

**Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 832.7,
which was amended by Senate Bill (SB) 1421, effective
January 1, 2019, and again by Senate Bill (SB) 16,
effective January 1, 2022,
a redacted version of this report is subject to disclosure
under the California Public Records Act.**

CF# 24-002051



**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
FILE**

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PLEASE RETURN TO:

Professional Standards Bureau – Administrative Records Section

(213) 996-2952

COMPLAINT FORM

Statute Date: 06/16/2025

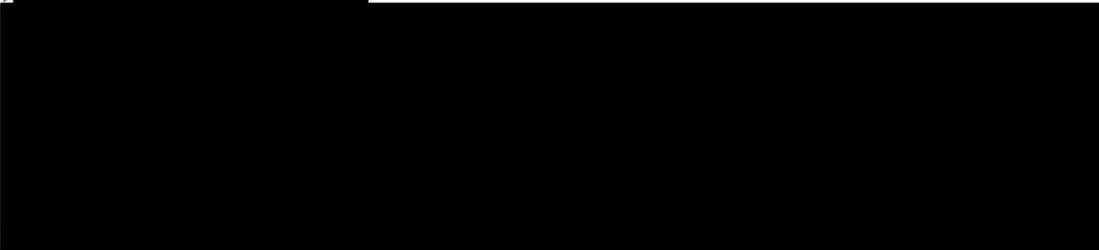
Investigative Complexity:

Masked: No

CF No.: 24-002051

Complainant(s)

Name:
DOB:
Gender/Descent:
Language:
Injury:
Arrested:
Booking No.:
Identification:



Date and Location of Occurrence

Beginning/End Date: 06/16/2024 / 06/16/2024
Cross Street 1: 89th Street
Address: Los Angeles California
RD / Area Division: 1802 / Southeast Area
Begin/End Time: 21:20 / 21:30
Cross Street 2: Figueroa Street

Accused Employee(s)

Name: Sportiello, Joshua - 44262, PO 2 SE PAT Masked: No
DOB: [Redacted] Alcohol Involved:
Gender/Descent: Male / HIS Business Address:
Length of Service: 4 Years 7 Months 19 Days Assignment: CAR
Injury: None Duty Status: On Duty
Arrested: No Phone: Business (213) 972-7828
Booking No.: [Redacted] Email: Not Provided

Original
DO NOT DUPLICATE

ADMIT'L. ACCUSED: 1

Brief Summary

Reported to Uninv Supervisor: 06/16/2024 Uninvolved Supervisor Name: Pham, Khanh - 40181, SGT 1 SE PAT
Recorded By: Pham, Khanh - 40181, SGT 1 SE PAT Preliminary Investigator: W3 DENA
IAG CLASS: Chain of Command Cross Reference: Unknown
None

Supervisor Reviewing	Serial No.	Area/Division	Complaint Type	Entity Investigating	Prima Facie
			Non-Disciplinary	SE	No

JUN 11 '25 AM 8:50

Statute Date: 06/16/2025

COMPLAINT FORM

Masked: No

CF No.: 24-002051

Preliminary Investigative Narrative:

It is recommended that CF# 24-002051 be closed as Non-Disciplinary, Demonstrably False.

On June 16, 2024, at approximately 2058 hours, Police Officer II Sportiello, Serial No. 44262 and his Partner, Police Officer II Billew, Serial No. 45301 conducted a traffic stop on Complainant (CP) [REDACTED]

Officers were traveling northbound on Figueroa Street from 97th Street. Officers observed a white, four door BMW with tinted windows, changed lane in front of them and accelerated. CP passed two other vehicles on the roadway while traveling northbound. Officers conducted a traffic stop for speed, in violation of 22350 CVC and tinted windows, in violation of 26708 CVC.

Officers approached from the rear of the complainant vehicle. Officer Sportiello approached the driver side of the vehicle and Officer Billew approached the passenger side of the vehicle. Officers never saw who was operating the vehicle until contact was made.

Upon approach, Officer Sportiello was not able to see if there were other occupants in the vehicle due to the darkness of the vehicle tint. Officer Sportiello told CP to roll down his rear windows and CP refused. CP became agitated and belligerent when Sportiello ordered him out of the vehicle. CP demanded to speak to a sergeant and began reaching in the glove box. Sportiello grasp CP's left wrist and advised him not to reach for anything. CP then complied and exited the vehicle without resistance.

