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## FINAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

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### SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

The Banning Police Department contracted with Four Star Investigations to conduct a personnel investigation in order to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding a complaint generated by Officer [REDACTED] alleging sexual harassment by Sgt. Michael Bennett.

Bryan J. Lentz was assigned to conduct the investigation. During the course of the investigation, interviews were conducted, documents and other items of evidence were gathered, reviewed and assessed.

### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

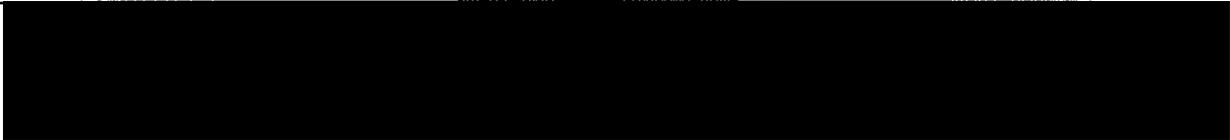
On 2-11-2021, Officer [REDACTED] wrote a memorandum to Lt. Avila, via chain of command, which stated Sgt. Michael Bennett's prior "unprofessional behavior" that made her "feel uncomfortable" had stopped. After a cursory review into what the unprofessional behavior was, it was found that Bennett had sent [REDACTED] a text that was sexual in nature. [REDACTED] also alleged Bennett had made her feel uncomfortable by showing up on her calls more often than any other patrol officer. She also alleged Bennett took a photo of her without her permission. During a more thorough interview, [REDACTED] alleged Bennett inappropriately touched her upper thigh area in the report writing room when he brushed some doughnut crumbs off her leg. [REDACTED] stated these incidents caused an uncomfortable working environment for her. During the course of the investigation, an additional allegation came from PSD [REDACTED] who alleged Sgt. Bennett had sent her inappropriate sexual text messages also.

It was determined by the Banning Police Department that there should be an outside, independent investigation conducted, with limited scope, to determine the facts and circumstances of the alleged mistreatment of Officer [REDACTED]. Four Star Investigations was retained to conduct an independent investigation and I, Bryan Lentz, was assigned to investigate this matter.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. It was alleged by Officer [REDACTED] that on Sept. 12, 2020, Sgt. Michael Bennett sent her a text that was sexual in nature while she was on duty.

**This allegation was found to be Sustained.**



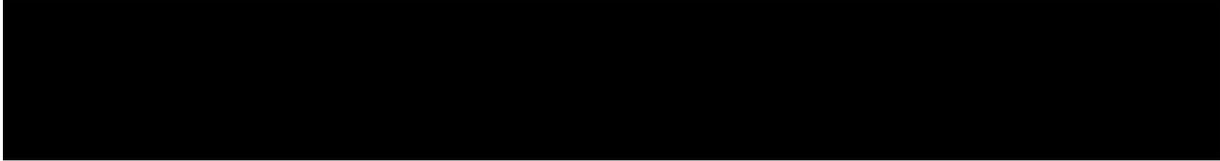
This allegation was found to be Exonerated.

3. It was alleged by Officer [REDACTED] that on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Sgt. Michael Bennett, while on duty, touched her leg without her consent when he brushed doughnut crumbs off her upper thigh area.

The allegation was found to be Sustained.

4. It was alleged by Officer [REDACTED] that on Nov. 20, 2020, Sgt. Michael Bennett, while on duty, took a photo of her without her knowledge or consent while she was writing reports.

This allegation was found to be Sustained.



The allegation was found to be Not Sustained.

6. It was alleged by PSD [REDACTED] that on January 15, 2021, Sgt. Michael Bennett, while on duty, sent a sexually explicit text message to her cell phone which stated, "I am in the mood for pussy m [sic.] big time."

The allegation was found to be Sustained.

7. It was alleged by PSD [REDACTED] that on January 27, 2021, Sgt. Michael, while on duty, sent her an inappropriate text which read, "You look fine as fuck" when referring to [REDACTED] recent weight loss efforts.

The allegation was found to be Sustained.

## METHODOLOGY

The investigation began with a memorandum, authored by Officer [REDACTED] being received by the Banning Police Administration on 2-11-21. A cursory review into the facts of that memorandum commenced until 2-23-21, when Capt. Horn notified me, Bryan Lentz, to commence with a full investigation. Interviews of all percipient witnesses were then conducted. Documents and additional information were obtained, and applicable Banning Police Department policies were researched and reviewed.

Witness interviews were recorded and summarized in writing. All statements and evidence were investigated and analyzed, and this report of findings and conclusions was prepared. All relevant evidentiary items and documents were catalogued and are included in the Addenda to this report.

1 **RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

2  
3 The following policies and procedures may be applicable to this investigation and were  
4 taken from the Banning Police Department Policy Manual:

5  
6 **318.3.1 DISCRIMINATION**

7 The [Department/Office] prohibits all forms of discrimination, including any employment-related  
8 action by a member that adversely affects an applicant or member and is based on actual or  
9 perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or  
10 expression, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and  
11 any other classification or status protected by law.

12  
13 Discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, is verbal or physical conduct that  
14 demeans or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual based upon that individual's  
15 protected class. It has the effect of interfering with an individual's work performance or creating  
16 a hostile or abusive work environment.

17  
18 Conduct that may, under certain circumstances, constitute discriminatory harassment can  
19 include making derogatory comments; making crude and offensive statements or remarks;  
20 making slurs or off-color jokes, stereotyping; engaging in threatening acts; making indecent  
21 gestures, pictures, cartoons, posters, or material; making inappropriate physical contact; or  
22 using written material or [department/office] equipment and/or systems to transmit or receive  
23 offensive material, statements, or pictures. Such conduct is contrary to [department/office] policy  
24 and to a work environment that is free of discrimination.

25  
26 **318.3.2 SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

27 The [Department/Office] prohibits all forms of discrimination and discriminatory harassment,  
28 including sexual harassment. It is unlawful to harass an applicant or a member because of that  
29 person's sex.

30  
31 Sexual harassment includes but is not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for  
32 sexual favors, or other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- 33 (c) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a member's work  
34 performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

35  
36 **ALLEGATIONS AND FINDINGS**

37  
38 **ALLEGATION #1**

39  
40 It was alleged by Officer [REDACTED] that on Sept. 12, 2020, Sgt. Michael Bennett  
41 sent her a text that was sexual in nature while she was on duty.

42  
43 The finding for this allegation is **Sustained**.

44  
45 **DISCUSSION OF EVIDENCE - ALLEGATION #1**

46  
47 **Statement of complainant – Officer [REDACTED]**

48 Segovia stated that some of the text messages she received from Sgt. Bennett, "looked  
49 bad" so she deleted them because she did not want her boyfriend to see them.<sup>1</sup> Those

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<sup>1</sup> See Investigator Note #4.

1 deleted texts were ones like, "We should hang out" or "We should go have drinks."  
2 Bennett would also send her messages while he was on trips insinuating that she  
3 should go along with him. When those types of messages started, ██████ did not know  
4 what Bennett was getting at and she would reply to his texts to be polite. But by  
5 September 2020, she become uncomfortable with Bennett texting her, so she started  
6 not replying to him or she would delay her replies so as to not encourage Bennett to text  
7 her.

8  
9 On Sept. 12, 2020, at 10:03 pm, Bennett sent ██████ a text message which read,  
10 "Listen, I'm not trying to get pussy or attraction. I just love your ass. Period...I'm  
11 not that guy. Even tho I talk shit. You are bad ass in my eyes."<sup>2</sup> Then Bennett sent  
12 her another message which read, "And respect the shit out of you. I'm a damn worrier  
13 [sic.] and I know one when I see one.... Just saying."

