

Amelia Huffman
Interim Chief of Police
Minneapolis Police Department
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TO: Officer Marcus Ottney, #5355
CC: Office of Police Conduct Review / Internal Affairs Division
DATE: March 29, 2022
RE: Administrative/Employment Investigation Case #20-09838
CHIEF'S DECISION: Discharge
 Suspension Duration: 30 hours
 Permanent Demotion
 Temporary Demotion Duration: _____
 No Merit

SUMMARY OF BASIS FOR DECISION

This memo summarizes my approach and reasoning for my decision as the Interim Chief of the Minneapolis Police Department that the allegation that Officer Marcus Ottney violated the MN Law Enforcement Code of Ethics is sustained. This memo accompanies the enclosed Suspension Form and Notice of Discipline.

Policies Violated: 5-102.01 – MN Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

Summary of the Allegation:

On July 25, 2020, Officer Marcus Ottney was off duty, driving his personal vehicle in Blaine, MN. His vehicle struck an unoccupied parked vehicle. Officers from the Blaine Police Department arrived, conducted field sobriety testing and a preliminary breath test, and arrested Officer Ottney for suspicion of DWI. Officer Ottney was given a DMT breath test and was found to have a .24 BAC; he was booked into jail for 3rd degree DWI, a gross misdemeanor. He was convicted and sentenced to 1 year in the Anoka County Jail, with a time to serve of 2 days, and 363 days stayed for 2 years.

Relevant Facts, Policies and Laws supporting the decision:

- On July 25, 2020, Officer Marcus Ottney was arrested for 3rd degree DWI after being involved in a single motor vehicle crash.
- The breath test taken on that date showed a BAC level of 0.24.
- On July 26, 2021, Officer Marcus Ottney pleaded guilty and was convicted for DWI-Alcohol Concentration 0.08 Within 2 Hours (169.20.1(5)), a gross misdemeanor.

On March 2, 2022, the Police Conduct Review panel unanimously recommended merit for the allegation that Officer Ottney violated the MN Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and I concur with this recommendation. Officer Ottney violated the law by driving while intoxicated. The MN Law Enforcement Code of Ethics specifically addresses this kind of conduct, stating: “I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department.” Officer Ottney failed to obey the law of the land. With his actions, he placed himself and the public at risk of harm. The outcome in this matter could have been serious injury or the loss of a life and Officer Ottney is fortunate that his behavior did not result in a tragedy.

Officer Ottney violated the public trust and failed to uphold the values of our profession and the Minneapolis Police Department. He has taken responsibility for his actions both in criminal court and in this investigation. Officer Ottney acknowledged he failed to live up to the standards set by his MPD supervisors and stated he is working to regain the trust of those he works with and the City. Finally, he explained the course of action he has pursued to address his own wellness needs.

As Interim Chief, I am responsible for providing clear expectations for 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 Ottney violated the MN Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; therefore, as Interim Chief of Police with authority to discipline for violations of policy under Minn. Stat. §626.89 Subd. 17, I am imposing a 30-hour suspension.

DocuSigned by:
Amelia Huffman
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3/29/2022

Amelia Huffman
Interim Chief of Police
Minneapolis Police Department

By: Troy Schoenberger, Deputy Chief, Professional Standards Bureau

CC: OPCR Case File
Inspector Peterson