I, Sergeant Pham, Serial No. 40181, arrived and spoke with CP [REDACTED] stated he wanted to file a complaint against Officer Sportiello for falsely detaining him, pulling him out of the vehicle, searched his vehicle without consent, not giving him a reason for the stop upon contact and lied to him, by telling him he had a felony warrant. [REDACTED] advised he did not have any issues with Officer Billew.

CP made no allegations of bias policing to Sergeant Pham during the conversation. Therefore, Sergeant Pham did not ask CP the mandated biased policing questions.

I, Sergeant Pham, Serial No. 40181, reviewed the continuous BWV for both Officers and the DICVS recording. Officers conducted a traffic stop for violation 22350 CVC (speeding) and 26708 CVC (tinted windows). CP was legally detained. Officer ordered CP to exit the vehicle for Officer safety due to the dark tint and CP's refusal to roll down the back windows and passenger side window. CP was clearly agitated from the initial contact; Officers utilize their discretion to handcuff CP to maintain control and avoid having to use a higher level of force or restraint. Officers were unable to see through the tinted windows to verify if there were other occupants in the vehicle. Based on CP's erratic behavior and uncooperativeness, Officer Sportiello, acted in good faith to ensure Officer safety by checking underneath the driver seat and a handbag on the passenger seat, that was within CP's reach to ensure there were no weapons that could harm the Officers. Sportiello withheld the reason for the stop because CP was uncooperative and did not follow Officers orders. Officers had to address the imminent threat that could arise from traffic stops before explaining the reason. Officers conducted a want and warrant check on the CP. Officers advised CP they were confirming if he had a felony warrant. They did not tell him he had a warrant. Officers' actions are consistent with Department Policy and lawful. Based on video evidence, it is recommended that this complaint be adjudicated as Non-Disciplinary, Demonstrably False.

Note: No interviews required due to BWV.

Statute Date: 06/16/2025

COMPLAINT FORM

Masked: No

CF No.: 24-002051

<input type="checkbox"/> PTC:	DR No.	Date of Traffic Collision	Fleet Safety History (Prior PTCs)	
			Last 5 Years	Career
<input type="checkbox"/> FTA:	Court Date	Court Case No.	FTA History (Sustained Only)	
			Last 5 Years	Career
<input type="checkbox"/> FTQ:	Qualification Month / Year	Reason	FTQ History (Sustained Only)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Forgot <input type="checkbox"/> Shot and Failed	Last 5 Years	Career

Disciplinary

Non-Disciplinary (Check the applicable box below)

- POLICY/PROCEDURE** - The facts of the case revealed that the complaint relates to Department policy/procedure and not to a specific employee's actions.
- EMPLOYEE'S ACTIONS DID NOT RISE TO THE LEVEL OF MISCONDUCT** - A preliminary investigation revealed that the allegations did not rise to the level of misconduct and/or the named employee's actions were protected by law or found to be consistent with Department policy or procedure.
- EMPLOYEE'S ACTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT** - The facts in the complaint revealed the employee's actions could have been different. However, the employee's act or omission is best addressed through corrective action by the employee's commanding officer. The corrective action(s) taken was: (Check all that apply)
 - COUNSELING
 - TRAINING
 - COMMENT CARD
 - NOTICE TO CORRECT DEFICIENCIES
 - REFERRAL
- DEMONSTRABLY FALSE** - The complaint was demonstrably false, or, demonstrates an irrational thought process and was consistent with the complainant's established pattern of making chronic or crank complaints.
- DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE(S) NOT INVOLVED** - The preliminary investigation revealed that the complaint did not involve Department employee(s).
- RESOLVED THROUGH ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT RESOLUTION (ACR)** - The complainant and the employee(s) resolved the complaint through ACR.
- RESOLVED THROUGH MEDIATION** - The complainant(s) and employee(s) resolved the complaint through mediation.

AREA / DIVISION COMMANDING OFFICER		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED	<input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED FOR DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATION	GROUP/BUREAU CO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONCUR	<input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT CONCUR
NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	RANK	AREA / DIV	DATE	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	RANK	GROUP / BUREAU
Perry Griffith	Capt	Southeast Div		C. Valenzuela	Cyrt	OSB
SIGNATURE / SERIAL NO.				SIGNATURE / SERIAL NO.		DATE
						3344, 06-10-25

Los Angeles Police Department
Complaint Adjudication Form

CF No.
24-002051

05/28/2025 <== Date on the IAD, ARS-Communication Slip, or on the chain of command investigation (Manual Section 3/824)

EMPLOYEE: Multiple Employees

LAST NAME, FIRST M.I. UNKNOWN SERIAL NO. RANK AT TIME OF INCIDENT AREA/DIV. AT TIME OF INCIDENT DUTY STATUS ARRESTED

Sportiello, Joshua 44262 Police Officer II Southeast ON OFF YES NO

ASSIGNMENT TYPE AT TIME OF INCIDENT COMPLAINANT (LAST NAME, FIRST, M.I.) DEPARTMENT

PATROL AREA DETECTIVE ADMIN/COVETED SPECIALIZED DIV UNIFORM GED

ADJUDICATION SUMMARY: Enter allegation number(s) under the respective dispositions. Check Military endorsement for the disposition recommended.