14  
15 ██████ replied to those two texts by saying something to the effect of, "You're wife  
16 wouldn't like to see that," however that was one of the texts she deleted from her phone.  
17 ██████ stated, "I tried to bring his wife into the conversation so he could kind of know  
18 that it was inappropriate." ██████ said that those two texts which Bennett sent her  
19 made her feel "uncomfortable." She said, "I just don't think he should have used those  
20 words to me."<sup>3</sup>

21  
22 **Statement of witness – Officer Dan Deussenberry:**

23 About a two to three months ago, ██████ told Deussenberry that Bennett had texted her  
24 material which she described as "inappropriate." She did not expand on what she meant  
25 by inappropriate and he did not know if it was only one text or a series of texts. ██████  
26 told him she did not like the text and described Bennett as "a creep" for sending it.  
27 Deussenberry got the sense from that conversation that ██████ was "uncomfortable"  
28 when she received the text(s) from Bennett.

29  
30 **Statement of witness – Officer Francisco Nieto:**

31 Nieto stated that he did not personally know of any specific text that Bennett might have  
32 sent to ██████ however, ██████ has told Nieto that Bennett has sent her text  
33 messages and she thought it was "weird" that he was doing so. ██████ did not tell him  
34 what the texts were or what the subject matter was, but she only conveyed that it was  
35 "weird" that he was texting her. ██████ also told Nieto that she would not text Bennett  
36 back after he sent her some texts.

37  
38 **Statement of subject employee – Sgt. Michael Bennett:**

39 Regarding this specific text, Bennett stated that he meant to convey that he thought  
40 highly of ██████ as an officer and as a friend. He said he loved her as a person  
41 because they were very good friends. He said he did not actually mean he loved her  
42 physical buttocks. When he texted, "You are bad ass in my eyes," Bennett said that he  
43 meant "I respect the shit out of you." Bennett said he did not mean the texts to be taken  
44 as anything sexual towards Segovia.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix #2 for the screen shot of the text message conversation.

<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that Segovia told me previously that these texts were "borderline sexual harassment." See Appendix #3 for earlier report.

1  
2 When asked again what he meant by sending ██████ that text, Bennett said, *"In*  
3 *context, when I read it, what I'm meaning from me, is that I'm not trying to get anything*  
4 *from you, I love you as a person, because I do. I have a lot of respect for Jessica. She's*  
5 *essentially like a little sister."*

6  
7 Bennett knew ██████ was working at the time when he sent that text. Back when he  
8 sent the text, Bennett did not think ██████ would have taken offense that it. In  
9 hindsight, Bennett could see how ██████ could have taken offense to that language.  
10 Bennett said, *"I can't justify my, what I'm writing here. There's no justification for it. So, it*  
11 *could be taken offensively, yes."* Bennett agreed that his Sept. 12, 2020 text message to  
12 ██████ violated the Department's harassment policy.<sup>4</sup>

13  
14 **Document/Video/Audio Review:**

15 ██████ screenshot of Bennett's text (See Appendix #2) indicated the text was sent on  
16 Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:01 pm. The text read:

17 Listen, I'm not trying to get pussy or attraction. I just love your ass.  
18 Period...I'm not that guy. Even tho I talk shit. You are bad ass in my eyes.

19  
20  
21 The subsequent text from Bennett was:

22  
23 And respect the shit out of you. I'm a damn worrier [sic.] and I know one  
24 when I see one.... Just saying.

25  
26 **INVESTIGATIVE FINDING:**

27 The most important piece of evidence in this allegation was the screen shot from  
28 ██████ cell phone showing Bennett's text message to her on Sept. 12, 2020 (See  
29 Appendix #2). It is clear what he sent. Deussenberry had a conversation with ██████ in  
30 which ██████ told him how the text message affected her. Even though Deussenberry  
31 was not told specifically what the text message was, ██████ told him that Bennett's  
32 inappropriate text made her feel uncomfortable and that specific text was the only one  
33 that ██████ mentioned in this investigation that had a profound impression on her.

34  
35 When Bennett was interviewed he alleged that at the time he sent the message, he was  
36 trying to convey that he thought highly of ██████ and respected her as a person and as  
37 an officer. He stated that he definitely did not want to convey to ██████ that he liked  
38 her actually buttocks or imply anything sexual. Bennett indicated that this edgy  
39 language, if not outright vulgar, was his regular language that he used with close  
40 friends; however, he could not tell me a specific person who he had used this type of  
41 language with who could verify that statement. He believed that he and ██████ had a  
42 good enough friendship that she would understand his language usage and not be  
43 offended by it; however, upon reflecting on the circumstances and looking back on the  
44 language he used, Bennett admitted, *"I can't justify my, what I'm writing here. There's*  
45 *no justification for it. So, it could be taken offensively, yes."* He also agreed that the text  
46 message violated the Department's Harassment Policy.

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<sup>4</sup> Recording time 18:38.

1  
2 Regardless of what Bennett said he meant to convey by his text to [REDACTED] this  
3 investigation has shown that Sgt. Bennett did, in fact, send an inappropriate and  
4 offensive text message to Officer [REDACTED] on Sept. 12, 2020.  
5

