

03-17-2021

To: The Louisiana State Police Commission

From: William R. Woodward III

RE: Appeal of William R. Woodward, III (Department of Public Safety Office of State Police) Docket Number: 21-248-S

RECEIVED

APR 23 2021

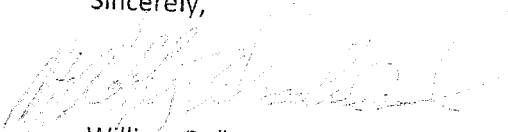
State Police Commission

Appeal of Disciplinary Action

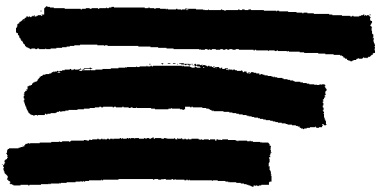
I, William R. Woodward III, am a full time employee with the State Police Service and was suspended without pay for 24 hours.

1. I appeal my suspension without pay on January 16 & 17, 2021 for 24 hours as it was done without showing that I violated any policies or committed any action(s) related to my work, duty or bring the State Police into poor light.
2. The suspension was in violation of my rights under the 1st Amendment, Freedom of Speech, of the U.S. Constitution. The suspension was also in violation of State Police Commission Rules in Chapter 12 and LRS 40:2531 Applicability; minimum standards during investigation; penalties for failure to comply. Title 40:2531 would apply in all cases that the State Police Commission Rules would claim not to.
3. I seek relief in the suspension be removed from my record and all (if any) reimbursement is required for the improper suspension without pay.
4. I request a hearing on this very matter to address the violations of commission rules, violations of statutes and the constitutional rights at the very heart in this matter.

Sincerely,



William R. "Robby" Woodward III



02-08-2021

Appeal of Suspension

William R. "Robby" Woodward III

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

FEB 10 2021

State Police - Administration

I, William R. Woodward III, do hereby appeal the suspension I was given on January 16-17, 2021 for the alleged violation of Code of Conduct and any other violations mentioned. I was given the notice of the suspension on January 10, 2021. This appeal is before thirty days of my notice. I appeal on the following grounds;

- 1- Legal grounds: I have, as a full time employee of the State Police service, the constitutional right of free speech guaranteed to me by both the United States of America Constitution first amendment and the State of Louisiana Constitution.
- 2- Also on the legal grounds of Double Jeopardy, as I was subjected to verbal berating from Lieutenant Eric Cuenca and removed from my honorable service on the Honor Guard and suspended from working overtime details for an extended period of time in 2020 in direct relation to the alleged violation of policy in regards to my tweet on Twitter this suspension came from.
- 3- The decision to suspend me came twelve (12) days prior to me being served with the notice to be suspended as evident in email dated 12/29/2020 and the letter notifying me I would be suspended was given to me on 01/10/2021. This is in violation of Commission Rule 12.19 (f). as the following Email shows:

Tue 12/29/2020, 10:50 AM

Good morning Robby.

If you will, let me know what dates would be suitable on this matter. Thanks.

Reply all

From: Michele Giroir <Michele.Giroir@la.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 10:48 AM

To: John Peters <John.Peters@la.gov>
Subject: Trooper Woodward

RECEIVED

Nov 19 2020

State Police Commissioner

Good morning Captain Peters. I have been advised to move forward in preparing the final suspension letter for Trooper Woodward. Please provide me with the date and time his suspension will begin, the date and time his suspension will end, and the date and time he should report back to duty. Thanks.

Michele M. Giroir
Attorney Supervisor
Office of Legal Affairs
(225) 922-2312

4- I was never formally notified I was under investigation, but served a letter on 11/24/2020. I was served on 11/25/2020 for an "Intended Suspension" (Loudermill Letter) for my Twitter comment yet was unaware of any investigation and was not interview nor contacted by the investigators. The investigation was completed and decided by a panel, according to the letter. I did respond in writing bringing to light these facts and legal arguments above. I was contacted on a later date by phone by investigators and asked questions over the phone and they still did not present any evidence that I violated policy nor evidence I posted the comment on a Baton Rouge Media Station's Twitter feed/account. I received the following email from my Captain at the time, which was the first notice I had been under investigation:

"EEO Complaint

Reply all |
Wed 11/25/2020, 9:59 AM

...

Robby,

The twitter comment from this past February has been revisited on the EEOC side recently. A Loudermill letter has been generated from the Colonel's office this morning. I am self-quarantine at the moment waiting on my test results. I am about to send the letter to Sgt Linton for delivery. Just wanted you to know first.

RECEIVED

FEB 13 2020

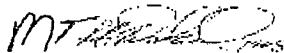
John"

STATE POLICE

- 5- This was the first I heard of the EEO Complaint and the letter I received showed that my comment was showing on Twitter on January 29, 2020 from my then account on Twitter Woody 21@Robby Woodward. I did not post anything on WAFB Twitter page of reply to any post from them. Made a post to my Twitter account where I had few followers and those who knew me and my sense of humor, and how I use being literal to create humor. I do not know the person promoted nor recall ever meeting them. I have no reason, nor no purpose in speaking poorly to them and I did not.
- 6- I appeal on the fact that I did NOT violate Louisiana State Police Policy in any social media post in that at the time of the post being made I was off duty and I did not in any mention the stated police or any member of the State Police service.
- 7- The State, said that my post was made on an account or tweet made by a media station from Baton Rouge but no copy of the tweet or evidence has been provided.
- 8- I made a tweet but did so only on my Twitter page, and if it appeared on any media tweet or page, I did not put it there nor wish it to be there.

I ask that this suspension be set aside and reimbursed for the 24 hours I was suspended for and it be dismissed from my official record. I also ask for any legal reimbursement I incur as a result of this suspension and appeal.

Sincerely,



William R. "Robby" Woodward III
William.woodward@la.gov

Copy also sent to LSP HQ by mail to:
LSP Internal Affairs
PO Box 66614
Baton Rouge, LA 70896