	SUSTAINED	NOT RESOLVED	EXONERATED	INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO ADJUDICATE	OTHER JUDICIAL REVIEW	PENALTY						
						No Penalty	Admon	OR	Susp Days	Demotion	Discharge or Term on Probation	BOR
Division Commanding Officer	4					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area Commanding Officer						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group Commanding Officer						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureau Commanding Officer						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chief of Police						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PENALTY RATIONALE: (Explain, if recommendation deviates from Penalty Guide.) PTC (See attached Form 1.13 for findings and penalty recommendation.)

ALLEGATION 1. Complainant [redacted] alleged that on June 16, 2024, Officer Sportiello, while on duty, failed to advise him the reason for the traffic stop in a timely manner.

CLASSIFICATION:

It is recommended that Allegation 1 be classified as Non-Disciplinary and adjudicated as **EMPLOYEE'S ACTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT/ TRAINING.**

RATIONALE:

(See attached Letter of Transmittal)

Continued on back

DIVISION COMMANDING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE SERIAL NO. DATE EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE (ADMONISHMENT ONLY) SERIAL NO. DATE

[redacted] 27126 6-8-25

GROUP/AREA COMMANDING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE SERIAL NO. DATE

[redacted]

BUREAU COMMANDING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE SERIAL NO. DATE

[redacted] 33446 06-10-25

Concur Military Endorsement (See back page.)

Concur Military Endorsement (See back page.)

Internal Affairs Division Use Only

FINAL DEPARTMENT ACTION

c10-susp-NP-TRNG-REPLY SEE RSD 15.2 6/11/25 TM 7/9/25

CSC OVERULE BOR - GUILTY (Counts:) BOR - NOT GUILTY (Counts:)

NAMED EMPLOYEE (LAST NAME, FIRST, MI)

Sportiello, Joshua

UNKNOWN

CF No.

24-002051

EMPLOYEE INTERVIEW

EMPLOYEE INVESTIGATION REVIEW

Other than Sustained, Admonishments, or Official Reprimand

This complaint investigation has been completed. A review of the investigation has resulted in the proposed findings listed on the front of this form. You have the opportunity to review the completed investigation, including the letter of transmittal, and to make a written response. Any such response must be in writing and submitted to the commanding officer listed on the front of this form with 30 calendar days of this service. Thirty days from that date will be:

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action

This complaint investigation has been completed. A review of the investigation has resulted in the proposed findings listed on the front of this form. You are hereby notified that I am proposing to the Chief of Police that you receive the penalty specified on the front of this form for the allegations sustained in the findings, which are attached to this form. You have an opportunity to respond orally or in writing by:

Your response will be reviewed by the Chief of Police for evaluation prior to adjudication of this matter.

The employee shall initial the boxes that apply:

I have received a copy of the investigation materials.

I have waived my right to receive a copy of the investigative material.

I was informed of my right to representation prior to discussing this matter.

I intend to submit a response.

I do not intend to submit a response.

I have received documentation regarding my fitness and suitability to perform the duties of my position (civilian employee).

I have discussed this matter with the employee.

Your signature acknowledges receipt of materials, but does not indicate concurrence with my recommendations.

DIVISION COMMANDING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE SERIAL NO. DATE

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE

SERIAL NO. DATE

[Redacted Signature] 38481 6-3-25

[Redacted Signature] 44262 6-7-25

C/O'S RESPONSE TO EMPLOYEE:

Date response received:

No employee response was submitted by the date specified.

After reviewing the employee's response, I found no new information to cause me to change my recommended findings and/or penalty.

A review of the employee's response has caused me to take the following actions: (See below).

See continuation page.

MILITARY ENDORSEMENT RATIONALE:

RECEIVED

JUN 10 2025

SOUTHEAST AREA
BY _____

See continuation page.