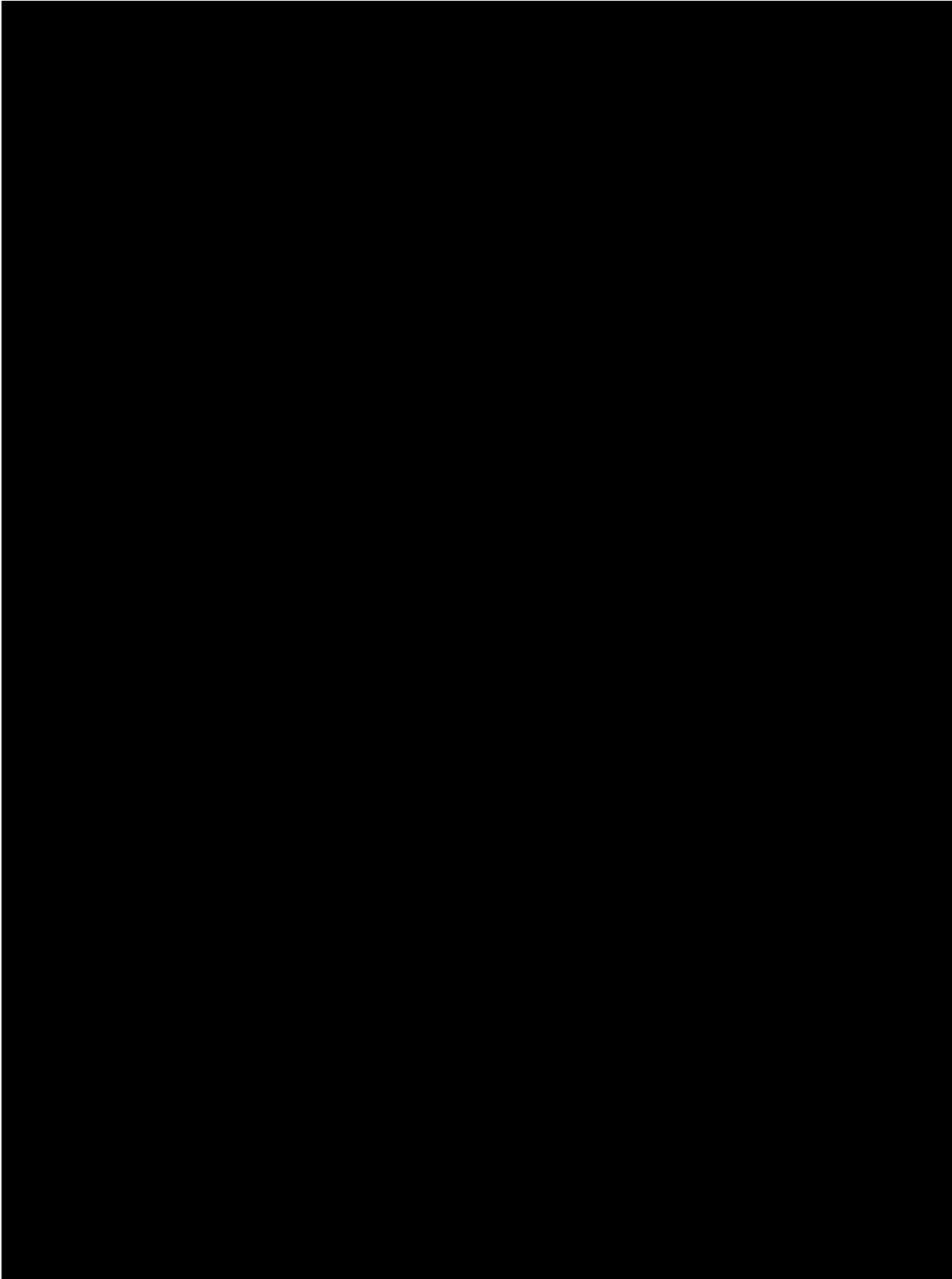
6 The finding for this allegation is **sustained**.  
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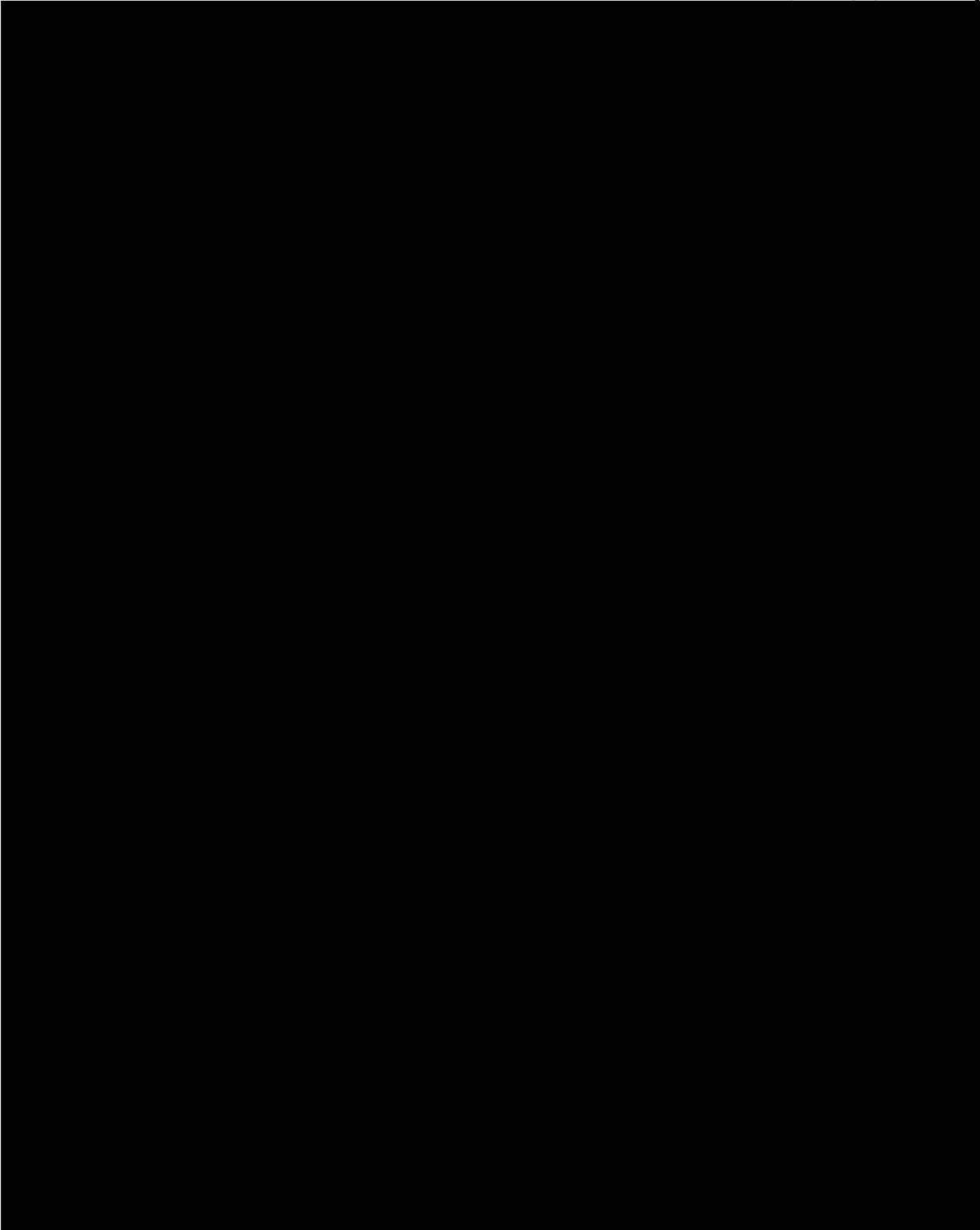
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9 **ALLEGATION #2**  
10

11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 The finding for this allegation is **Exonerated**.  
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The finding for this allegation is **exonerated**.

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1 **ALLEGATION #3**

2  
3 It was alleged by Officer [REDACTED] that on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Sgt. Michael Bennett,  
4 while on duty, touched her leg without her consent when he brushed doughnut crumbs  
5 off her upper thigh area.

6  
7 The finding for this allegation is **Sustained**.

8  
9 **DISCUSSION OF EVIDENCE - ALLEGATION #3**

10  
11 **Statement of complainant – Officer [REDACTED]**

12 On Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Bennett called [REDACTED] into the briefing room to explain the search  
13 warrant process and the pending operation. [REDACTED] temporarily stopped him, stuck her  
14 head outside the briefing room door, and called Officer Deusenberry into the room to  
15 "just stand by for this meeting." [REDACTED] did this because she did not want to be alone  
16 with Bennett.

17  
18 [REDACTED] was eating a powdered doughnut at a briefing room table while Bennett was  
19 sitting next to her explaining the process. Some of the powdered sugar from her  
20 doughnut had fallen onto the top of her pant leg about 2-inches down from the crease of  
21 her hip. Bennett did not mention the powdered sugar on her thigh to her. Instead,  
22 Bennett took it upon himself to lean towards her, reach out with his hand, and dust off  
23 the powdered sugar from her leg with two swipes of his hand.

24  
25 Afterward the meeting, [REDACTED] told Deusenberry that it made her feel uncomfortable  
26 when Bennett touched her leg. Deusenberry told her that he saw the leg touching and  
27 agreed with her that it was not appropriate. [REDACTED] did not tell Bennett how she felt  
28 when he touched her leg because she believed that Bennett had a lot of power and  
29 influence.<sup>5</sup> [REDACTED] felt that if she said something, he would somehow make things hard  
30 for her and her career would suffer. She said, "*Honestly, I still regret saying anything*  
31 *about it because I feel, I know that there's going to be no retaliation or whatnot, but I*  
32 *feel down the line, it's somehow going to affect me, but I just didn't want to go there with*  
33 *him. I didn't want him to react negatively and then try to flip it around on me somehow.*  
34 *I'm just scared to be honest.*"

35  
36 **Statement of witness – Officer Dan Deusenberry:**

37 Deusenberry said that when Bennett called [REDACTED] into the briefing room for a search  
38 warrant briefing, [REDACTED] asked him to go with her because she said Bennett made her  
39 feel uncomfortable and she didn't want to be alone with him. She also wanted him there  
40 because she wanted Deusenberry to be part of the operation for the search warrant  
41 service. Bennett and [REDACTED] were sitting on one side of a table and Deusenberry was  
42 standing on the other side of the table.

