

From the desk of:

Medaria Arradondo
Chief of Police
Minneapolis Police Department
350 South 5th Street, Room 130
Minneapolis, MN 55415



TO: Officer Isaac Raichert

CC: MPD Internal Affairs

DATE: July 15, 2021

RE: OPCR/Administrative Case # 19-07609

CHIEF'S DECISION:

- Discharge
- Suspension **Duration: 60 hours**
- Written Reprimand
- Permanent Demotion
- Temporary Demotion **Duration:**
- No Merit

SUMMARY OF BASIS FOR DECISION

This memo summarizes my approach and reasoning for my decision as Chief of the Minneapolis Police Department that the allegations against Officer Isaac Raichert are sustained. This memo accompanies the enclosed Notice of Discipline and Suspension Form.

Allegations:

Allegation 1: Officer Raichert used unnecessary force during a call for service when he was approached by a neighbor, Mr. Lewis, of an Emotionally Disturbed Person (EDP) involved in the incident.

Allegation 2: Officer Raichert failed to report the use of force incident.

Allegation 3: Officer Raichert failed to be respectful, courteous, and professional, when he pushed a neighbor, Barry Lewis, of the subject of an EDP call and engaged in inappropriate behavior and language towards that individual.

Policies Violated (see *also* Investigative Summary for Policy Language):

MPD P&P 5-303	Authorized Use of Force
MPD P&P § 5-306 (B)	Use of Force – Reporting and Post Incident Requirements
MPD P&P § 5-104.01	Professional Policing

Summary Supporting Decision (see *also* Investigation Summary):

The complainant reported that officers were called to deal with a person having issues at an apartment complex. Another resident, Barry Lewis, exited from his apartment and started to act belligerently--yelling and swearing—at the Minneapolis Police Officers but did not physically touch them. Complainant stated the resident was short and in his 60s. According to Complainant, officers shoved the resident "hard" into his apartment door and "forcefully" escorted him out the door before eventually returning the resident to his apartment.

Officers' BWC video captured the interaction between Officer Raichert and Mr. Lewis. Mr. Lewis exited his apartment and began to engage the officers verbally asking the officers what they are doing. Mr. Lewis was argumentative and swore at officers but did not physically engage or intervene. Officer Raichert's partner spoke to Mr. Lewis in a raised voice telling him to "mind your own business" and "don't come out here and try to start something." Officer Raichert can be heard making a joke in which he refers to Mr. Lewis as "the defender of the injustice." Officer Raichert is then seen walking away down the hallway with the group of people involved in the call. Mr. Lewis asked what Officer Raichert had said. Officer Raichert repeated the remark from down the hallway and then walked back to where Mr. Lewis was standing, passing two other officers who were also walking away from Mr. Lewis. Officer Raichert's partner remained standing by Mr. Lewis who repeatedly asked what Officer Raichert's comment meant. Officer Raichert replied, "It means you're out here sticking your nose in everybody's

business.” Mr. Lewis exclaimed “fuck you!” and Officer Raichert replied “knock it off!” Officer Raichert can be seen pushing Mr. Lewis forcefully in the chest so he moved backward into the apartment door. Officer Raichert then grabbed Mr. Lewis and pulled him forward down to the ground. A voice can be heard saying “Whoa, come on man, come on, come on...Why would you do that?” Seconds later, the same voice can be heard saying “why would you shove him like that?” Officer Raichert responded, saying “because I don’t like people getting in my face and telling me to fuck you.” Officer Raichert can also be heard telling Mr. Lewis, “You want to make it our business, I guess it’s going to be our business now.” Mr. Lewis was placed in handcuffs and escorted out of the building. He was later released.

I agree with the panel’s conclusion that the three allegations have merit.

Noted Points:

- Mr. Lewis exited his apartment and questioned what officers were doing as they answered a call for service in which Mr. Lewis was not initially involved.
- Mr. Lewis was swearing and being animated but did not physically engage or threaten officers.
- Officer Raichert was walking away from Mr. Lewis along with the group of people involved in this call before returning to re-engaging with Mr. Lewis verbally.
- Officer Raichert shoved Mr. Lewis, pushing him backward. He then grabbed him pulling forward until he took Mr. Lewis down to the ground where Mr. Lewis was handcuffed.
- Mr. Lewis was detained in the squad car before being released.
- Officer Raichert did not prepare a report to document any use of force.
- At his Loudermill hearing, Officer Raichert said that he was not proud of how he handled this interaction; he recognized that his comments were not professional and that the person got under his skin. It led to an interaction and he pushed the individual.
- Officer Raichert believed that the force he used was a shove which did not require a use of force report in 2019. He stated that someone else can look at it and see differently.

As Chief of Police I am responsible for providing clear expectations on what is acceptable behavior in our workplaces as well as what will not be tolerated. Based on my review of the facts of this investigation, Officer Raichert violated MPD polices 5-303 Authorized Use of Force; 5-306 (B) Use of Force – Reporting and Post Incident Requirements; and 5-104.01 Professional Policing. Officer Raichert’s decision to use force was not reasonable under the circumstances. Officer Raichert used a takedown which required force reporting in 2019. Officer Raichert did not speak courteously, respectfully, politely or professionally to Mr. Lewis when Mr. Lewis verbally engaged the officers. In 2017, I shared my vision statement with every member of the Minneapolis Police Department including, “I expect you and our community members to go home safely at the end of each day. There are inherent dangers within this profession. However, the overwhelming majority of your interactions with our community don’t require the use of force. Continue to strengthen your interpersonal communication and your de-escalation skills. As your Chief, I expect a lot of you. The public does too. If you experience disrespect, you are not to respond in kind. Do all you can to protect and serve in a way that minimizes harm and risk of personal injury to yourselves and to our community members.” Officer Raichert’s conduct in this incident did not meet these expectations. His unprofessional remarks and use of unreasonable force undermined the

Department's commitment to procedural justice. As I shared in my vision statement, "Every aspect of our professional service must demonstrate commitment to procedural justice. We will act by giving others Voice and Respect, being Neutral and building Trust in our interactions with those we serve, as well as with other MPD employees." Officer Raichert's work did not serve the Minneapolis Police Department's core values of trust, accountability, and professional service. Officer Raichert has acknowledged that he should have been more professional in his interaction with Mr. Lewis, that he is not proud of his conduct and that he realizes that there were more appropriate ways to de-escalate including verbally or by walking away. As Chief of Police with authority to discipline for violations of policy under Minn. Stat. §626.89 Subd. 17, I am imposing a suspension of 60 hours for these sustained violations.

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Medaria Arradondo
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7/15/2021

Chief Medaria Arradondo