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

June 11, 2025
1.13

TO: Commanding Officer, Operations-South Bureau

FROM: Commanding Officer, Professional Standards Bureau

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OF COMPLAINT FORM NO. 24-002051

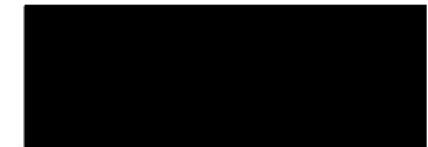
CONFIDENTIAL – NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) conducted an administrative review of Complaint Form No. 24-002051. The investigation stemmed from the complainant's contact with Police Officer II Joshua Sportiello, Serial No. 44262, Southeast Patrol Division, on June 16, 2024.

The complainant alleged that during the contact, Officer Sportiello inappropriately searched his vehicle, Allegation No. 4. Southeast Area classified Allegation No. 1 as *Sustained*, with a recommended penalty of *Official Reprimand*.

After reviewing the investigation, and with OSB concurrence, it was determined Allegation No. 4 would be classified as *Sustained, with No Penalty (training)*

Please provide a copy of this correspondence to Officer Sportiello. There is no further action required on your part. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Lieutenant II Letisia Ruiz, Internal Affairs Division-South Section, at (213) 996-2729.



MICHAEL P. RIMKUNAS, Deputy Chief
Commanding Officer
Professional Standards Bureau

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL
CF NO. 24-002051
COMMANDING OFFICER'S ADJUDICATION

The completed complaint investigation was received by Captain Griffith on May 28, 2025.

Public Complainant: [REDACTED]

Complaint Investigation, CF No. 24-002051, resulted in [REDACTED] allegations of misconduct against [REDACTED] named Department employees.

Police Officer II Joshua Sportiello
Serial No. 44262

Southeast Patrol

[REDACTED]

The allegations are listed below with recommendations for classification and supporting rationale.

ALLEGATION 1. Complainant [REDACTED] alleged that on June 16, 2024, Officer Sportiello, while on duty, failed to advise him the reason for the traffic stop in a timely manner.

CLASSIFICATION

It is recommended that Allegation 1 be classified as **NON-DISCIPLINARY/ EMPLOYEE'S ACTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.**

RATIONALE

On January 1, 2024, Assembly Bill 2773 took effect in California. The law requires police officers to tell drivers why they have been pulled over before questioning them on other matters.

On June 16, 2024, Sportiello and Billew conducted a traffic stop for unsafe speed and dark tinted front windows. Billew was the passenger officer and stood by on the passenger side of [REDACTED] vehicle while Sportiello approached [REDACTED] who was seated in the driver's seat. Body Worn Video showed [REDACTED] driver's side window was down, but Sportiello asked [REDACTED] to lower all the windows in the vehicle. [REDACTED] refused and Sportiello then ordered [REDACTED] to lower the windows. [REDACTED] asked why he was being detained and Sportiello did not explain the reason for the detention. [REDACTED] continually asked why he was detained but Sportiello refused to answer the question. Sportiello asked [REDACTED] if he was "on paper." [REDACTED] did not understand the question and Sportiello explained he was asking if [REDACTED] was on parole or probation.

Sportiello conducted his investigation, asked multiple questions, and ultimately ordered [REDACTED] from the vehicle. [REDACTED] was handcuffed and walked back to the police vehicle. Eventually, Sportiello advised [REDACTED] of the reason for the detention, once Sportiello had all of [REDACTED] information, and [REDACTED] was standing outside the police vehicle.

Per Assembly Bill 2773 and the Department Procedural Justice Policy, which was posted in Training Bulletin, Volume XLIX, Issue 3, dated April of 2020, Sportiello should have advised [REDACTED] the reason for the detention prior to asking him questions regarding the stop. The stop did not involve exigent circumstances and there was no immediate danger to the officers that would have required the officers to act prior to the advisement. It is recommended that Allegation 1 be classified as **NON-DISCIPLINARY/ EMPLOYEE'S ACTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ALLEGATION 4. Complainant [REDACTED] alleged that on June 16, 2024, Officer Sportiello, while on duty, inappropriately searched his vehicle.

CLASSIFICATION

It is recommended that Allegation 4 be classified as **SUSTAINED**.