43  
44 As the briefing was commencing, [REDACTED] was eating something; Deusenberry could  
45 not recall what it was. From his vantage point, he could still see the top of Segovia's  
46 thigh because she had slid back away from the table slightly. As he was talking, Bennett

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<sup>5</sup> Segovia stated Bennett had a brother who was a high ranking member of the Riverside Sheriff's Department.

1 suddenly leaned over towards ██████ reached out with his right hand, and wiped  
2 ██████ upper thigh area using two swipes. Deusenberry did not actually see crumbs  
3 on ██████ pants when Bennett wiped her thigh. Deusenberry thought to himself,  
4 "What the hell is this guy doing?" Deusenberry did not see or hear ██████ do or say  
5 anything that would indicate to Bennett that he had permission to wipe her pant leg.  
6 When Bennett wiped her pants, Deusenberry saw Segovia just look up at Bennett; she  
7 did not say anything to him. The impression that Deusenberry got from the way ██████  
8 looked at Bennett was that ██████ was "disgusted" by what Bennett did. He said, "*She*  
9 *didn't look happy.*"

10  
11 ██████ was in uniform wearing a duty belt at the time. Deusenberry estimated that  
12 Bennett's thumb was approximately 2-inches from ██████ hip crease just under her  
13 Sam Brown belt. Deusenberry said that where Bennett's hand was could not possibly  
14 be considered as being down by ██████ knee. Deusenberry said, "*I'll tell you right*  
15 *now, if I saw a guy doing that to my wife, I'd probably punch him in the face, that's close*  
16 *enough.*"

17  
18 After the briefing, he spoke with ██████ and they both questioned what Bennett did. To  
19 the best of Deusenberry's recollection, their conversation started with ██████ telling  
20 him, "See, that's what I'm talking about." Then he asked ██████ "What the hell was  
21 that? Why did he touch your leg?" ██████ said, "That's why I wanted you in there. He  
22 creeps me out."

23  
24 **Statement of subject employee – Sgt. Michael Bennett:**

25 Bennett remembered the search warrant he and ██████ were involved with that  
26 stemmed from the pursuit ██████ was in. He remembered talking to ██████ "several  
27 times" prior to the search warrant service, but he did not specifically recall talking to her  
28 in the briefing room with Deusenberry being present. He did not recall speaking to her at  
29 a briefing room table when she was eating a doughnut or anything else. Bennett did not  
30 recall wiping anything off of ██████ pants, but did not deny that the incident could have  
31 occurred.<sup>6</sup> When asked why he would have wiped crumbs off of ██████ pant leg (if it  
32 did occur) instead of telling her she had something on her pant, Bennett said he  
33 probably simply swiped the crumbs off to be helpful; he did not mean anything negative  
34 by that action. Bennett added, "*I don't recall this in any way shape or form,*" and re-  
35 affirmed that there was no "ill intent" behind it, if it actually happened.

36  
37 When asked what he believed ██████ reaction was to his action of wiping her leg, if it  
38 did occur, Bennett said, "*Again, in hindsight obviously, she did not like it. I don't recall*  
39 *this incident at all. So I don't know. Was it inappropriate, no.*" Bennett did not see how  
40 that action on his part was a bad thing. He said he would have done the same thing if  
41 it was Deusenberry who had crumbs on his pants. Bennett did not believe that action  
42 violated the sexual harassment policy because he did not mean anything by that action;  
43 he was just trying to be helpful.

44  
45 **Document/Video/Audio Review:**

46 None.

<sup>6</sup> See the verbatim transcription of Bennett's interview, at recording time 46:48.

1  
2 **INVESTIGATIVE FINDING:**

3 There was only one witness to this allegation, Deusenberry, and he affirmed [REDACTED]  
4 account of the incident. Bennett stated he did not recall this incident whatsoever.  
5 According to both accounts of what occurred, Bennett wiped [REDACTED] upper thigh area  
6 with his hand. He did not ask for her permission to do it and he did not give her any  
7 warning he was going to do it. Bennett stated that the incident possibly could have  
8 happened, but he surmised that if it did, he probably did it just to be helpful towards  
9 another co-worker. He said he would have done it if it was another person, such as  
10 Deusenberry.

11  
12 [REDACTED] was negatively affected by Bennett's actions and this was affirmed by  
13 Deusenberry who had a conversation with [REDACTED] after it occurred. Wiping a co-  
14 workers pant leg without permission or warning is simply not done in today's working  
15 environment and is considered inappropriate; especially when the area being touched is  
16 high up on the thigh (a few inches below the hip joint). Deusenberry attested to the  
17 severity of the inappropriateness of where Bennett touched [REDACTED] by saying that if  
18 someone did that to his wife, he would "punch them in the face."

19  
20 By all accounts, this investigation has showed that this allegation occurred as described  
21 and the area the touching was highly inappropriate in the workplace.

22  
23 The finding for this allegation is **sustained**.

24  
25  
26 **ALLEGATION #4**

27  
28 It was alleged by Officer Jessica [REDACTED] that on Nov. 20, 2020, Sgt. Michael Bennett,  
29 while on duty, took a photo of her without her knowledge or consent while she was  
30 writing reports.

31  
32 The finding for this allegation is **Sustained**.

33  
34 **DISCUSSION OF EVIDENCE - ALLEGATION #4**

35  
36 **Statement of complainant – Officer Jessica [REDACTED]**

37 [REDACTED] stated that on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 2020, she was sitting at a desk in the report writing  
38 room writing her reports when she heard the sound of a cell phone taking a photo. She  
39 looked up and saw Sgt. Bennett sitting across from her holding his phone pointed in her  
40 direction. She asked Bennett, "Why are you taking pictures of me?" Bennett said, "Oh,  
41 I'm going to send it to you." Bennett immediately texted the photo to her.<sup>7</sup> [REDACTED] said it  
42 was a "very awkward moment" for her and made her feel uncomfortable. She believed  
43 that the members of the Gang Taskforce that might have been present. [REDACTED] did not  
44 remember if they reacted to the picture taking or not. [REDACTED] believed that if she had  
45 not heard the camera sound from the cell phone going off, she probably would not have

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<sup>7</sup> Segovia forwarded me a screen shot of the picture that Bennett took of her (See Appendix #2).

1 known about the picture being taken of her. That made her wonder if Bennett had taken  
2 other pictures of her without her knowledge.

3  
4 **Statement of witness – Officer Yvette Vaca:**

5 Vaca stated she did not know anything about this incident, of Bennett taking [REDACTED]  
6 picture in the report writing room. But Vaca stated Bennett had taken a picture of her  
7 before without her knowing it. She said it was approximately one month ago when they  
8 were having lunch at "Casa Cruz" with Officer Rich Youngblood and CSO Chelsea  
9 Youngblood. Bennett was sitting across the table from her when he snapped a picture  
10 of her and showed it to her "right away." The photo was only of her face. Vaca looked at  
11 the photo and thought it was not flattering and told Bennett to delete it because she did  
12 not like it. Bennett reassured her that it was not a bad picture of her, but she did not  
13 know if Bennett actually deleted the picture. Vaca said that at the time, she was  
14 annoyed with Bennett taking the picture of her, but only because it was an unflattering  
15 picture of her. If the picture was flattering, Vaca said she would have told Bennett to  
16 send it to her. Upon further discussion, Vaca said, "It is a little weird when you think  
17 about it." Vaca believed that the incident was inappropriate for a supervisor to do; taking  
18 a photo of an officer without consent or knowledge.

