

**Police Department
Baltimore, Maryland**

2015-0083 Investigative Findings:

It is alleged that on January 2, 2015, Officer Kevin Battipaglia and Officer Galen Detweiler neglected to properly handle a domestic violence incident at 5650 Woodmont Avenue Apt. B.

The victim, Ms. Briana Barlow, testified that she was arguing with her boyfriend who had taken money from her bag. Her boyfriend assaulted her by pushing, hitting, and choking her. Barlow stated she attempted to defend herself and video tape the incident, however, the boyfriend took her phone and at some point, grabbed her by her braids and slammed her to the floor. Her boyfriend also stomped her in the face breaking her glasses. Barlow stated that she showed the officers who responded to the scene, Officers Battipaglia and Officer Detweiler, her broken glasses and a portion of her braids that were pulled out. In addition, she had advised the officers that her boyfriend had taken her ATM card and cell phone. Barlow stated that she was told by two officers that the incident was a mutual altercation and that there was nothing they could do. She could be arrested as well. Barlow further testified that both officers appeared to be in a rush to leave.

The KGA tape showed that the dispatcher advised that "Briana Barlow had a dispute with her boyfriend; he assaulted her; his name is Douglas Tyson, 29 year old (sic) years of age, unknown direction of travel, stole her cell phone and other belongings as well..." After Officer Battipaglia and Officer Detweiler responded to the call, Officer Battipaglia advised the dispatcher to change the call to a disorderly and coded the call D-N (no police needed). KGA further showed that Officer Battipaglia advised the dispatcher to put the call in his "Box" claiming responsibility for the call. This is substantiated with Officer Battipaglia's run sheet which shows in the "Type of Activity" box Officer Battipaglia crossed out "Dispute" and wrote "Disorderly." In addition, in the Result box Officer Battipaglia crossed out "10-16" and wrote "F-N" (Call abated).

Officer Eric Hinton advised he was later dispatched to follow up call and met the victim at the rental office of the apartment complex. The management was upset about how the incident was handled. Officer Hinton observed a mark on Ms. Barlow's cheek. Ms. Barlow recounted what had happened with the boyfriend and her complaint with the previous officers. Officer Hinton notified his supervisor, Sergeant Alvin McCoy. Officer Hinton and Ms. Barlow responded back to the apartment and found more of her belongings destroyed. Officer Hinton authored a robbery report, a domestic incident report, had photos taken of victim face and damaged property, obtained protective order, and the victim was debriefed by DDU detectives.

Sergeant Alvin McCoy testified that he heard a second call to the location two hours after the first call. Officer Hinton advised him of what had occurred. Officers

Battipaglia and Detweiler had given the domestic incident an oral code. Sgt. McCoy placed the incident in Blue Team for investigation.

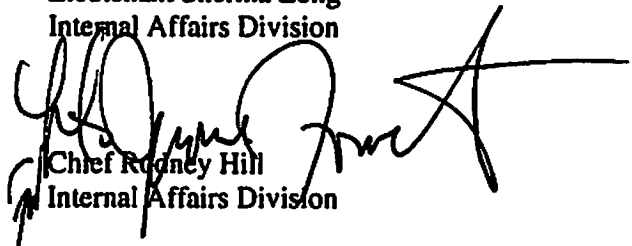
Investigation reveals that Officer Battipaglia and Detweiler were aware that they were responding to a domestic incident; however, the call was changed to disorderly conduct and given an oral code. The officers failed to author appropriate domestic-related offense reports, failed to ensure that the scene was processed, including photographs of victim, failed to assist the victim with obtaining a protective order and/or criminal charges, etc. Furthermore, a second call was dispatched regarding the same incident. Officer Hinton responded to the location, wrote the appropriate reports, processed the scene, and provided the victim with assistance in obtaining a protective order, etc. Officer Hinton's investigation revealed that the suspect had returned to the victim's apartment and destroyed more property belonging to her. Based on the facts and findings of the investigation, there is substantial evidence and testimony to prove that Officers Battipaglia and Detweiler failed to properly handle the domestic violence incident as outlined in General Order G-11, Domestic Violence. Therefore, the allegation of Neglect of Duty is hereby rendered Sustained against Officer Kevin Battipaglia and Galen Detweiler.

In addition, Officers Kevin Battipaglia and Galen Detweiler's overall actions brought discredit to the Baltimore Police Department and to themselves; therefore, a Sustained finding is rendered for the allegation of Misconduct/General against Officer Kevin Battipaglia and Officer Galen Detweiler.



12/10/15

Lieutenant Sherina Long
Internal Affairs Division



Chief Rodney Hill
Internal Affairs Division

**THE PRECEDING SYNOPSIS IS SUPPORTED BY DETAILED
REPORTS, WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN THE IAD CASE BOOK.**