RATIONALE

Sportiello stated he conducted a wingspan search of [REDACTED] vehicle due to [REDACTED] actions at scene and [REDACTED] bag due to his belief there may have been a weapon inside. Sportiello explained the actions of [REDACTED] were his refusal to place his vehicle in park, his possession of a police scanner, and his refusal to comply with Sportiello's initial directions. Body Worn Video showed [REDACTED] did refuse to comply with Sportiello's request to lower all the vehicle windows, but he did not refuse to comply with anything else. [REDACTED] vehicle was not initially in park during the traffic stop, but Body Worn Video showed Sportiello did not ask [REDACTED] to place the vehicle into park until late into the investigation. Once Sportiello asked [REDACTED] to place his vehicle in park, [REDACTED] complied. Additionally, it was not a violation of the law to possess a police scanner.

Sportiello asked [REDACTED] the location of his identification. Body Worn Video showed [REDACTED] stated, "It's in the pocket of my backpack." Sportiello then replied, "Go ahead and grab it." Video showed [REDACTED] reached to the back seat, pulled his backpack to the front, and opened the bag. Although Sportiello stated he believed there was a possible weapon in the bag, Sportiello stood in front of [REDACTED] while [REDACTED] held the bag on his lap, reached into his bag, and removed his wallet. At the time, if Sportiello had believed a weapon was in the bag, it is unlikely he would have allowed [REDACTED] to open the bag, search the bag for his identification, and remove an item. Sportiello's stated reason for searching the bag was a self-serving statement.

Sportiello had no reasonable suspicion to conduct a wingspan search of [REDACTED] vehicle or probable cause to search [REDACTED] bag. It is recommended that Allegation 4 be classified as **SUSTAINED**.

Police Officer II Joshua Sportiello, Serial No. 44262

DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO/BODY WORN VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDINGS

Body Worn Video captured the entire incident.

EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

Sportiello will be meet with his Commanding Officer to be counseled on Procedural Justice. He will be provided the training order which explains the Department expectations related to Procedural Justice. He will also be trained on search and seizure laws.

PENALTY:

Sportiello's stated he searched the vehicle due to believing [REDACTED] was attempting to conceal contraband or conducting counter-surveillance for police activity in the area. He also stated he searched the bag due to his belief there was a possible weapon inside. These statements suggest a safety concern; however, conflict with what was captured on Body Worn Video when Sportiello allowed [REDACTED] to search the bag for identification. It is recommended that Sportiello receive a penalty of an OFFICIAL REPRIMAND.

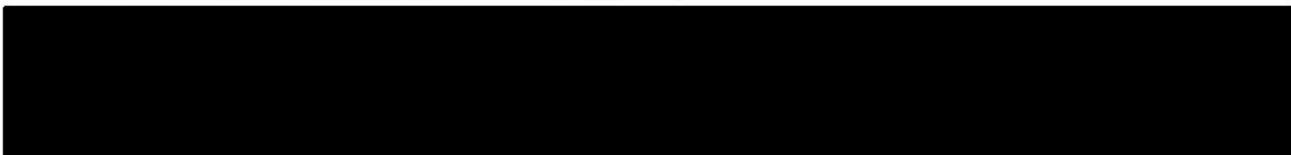
DEMOTION/DOWNGRADE CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RELIEF FROM DUTY RECOMMENDATION:

None.

WORK/COMPLAINT HISTORY ANAYLSIS:



WORK PERMIT INFORMATION:

None.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Sportiello will be trained.

Letter of Transmittal

CF No. 24-002051

Page 5

5.3

RESPONSE TO COMPLAINANT:

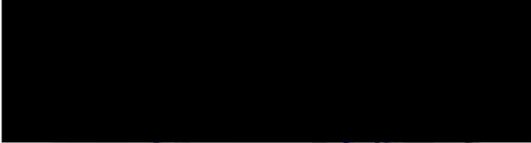
A response letter to the complainant detailing the classification is attached. Professional Standards Bureau will post the letter upon administrative closure of the complaint.

Letter of Transmittal

CF No. 24-002051

Page 7

5.3



PERRY GRIFFITH, Captain
Commanding Officer
Southeast Patrol Division

1 **INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITY**

2
3 The Investigating Officer (I/O) for this case was Sergeant I Ricardo Cardona, Serial No. 40712,
4 Complaint Unit, Southeast Area. Cardona can be telephonically contacted at (213) 972-7810.
5 Any requests for supplemental investigation must be approved by the Commanding Officer,
6 Southeast Area, via an Intradepartmental Correspondence Form 15.02.00.