19  
20 **Statement of witness – Officer Francisco Nieto:**

21 Nieto believed that he could have been present in the report writing room when the  
22 incident occurred, but he could not recall many of the details. Nieto could only recall that  
23 Bennett showed [REDACTED] the picture of her and she got "upset" about the picture being  
24 taken. Nieto recalled [REDACTED] asking Bennett, "Why did you take a picture of me?" or  
25 something to that affect. Nieto could not remember what Bennett's reaction or reply was  
26 to her question. Nieto believed that "it was a little odd" for a sergeant to take a photo of  
27 an officer without their knowledge. Nieto could not think of a legitimate reason why  
28 Bennett would have taken a photo of [REDACTED]

29  
30 **Statement of witness – Dep. Jacob Cooley (Riverside S.O.):**

31 Cooley remembered being in the report writing room when Bennett took a picture of  
32 [REDACTED] or being in the room just after the incident occurred. He did not remember  
33 much about the incident other than [REDACTED] asking Bennett why he took the picture.  
34 Cooley could not recall what Bennett's response was as to why he took the picture, nor  
35 could he recall if [REDACTED] took offense to the picture being taken. Cooley recalled that  
36 there was some sort of discussion about [REDACTED] hair, but he could not recall in what  
37 context her hair was spoken of.

38  
39 **Statement of witness – Cpl. Joshua Idema (Riverside S.O.):**

40 Idema said that he and the Gang Taskforce often used the Banning PD report writing  
41 room, but he did not specifically recall being present when the picture taking incident  
42 occurred. He said that about 5 to 6 weeks ago, Bennett told him that an Administration  
43 official told him that he was the subject of a personnel investigation and that it was, in  
44 part, because he took a photo of someone who was not happy about it. The name  
45 [REDACTED] did not come up in that conversation with Bennett, so Idema did not know  
46 who the picture was of that Bennett was referring to. Idema said that Bennett took "a lot"  
47 of pictures of people and then sent the pictures to them, including him. Idema said that  
48 Bennett had a good sense of humor and has often taken pictures of different people.

1  
2 **Statement of subject employee – Sgt. Michael Bennett:**

3 Bennett remembered the time when he took a photograph of [REDACTED] while she was  
4 writing reports in the report writing room. He recalled other people being in the room  
5 and they were having a conversation about [REDACTED] hair at the time, but he could not  
6 remember the particulars of why they were talking about her hair. Bennett believed that  
7 [REDACTED] participated in that conversation. He took a picture of [REDACTED] and texted it to  
8 her. Bennett did not recall if [REDACTED] knew he was going to take the photo or not. He did  
9 not remember [REDACTED] looking up and asking him if he had just taken a picture of her.  
10 Bennett did not know the reason why he took the photo, but believed he would have  
11 sent her the picture regardless if [REDACTED] caught him taking the photo. Bennett said, "At  
12 the end of the day, Jessica is a, she's a big time shit-talker herself. It's all in good  
13 fashion love, for all of us. It's what we do, right? But I guarantee you that, again, we're  
14 trying to see if there's something behind this, by me sending the picture, there's nothing  
15 behind this, in anyway shape or form." Bennett believed that the photo had some  
16 connection to their discussion they were having about [REDACTED] hair, possibly to show  
17 [REDACTED] what her hair looked like at the time, but he wasn't sure.

18  
19 He reiterated that there was "no ill intent" behind him taking pictures of anybody.  
20 Bennett believed that in hindsight, taking this investigation into account, that he taking  
21 the photograph of [REDACTED] was a violation of the Department's Harassment Policy. He  
22 said, "I had to do a whole lot of soul searching and take some responsibility for Mike  
23 Bennett's actions. So yes, I don't think it's appropriate." However, at the time when the  
24 incident occurred, Bennett did not think it violated the harassment policy because, "It  
25 was all done in good faith and good fun."

26  
27 **Document/Video/Audio Review:**

28 The screen shot [REDACTED] forward to me (See Appendix #2) showed a photo of her  
29 sitting at a desk that had a small partition around it; basically a cubical. Only [REDACTED]  
30 head is shown over the partition. [REDACTED] hand is up by her head as if she might be  
31 brushing aside some tufts of hair that had fallen out of her hair bun. It appeared that  
32 [REDACTED] hair was in some sort of disarray.

33  
34 **INVESTIGATIVE FINDING:**

35 The screen shot [REDACTED] took of her text message thread with Bennett (See Appendix  
36 #2) showed that he took a photograph of [REDACTED] and texted it to her; so there is no  
37 question that the incident occurred. The context of the photo is uncertain, but there was  
38 talk about [REDACTED] hair being part of a discussion around the time the photo was  
39 taken.

40  
41 Vaca was not present for the incident, but indicated Bennett took a picture of her,  
42 without her knowing he was going to do it. This shows that Bennett has a propensity to  
43 take pictures of people without consent. Nieto was present in the room and recalled  
44 [REDACTED] being negatively affected by the picture taking, which affirmed [REDACTED]  
45 aversion to the incident.

46  
47 Neither [REDACTED] nor Nieto mentioned any discussion of [REDACTED] hair taking place,  
48 while Bennett and Cooley recalled some sort of conversation they were having about

1 her hair. This indicated that the discussion about [REDACTED] hair was probably only  
2 between Bennett and his team. If that was the case, Bennett taking a photo of [REDACTED]  
3 was unbeknownst to [REDACTED] as she indicated in her interview. Because the photo was  
4 only of [REDACTED] head, thus showing only her hair, this bolsters the claim by Bennett  
5 and Cooley that they were having a discussion of her hair and was probably done to  
6 prove the topic of their discussion. Since the photo showed [REDACTED] hair in some sort  
7 of disarray and her hand possibly in the act of swiping it to the side, as in trying to fix it,  
8 [REDACTED] might have been overhearing their conversation and was possibly somewhat  
9 self-conscious about how her hair looked; but this is only conjecture.

10 Bennett taking a photo of [REDACTED] hair was probably done to make light of how  
11 [REDACTED] looked. Even though Bennett was in the midst of having a team-building  
12 conversation with his team and done in "good faith and good fun," it was at the expense  
13 of [REDACTED]. Even Bennett, after reassessing his actions, admitted his act of taking the  
14 photo of [REDACTED] was a violation of the department's harassment policy. This  
15 investigation showed that this allegation should be listed at sustained.  
16

17  
18 The finding for this allegation is **sustained**.

19  
20  
21 **ALLEGATION #5**

22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]  
26 [REDACTED]  
27  
28 The finding for this allegation is **Not Sustained**.

