209, Complaints And Administrative Investigations – 7. EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY, and Louisiana State Police, Procedural Order 901, Code of Conduct and Ethics – 13. LAWFUL ORDERS which state in pertinent part:

#### EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY

- i) Internal Affairs investigators or designated Administrative Investigators shall receive the full cooperation of any employee of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Public Safety Services, during the course of an administrative investigation. Employees shall obey any lawful order or directive given by the investigator during an investigation.
- ii) Ongoing administrative investigations are considered confidential and as such, officers shall not violate that confidentiality. Those in violation are subject to disciplinary action.

#### LAWFUL ORDERS

- i) A commissioned officer shall promptly obey and execute any and all lawful orders of a superior officer. A "lawful order" is any order or assignment issued either verbally or in writing by a superior or ranking officer.
- ii) A commissioned officer shall not obey any order which he knows, or should have known, would require him to commit an illegal act. If in doubt as to the legality of an order, officers shall request the issuing officer to clarify the order.

You have the right to appeal this action to the Louisiana State Police Commission. The time limits and procedure for appealing are contained in Chapter 13 of the State Police Commission Rules. A copy of Chapter 13 can be obtained from the State Police Commission. Their current mailing address is P.O. Box 66555, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-6555. Their current telephone number is (225) 925-7057 and their fax number is (225) 925-7058.

*COURTESY • LOYALTY • SERVICE*

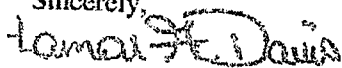
*"An Equal Opportunity Employer"*

*P.O. BOX 66614, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70896*

Master Trooper Justin Chiasson  
LSP - Gaming  
January 4, 2023  
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Any questions you may have regarding your retirement benefits should be directed to the Louisiana State Police Retirement System. Their telephone number is (225) 295-8400, and their address is 9224 Jefferson Hwy Baton Rouge LA 70809. Questions regarding any other benefits may be addressed to the Department of Public Safety Human Resources Office. Their telephone number is (225) 925-6067 and their address is 7979 Independence Blvd., Suite 201, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Sincerely,



Colonel Lamar A. Davis  
Superintendent, Louisiana State Police

c: Lt. Col. Chavez Cammon  
Lt. Col. Kenny VanBuren  
Major Chuck McNeal  
Captain Paul Chamorro  
Internal Affairs  
Office of Legal Affairs

Warranty Claim # 06714993

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