7
8 **STATUTE**

9
10 This investigation involves administrative allegations only; therefore, the statute date remains
11 **June 16, 2025.**

12
13 **SUMMARY**

14
15 On June 16, 2024, Police Officer II Joshua Sportiello, Serial No. 44262, and Police Officer II
16 Dominique Billew, Serial No. 45301, assigned Southeast Patrol Division, Unit 18A34. They
17 conducted a traffic stop on a white BMW bearing California License Plate [REDACTED] at
18 Figueroa Street and 89th Street for speeding and tinted windows.

19
20 Sportiello approached the driver's side window and advised the driver Complainant [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] to rolled down the rear windows. [REDACTED] did not comply with Sportiello's
22 request. Sportiello requested [REDACTED] Driver's License and [REDACTED] advised that it was
23 in the pocket of his backpack. Sportiello allowed [REDACTED] to reach for his backpack.
24 [REDACTED] reached behind him into the rear passenger area and retrieved a red bag. Sportiello
25 requested [REDACTED] step out of his vehicle and He did not comply. [REDACTED] requested a
26 supervisor as Sportiello continued to ask [REDACTED] to step out of the car. [REDACTED] refused to
27 step out his vehicle until Sportiello requested a supervisor. Billew then requested a supervisor.

28
29 [REDACTED] requested the reason for being asked to step out of the vehicle and Sportiello replied
30 he did not need to tell him the reason. [REDACTED] proceeded to reach into his glove box,
31 searching for his insurance. Sportiello grabbed [REDACTED] wrist. [REDACTED] complied, stepped
32 out of the vehicle, and was handcuffed. Once [REDACTED] was walked back to the police vehicle.
33 Sportiello returned to [REDACTED] vehicle and searched underneath the driver seat and the red
34 bag.

35
36 Sergeant I Kahn Pham, Serial No. 40181, Southeast Patrol Division, responded and spoke with
37 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] alleged Sportiello refused to tell him the reason for the traffic stop,
38 illegally searched his vehicle, and illegally detained him. Pham initiated a complaint intake
39 investigation.

40
41
42
43
44

1 **ALLEGATIONS**

2
3 **ALLEGATION 1. Complainant [REDACTED] alleged that on June 16, 2024, Officer Sportiello, while on duty, failed to advise him the reason for the traffic stop in a timely manner.**

6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]
13 **ALLEGATION 4. Complainant [REDACTED] alleged that on June 16, 2024, Officer Sportiello, while on duty, inappropriately searched his vehicle.**

14
15
16 **STATEMENTS¹**

17
18 [REDACTED] stated he was pulled over. Sportiello approached his vehicle and did not tell him the reason for the traffic stop. By law Sportiello should have told him. He alleged that he was illegally detained, taken out of his car, and handcuffed. Sportiello unlawfully searched his vehicle. [REDACTED] was explained the reason for the stop later into the investigation.

22
23 **Sportiello²** observed a white BMW with dark window tint on the windshield and the forward driver side window speeding on Figueroa Street. He utilized his lights and sirens to initiate a traffic stop. The vehicle pulled over on Figueroa Street and 89th Street. He exited the police vehicle and walked up to the driver's side of the BMW. He asked [REDACTED] to lower the rear windows to see if anyone else was inside the vehicle. [REDACTED] refused to lower the rear windows. He asked [REDACTED] "are you on paperwork?". He responded no.

29
30 **Note:** Sportiello explained "are you on paperwork", means on parole or probation in street vernacular.

31
32
33 Sportiello saw the vehicle was still in the drive position and requested [REDACTED] to place the vehicle in park. [REDACTED] got irritated and cursed at him. He observed a radio scanner in the center console and heard LAPD radio communications broadcasted and asked [REDACTED] again to lower the rear window. [REDACTED] did not comply. Due to [REDACTED] refusal to comply with him, [REDACTED] observed a police scanner radio in the car and had the vehicle in the drive position he believed [REDACTED] was attempting to conceal contraband or conducting counter-surveillance for police activity in the area. He asked [REDACTED] to exit the vehicle, [REDACTED] refused to exit the vehicle.

40
41

¹ Summarized statements do not contain the entire statement and are the investigator's interpretation of the statement. If there is any doubt about the content of a summarized statement, adjudications are strongly encouraged to review the audio recording of the statements.

² Sportiello was interviewed on April 10, 2025. The interview was digitally recorded and uploaded into the Complaint Management System.