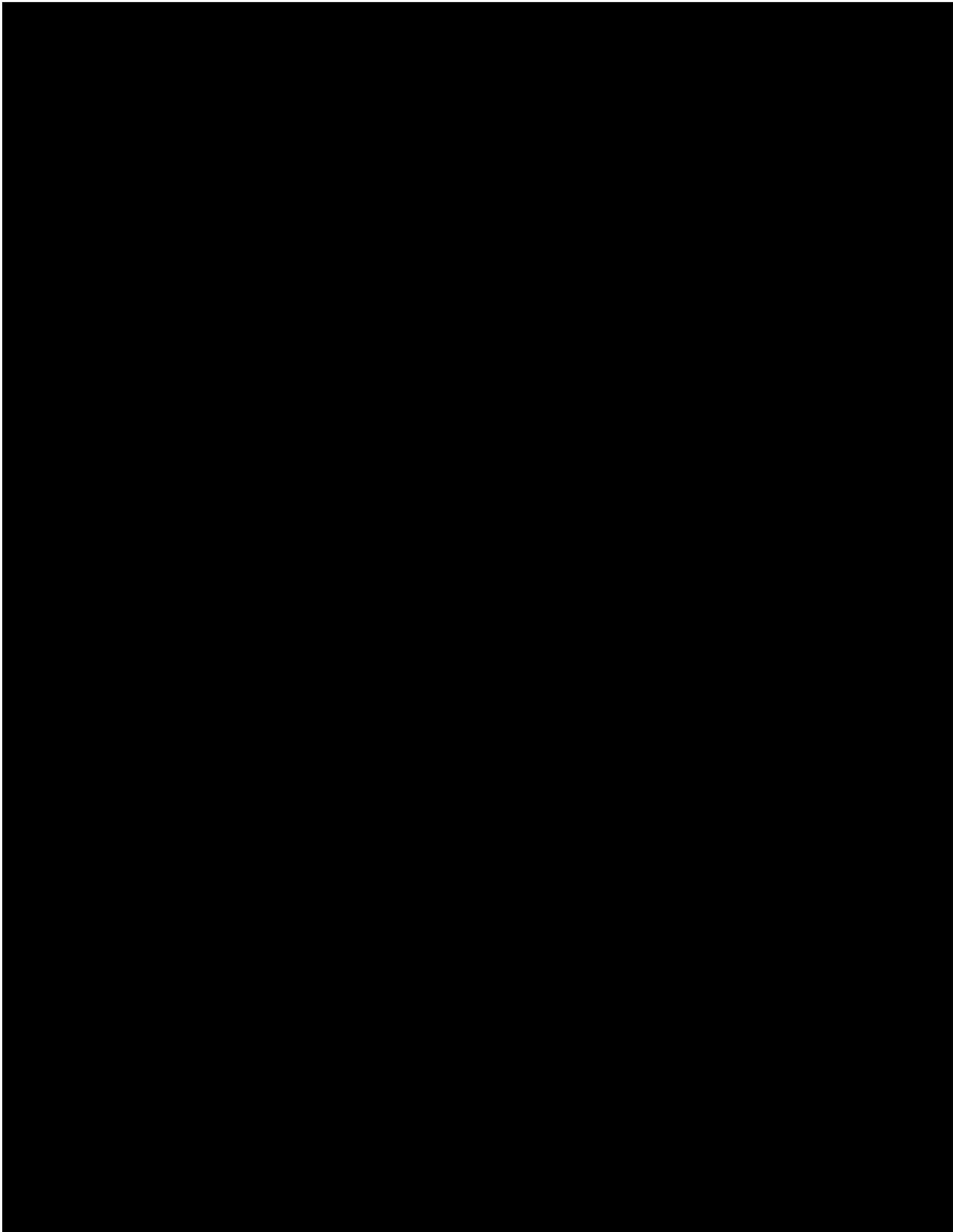
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30 **DISCUSSION OF EVIDENCE - ALLEGATION #5**

31 [REDACTED]  
32 [REDACTED]  
33 [REDACTED]  
34 [REDACTED]  
35 [REDACTED]  
36 [REDACTED]  
37 [REDACTED]  
38 [REDACTED]  
39 [REDACTED]  
40 [REDACTED]  
41 [REDACTED]  
42 [REDACTED]  
43 [REDACTED]  
44 [REDACTED]  
45 [REDACTED]  
46 [REDACTED]

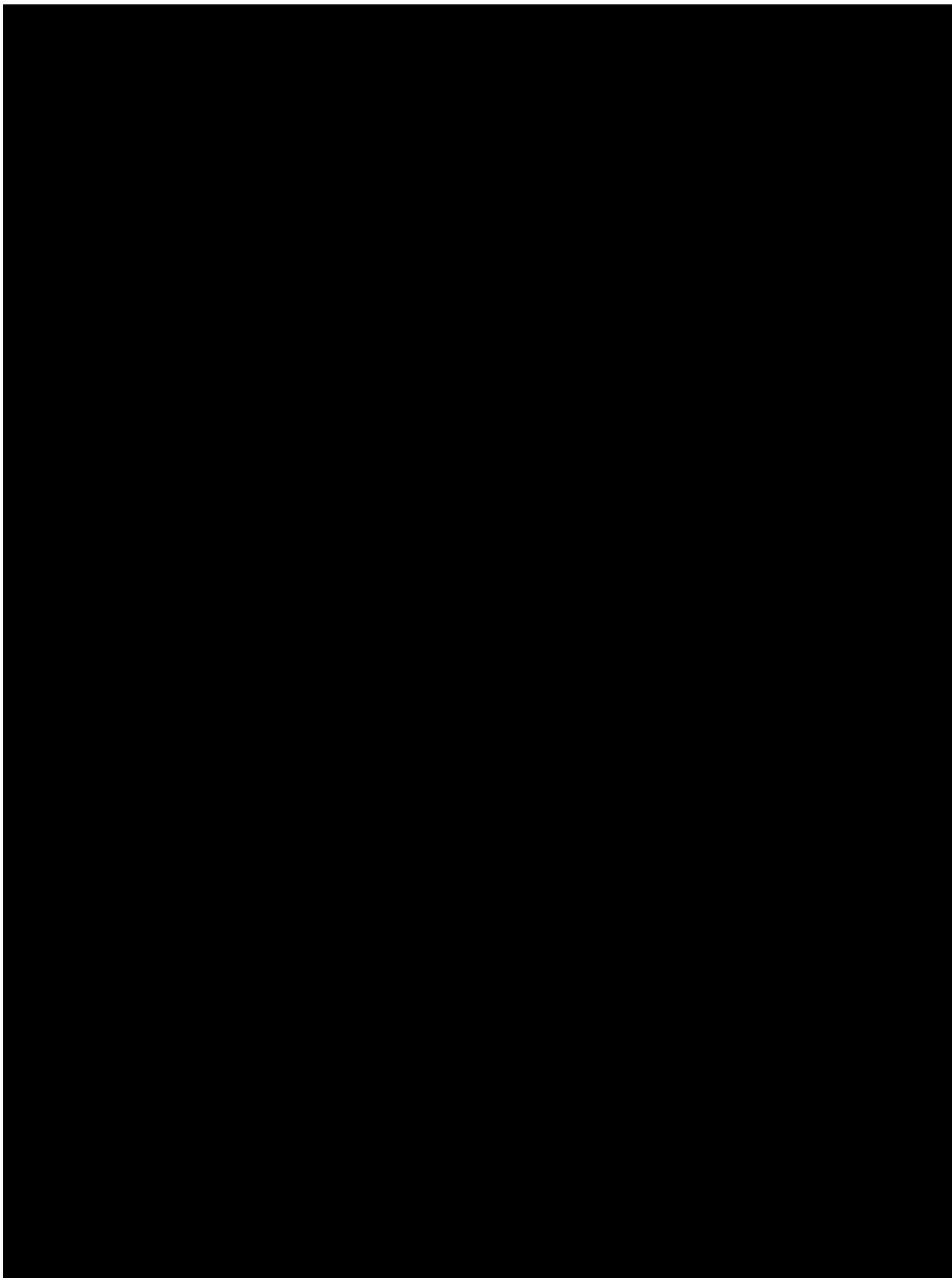
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<sup>8</sup> See Investigator Note #5.

