



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency
Stephanie Everett, Executive Director

CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD - CASE #122

INVESTIGATOR: Michel Toney

DATE OF INCIDENT: October 10, 2022 **DATE OF FILING:** October 12, 2022

DISTRICT: Boston Police Department Headquarters

ALLEGED VIOLATION OF RULES:

BPD Rule 300- Bureau Of Public Information- Release of Official Information Section 3, Public Records, Victim and Juvenile Identities: “Prohibited by Departmental policy is the disclosure of the names of juveniles. (Juveniles are considered those persons less than 18 years of age.)”

OPAT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION:

BPD Rule 300- Bureau Of Public Information- Release of Official Information Section 3, Public Records- Sustained

Based on all of the evidence presented and reviewed, the CRB voted unanimously (8-0) that the complaint be considered **Sustained** on the allegation of violation of Rule 300 against the entire Media Relations Bureau. The Boston Police Department posted the name, age, and situation of a juvenile who passed away on their official website. This was a violation of Rule 300 as the child was under the age of 18 years old. Accompanying recommended discipline from the board is as follows: At the point that this determination was made, there is currently no discipline matrix from the BPD in place. This should not stop or stall the work of the CRB. In this matter, the CRB recommends that all members of the Media Relations Bureau attend a mandatory (re)training on juvenile matters and a cultural awareness and sensitivity training. The CRB additionally recommends that the BPD leadership meet with the family should the family request it to discuss the impact that the social media post had.

INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

Discovery List

1. BPD Official post
divulging information of
minor (Facebook)

10/12/22, 3:00 PM

IMG_0649.JPG



Boston Police Department (Official)



★ Favorites · 29m · 🌐

Homicide Victim From [REDACTED]
Identified

At about 12:18 PM, on Monday, October 10, 2022, officers assigned to District B2 (Dorchester/Roxbury), responded to a ShotSpotter activation in the rear of 2990 Washington Street in Roxbury.

On arrival, officers located [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Boston EMS transported the victim to a local hospital, where [REDACTED] was pronounced deceased. A second juvenile [REDACTED] was also located suffering from an apparent gunshot wound and was transported to a local area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The Boston Police Department continues to actively review the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. Anyone with information is strongly urged to contact Boston Police Homicide Detectives at (617) 343-4470.

Community members wishing to assist this investigation anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of all those who wish to help this investigation in an anonymous manner.

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Case Summary:

On October 12, 2022 the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency received a complaint from an individual regarding an allegation of police misconduct against the Boston Police Department. The Complainant stated that on October 10, 2022, the Boston Police Department posted the name, age, and deceased status of a minor on their official website, along with other online social media sites. The Complainant stated that BPD violated the child and family's right to privacy. The Complainant alleged a BPD Detective informed the family that the minor's information would not be released. Subsequently, a BPD Sergeant spoke to the mother and told her that the Facebook post had been removed and taken down from their official website.

Document/Video/Other Investigation Technique Summary:

Investigator Toney looked at the Boston Police Department's Rules and Regulations regarding the public posting of a minor's information. Investigator Toney identified Rule 300- Bureau Of Public Information- Release Of Official Information Section 3, Public Records, which states in part under the Victim and Juvenile Identities section that, "Prohibited by law is the disclosure of the names of victims in sexual assault cases, as well as details of sexual assaults. Prohibited by Departmental policy is the disclosure of the names of juveniles. (Juveniles are considered those persons less than 18 years of age.)" BPD violated this rule when they posted the juvenile's information on their official Facebook page. On November 1, 2022, Investigator Toney and OPAT Deputy Director John Steies spoke with a senior member of the Media Relations Bureau team within the Boston Police Department regarding the rule in question, the incident where BPD posted the name, age, and deceased status of a child on their official website, as well as their internal process for posting such information.