1 Sportiello asked [REDACTED] for his identification. [REDACTED] told him it was in his back pocket
2 but proceeded to reach behind him in the rear passenger area and retrieved a red bag. Sportiello
3 opened the driver side door and grabbed [REDACTED] wrist. He told [REDACTED] that he would
4 pull him out of the vehicle, or he could step out the car voluntarily. [REDACTED] then reached for
5 the glove box. Sportiello told him to stop reaching for the glove box. He ordered [REDACTED]
6 again to step out the car. [REDACTED] complied and was handcuffed.

7
8 **Note:** Sportiello believed [REDACTED] told him his wallet was in his back pocket, but
9 Body Worn Video, minute marker, 20:59:01, depicted [REDACTED] stated "In my pocket,
10 in my backpack" [REDACTED] is seen retrieving the red bag and opened it.

11
12 Sportiello believed [REDACTED] reaching for the red bag was an attempt by [REDACTED] to
13 arm himself with a weapon.

14
15 Sportiello conducted a cursory search on [REDACTED] for weapons and escorted [REDACTED] back
16 to the police vehicle. He returned to [REDACTED] vehicle and searched the red bag that
17 [REDACTED] retrieved from the back seat to ensure no weapons were inside. He conducted a wing
18 -span search of [REDACTED] immediate area for weapons due to his behavior of reaching around
19 the car. [REDACTED] asked why he searched his vehicle. Sportiello told [REDACTED] he did not
20 search his vehicle.

21
22 **Note:** Sportiello explained that he told [REDACTED] he did not search his vehicle because
23 his understanding of a vehicle search consisted of opening compartments of the vehicle.

24
25 Sportiello utilized the Mobile Data Computer (MDC) to conduct an inquiry on [REDACTED] A
26 Felony Warrant matching [REDACTED] information was discovered. He was unable to determine
27 if the warrant belonged to [REDACTED] and asked his partner Billew to verify the warrant. He told
28 [REDACTED] that a possible felony warrant was discovered, and they were going to verify it.
29 Billew informed Sportiello the warrant did not belong to [REDACTED]

30
31 Sportiello explained the reason for the traffic stop towards the end of the investigation and gave
32 [REDACTED] a warning for speeding and tinted windows.

33
34 **Billew**³ stated she observed a white BMW speeding on Figueroa Street with dark window tint.
35 They conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle at Figueroa Street and 90th Street. She exited the
36 vehicle and Sportiello approached the driver's side. She heard [REDACTED] yelling at Sportiello
37 and refused to lower the back window. She walked over to the driver's side to assist Sportiello.

38
39 Billew heard [REDACTED] request a supervisor and told him she would call the supervisor. She
40 asked [REDACTED] to step out the vehicle and he complied. She handcuffed [REDACTED] and walked
41 him over to the police vehicle. She stood by with [REDACTED] and Sportiello went back to
42 [REDACTED] vehicle. She did not see Sportiello search the vehicle or any bag.

³ Billew was interviewed on May 20, 2025. The interview was digitally recorded and uploaded into the Complaint Management System.

1 [REDACTED] was released at scene and was given a warning for speeding and tinted windows.
2

3

4

DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM (DICVS) AND BODY WORN VIDEO (BWV)

5

6 The investigation was captured on the officers' BWV. It can be found in Evidence.com under ID
7 No. 24061600003437.

8

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTES

10 None.

11

ADDENDA

13

14 1A.-C Copy of Sportiello and Billew's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Summary,
15 Incident 240616003437

16

17

18

1 **SUBMITTED BY:**

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5



6 **RICARDO CARDONA**, Sergeant I

7 Southeast Area

8

9

10 **APPROVED BY:**

11

12

13

14



15 **JIMMY KU**, Lieutenant I

16 Watch Commander

17 Southeast Patrol Division

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

DOMINIC H. CHOI
Chief of Police



KAREN BASS
Mayor

P. O. Box 30158
Los Angeles, Calif. 90030
Telephone: (213) 972-7828
TDD: (855) 736-3235
Ref No. 5.3

CF No. 24-002051

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

The Department completed the investigation into your complaint regarding the conduct of employees of the Los Angeles Police Department that was reported on June 16, 2024. Your investigation consisted of reviewing relevant Department documentation, interviewing witnesses when possible, watching Body-Worn Video footage and/or Digital In-Car Video evidence, if available, and inspecting the location of occurrence for evidence if necessary and possible. The investigation has gone through several levels of review prior to final adjudication.

[REDACTED]

Your allegation that an employee failed to advise you the reason for the traffic stop in a timely manner has been classified as *Non-Disciplinary – Employee's Actions Could Have Been Different*, which means that the facts revealed by the investigation determined that the employee's actions could have been different to provide better service and will be addressed by the concerned commanding officer through corrective action.