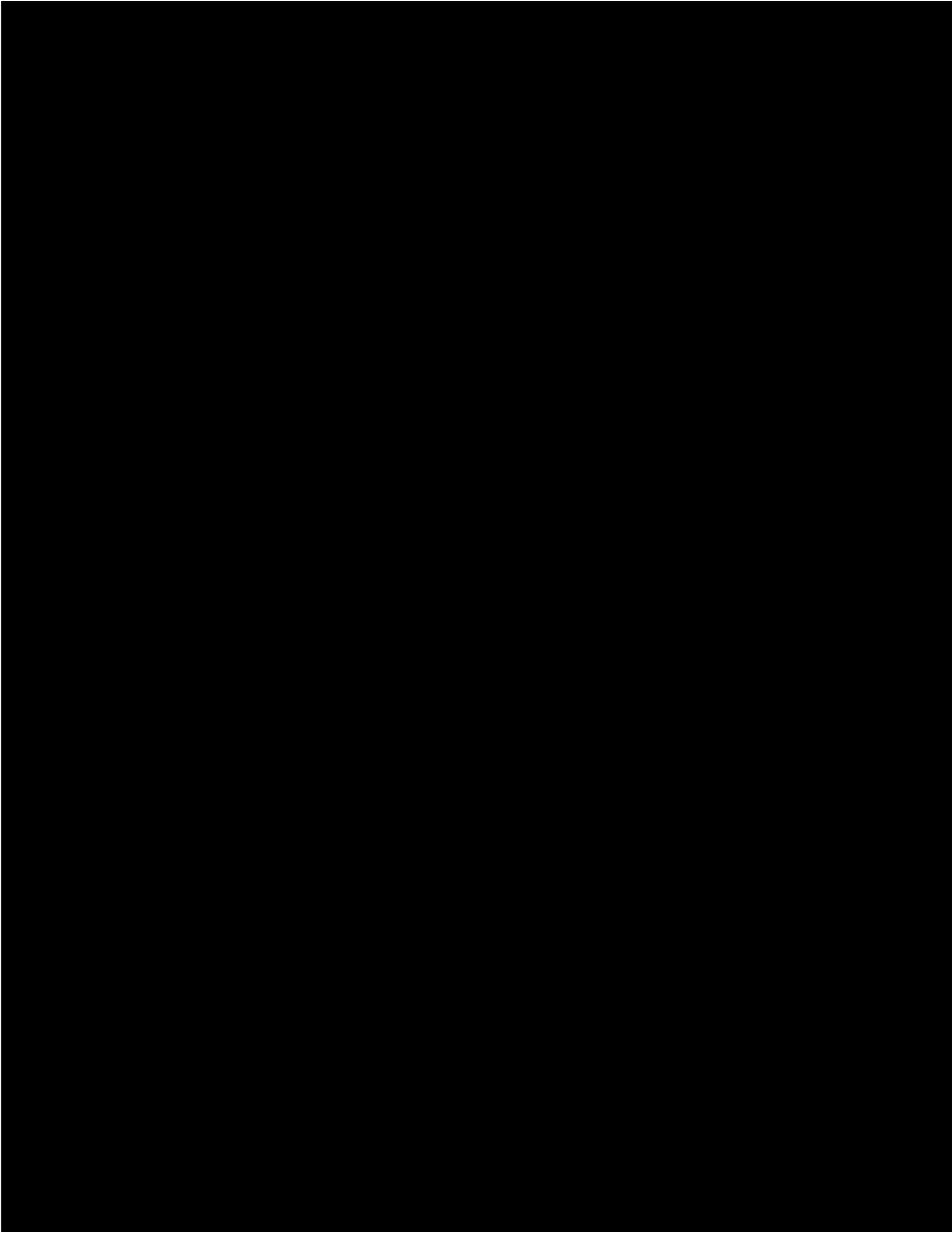
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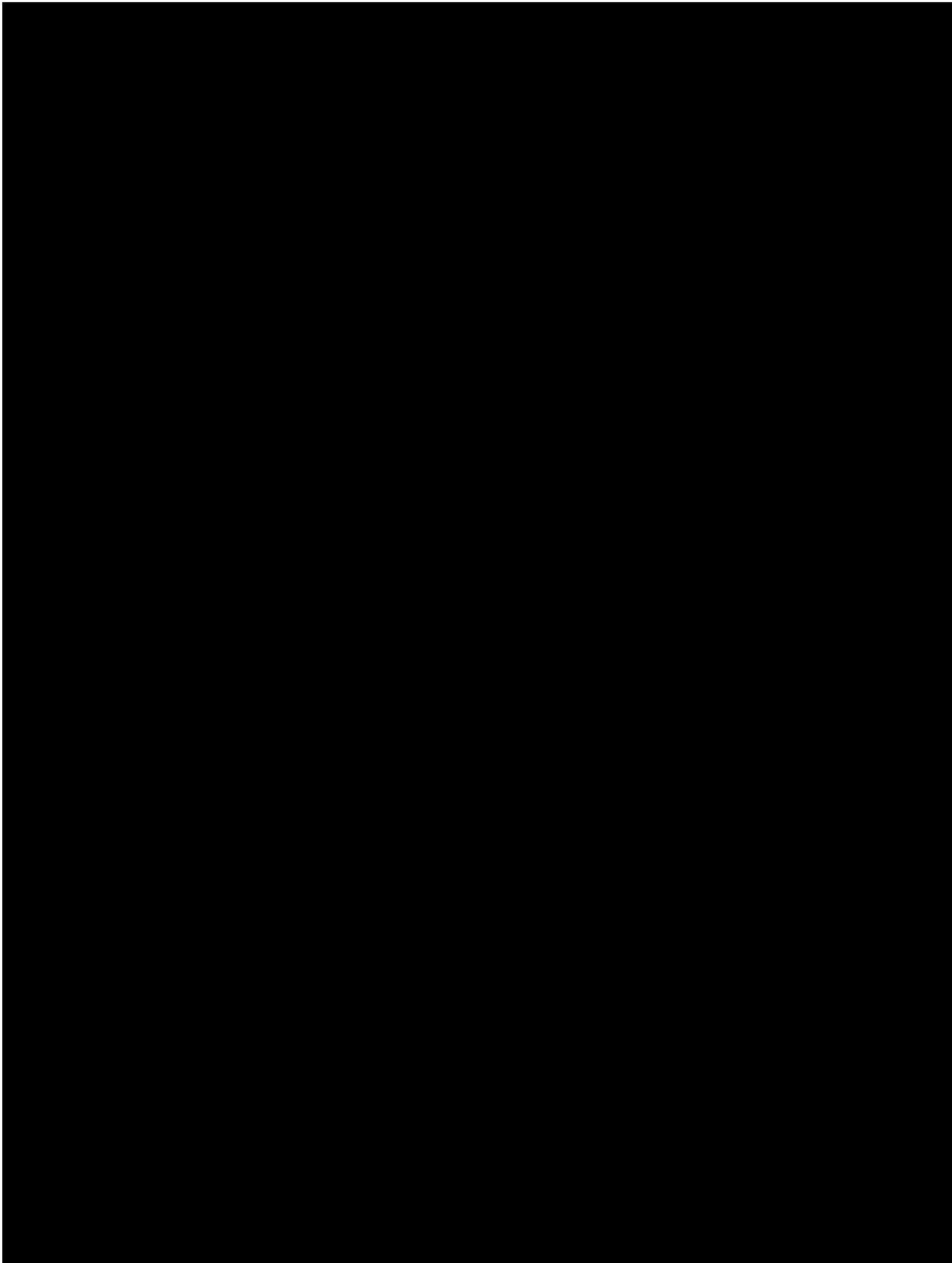
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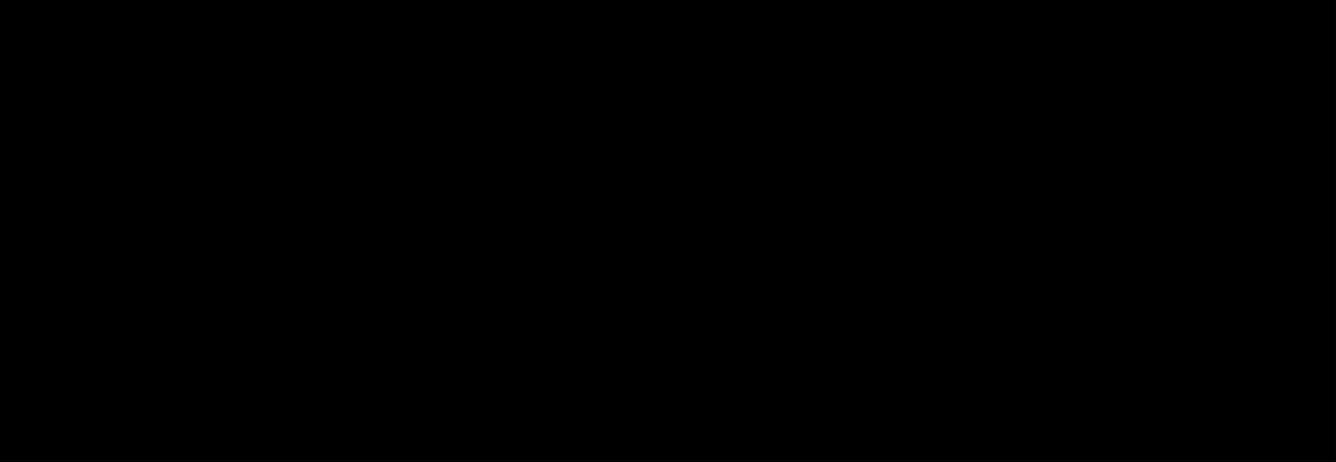
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The finding for this allegation is **not sustained**.