Your allegation that an employee inappropriately searched your vehicle has been classified as *Sustained*, which means that the investigation determined the allegations occurred and will be addressed through discipline. An appropriate penalty will be imposed; however, California Penal Code Section 832.5 precludes me from disclosing the specific penalty.

Although this resolution may not be to your satisfaction, we appreciate you for bringing this matter to our attention. It is the goal of the Los Angeles Police Department to provide the highest level of quality service to every member of the community.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Sergeant Tracy Wolfe, Southeast Community Police Station, at (213) 972-7979.

Respectfully,

DOMINIC H. CHOI
Chief of Police

PERRY GRIFFITH, Captain
Patrol Commanding Officer
Southeast Community Police Station

COMPLAINT STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Complaint Form No. 24-002051

01.19.00 (06/21)

Investigating division completes items A through P.

A. No. of Accused Employees: 1		C. Source of Complaint: City Attorney Civilian Dept. Employee Defense Attorney Department Judge-County Judge-Federal Non-LAPD LA City Employee		Other Law Enforcement Agency Prosecutor-City, State, Federal <u>Public Person Involved</u> Public Third-Party Sworn Dept. Employee Unknown	
B. Area of Occurrence: SOE					
G. Invest. Data: Total Hours: Area: <u>15</u> IAG: <u>0</u> Interviews: Area: <u>3</u> IAG: <u>0</u>		H. Video/Audio: Body Worn Video Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Digital In-Car Video Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other Video or Audio Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		I. Use of Force: Categorical Non-Categorical I II (SOP No.):	
J. Assignment Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uniform Patrol <input type="checkbox"/> Area Detective <input type="checkbox"/> Admin/Coveted <input type="checkbox"/> Specialized Div. <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform GED		K. Employee's Div.: <u>Southeast</u>		N. Duty Status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty Outside Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
		L. Employee's Serial No.: <u>44262</u>		O. Sex of Employee: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
		M. Employee's Last Name: <u>SPORTIELLO</u>		P. Ethnicity of Employee: <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	

EMP 1

TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION (except Non-Disciplinary)

Q. Entire Complaint Disproven at Intake: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		R. Investigative Complexity Upon Intake: I II <u>III</u>			S. Investigative Complexity at Closeout: I <u>II</u> III																					
T. TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS: [Redacted]		EMPLOYEE NO. 1: Sportiello, Joshua (Last, First, MI)																								
TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTS: <u>1</u>																										
U. ALLEGATION TYPE	COUNT	DISCIPLINARY							NON-DISCIPLINARY							ALTERNATE DISPO				DESCRIPTION	ASST ADJ					
<u>UBC-MISC</u>		MUST	*S-NP	G	NG	NR	EXON	UNF	PP	NM	*DIFF	FALSE	NDE	ACR	MED	OJR	IETA	WOOP	OOS	DUP	CONSL		BWV	DIQV	OTHER	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>									
<u>SRCH</u>	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4</u>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EMP 1

V. Appeal: <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Service Hearing, Admin. Appeal, Settlement, Opt BOR, Liberty Hearing		Y. Alcohol Involved: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Z. Non-Punitive Action: *SUST-NP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training <input type="checkbox"/> Counseled by Supervisor <input type="checkbox"/> Referral *DIFFERENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training <input type="checkbox"/> Comment Card <input type="checkbox"/> Counseled by Supervisor <input type="checkbox"/> NTC <input type="checkbox"/> Referral		BB. Criminal Filing: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to Review Case <input type="checkbox"/> Not Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Filed with CA <input type="checkbox"/> Filed with DA <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing CA <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to CA	
W. Type of Penalty: <input type="checkbox"/> BOR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Division <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Service Hearing		X. Penalty: <input type="checkbox"/> Admonishment <input type="checkbox"/> Demotion to Rank: <input type="checkbox"/> Inactive (RSOF) Days: <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension Length of Penalty: <input type="checkbox"/> Termination Effective Date: (Discharged, Removed, Termination on Probation)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *No Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> Official Reprimand <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Impose Penalty Effective Date: (Deceased, Resigned, Resigned in Lieu, Retired, Retired in Lieu, Termination On Prior, Transfer to Other City Dept., Unknown Employee)		* Non-Punitive Action (Z) must be selected for S-NP/No Penalty or DIFF. AA. Employee Arrested: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Detained <input type="checkbox"/> Booked Misd. <input type="checkbox"/> Booked Felony	