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**ALLEGATION #6**

It was alleged by PSD [REDACTED] that on January 15, 2021, Sgt. Michael Bennett, while on duty, sent a sexually explicit text message to her cell phone which stated, "I am in the mood for pussy m [sic.] big time."

The finding for this allegation is **Sustained**.

**DISCUSSION OF EVIDENCE - ALLEGATION #6**

**Statement of complainant – PSD [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED] stated she received a sexually charged text from Bennett on January 15, 2021.<sup>10</sup> She searched her text messages from Bennett and found the text that was sent at 5:59 pm.<sup>11</sup> Bennett indicated that he was getting Mexican food in Beaumont. Then the next text at 5:59 pm read, "**I am in the mood for pussy m big time.**" The next text at 6:00 pm from Bennett was, "Omgeeeee. That would be sushi... shushi," and a text immediately afterwards was, "Why would that ever correct to fucking pussy? So stupid."

[REDACTED] said that she just sent laughing emojis back to him because she "played stupid when it comes to that." Bennett responded with, "**I guess the phone reads my mind,**" which was the end of that text thread. When discussing how she took that last text which read "I guess the phone reads my mind," [REDACTED] said, "*I thought of it as he meant what he said because, if he would not have sent that, then I would have been like 'Okay that was kind of weird.'*" Since Bennett sent the text, "I guess the phone reads my mind," that indicated to [REDACTED] that Bennett really did not have an issue with his auto-correct feature on his cell phone. [REDACTED] thought they were friends and Bennett had not sent

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<sup>10</sup> In her interview, I asked [REDACTED] specifically if she had received a sexual text from Bennett based solely due to Officer Deussenberry relating to me that Gifford had shown him the text. [REDACTED] did not volunteer this information to me. Also see Investigator Note #4.

<sup>11</sup> See Appendix #6.

1 her any kind of text message like that before. [REDACTED] also noted that Bennett had just  
2 mentioned he was having Mexican food and it did not make sense for him to say he was  
3 "in the mood for sushi."  
4

5 She showed Officer Deussenberry this text that she had received from Bennett, but no  
6 one else. Both of them believed that Bennett should not be texting a female co-worker  
7 this type of text messages.  
8

9 **Statement of witness – Officer Dan Deussenberry:**

10 Approximately 2-months ago, Gifford showed Deussenberry a text message that Bennett  
11 had sent her. The text said something to the effect of, "I really want some pussy right  
12 now" or "I want to eat some pussy right now."<sup>12</sup> Deussenberry recalled that message  
13 seemed to be random or out of the blue, as in there was no conversation before it which  
14 spurred on such a comment. Deussenberry suggested to [REDACTED] that she should save  
15 the text. He asked her if she was going to report the text. [REDACTED] told him that she was  
16 not, but if anyone asked her about it, she was going to say exactly what happened. He  
17 knew that [REDACTED] was uncomfortable with the text, but he could not recall exactly what  
18 [REDACTED] told him about how the text made her feel, other than her telling him, "What the  
19 hell is this?" and "Why is he sending me shit like this?"  
20

21 **Statement of subject employee – Sgt. Michael Bennett:**

22 Bennett stated that he remembered the day when he texted [REDACTED] and his phone did a  
23 "type-o". His phone auto-corrected the word "sushi" and mistakenly inserted "pussy." He  
24 could not recall if he actually typed the message when the auto-correct occurred or if he  
25 used the voice-to-text feature. Because the message contained an extra "m," Bennett  
26 believed that he must have used the talk-to-text feature because it picked up an extra  
27 utterance in his voice. From the content of the prior text messages, he believed that he  
28 was probably with his two Gang Taskforce partners (Det. Castro and Det. Cooley) and  
29 they probably were at "El Charro" restaurant in Beaumont. Bennett could not recall if  
30 they were still driving to the restaurant, if they were in the parking lot, or if they were  
31 seated at a table when he was texting the message. He could not recall if anyone was  
32 around him when the phone made this mistake.  
33

34 Bennett recalled seeing the message that he had just sent to [REDACTED] and being shocked  
35 that the phone actually changed the word "sushi" to "pussy." When it occurred, Bennett  
36 said he did not show anyone his phone's auto-correct mistake. When I asked why he  
37 did not show the auto-correct mistake to his partners, he said, "*I don't show my text*  
38 *messaging to anybody.*" Once he realized the "type-o," he immediately sent [REDACTED] the  
39 next two texts explaining the mishap.  
40

41 Bennett stated that the message, "I guess the phone reads my mind," was sent to  
42 [REDACTED] because he was simply acknowledging the absurdity and humor of the auto-  
43 correct mistake. He said he and [REDACTED] have been friends for a long time and had a  
44 "pretty close" relationship as friends. Bennett said he was trying to be funny; that's why  
45 he also added three laughing emojis after the message. Bennett saw that [REDACTED]

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<sup>12</sup> It should be noted that Deussenberry was interviewed prior to [REDACTED]. Because of this statement by Deussenberry, [REDACTED] was called into this investigation and a new allegation was added.

1 previously wrote three laughing emojis to him and he was responding back to her,  
2 acknowledging how funny it was. He was "making light" of the situation.

3  
4 When questioned again what he meant by "I guess the phone reads my mind," Bennett  
5 acknowledged he should not have sent that message to [REDACTED]. Looking at the text  
6 messages, Bennett thought [REDACTED] was affected by it and viewed the messages as  
7 being inappropriate. When asked if this text message thread with [REDACTED] violated the  
8 Department's harassment policy, Bennett said, "Yes sir, it does."<sup>13</sup>

9  
10 **Document/Video/Audio Review:**

11 Referring to the screen shots [REDACTED] took of her text conversation with Bennett (See  
12 Appendix #6), the full text conversation on the January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 starting at 5:30 pm  
13 was:

14  
15 Bennett [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]  
17 Hi

[REDACTED]  
Hello

18  
19 Lol

20 Can you put 423-424-and me all together  
21 Please. Thank you.

Yes I can do that

22  
23 You are the bestest.

Lol I know

24  
25 Ha, confidence. Love it.

Lol

26  
27 When can we do a mock pursuit for the  
28 trainee.

Not yet please. I'm not ready for that lol.  
Plus we need to make sure we don't have an  
extra person here to help her

29  
30  
31  
32 Lame.

33 We're about to eat right now.

34 We are having Mexican in Beaumont.

35 I am in the mood for pussy m big time.

36 Omgeeeeee. That would be sushi, shushi.

37 Why would that ever correct to fucking  
38 pussy? So stupid.

(three laughing emojis)

39  
40 I guess the phone reads my mind (three  
41 laughing emojis)

Omg Bennett lol

42  
43  
44 In order to verify if Bennett's explanation of how his auto-correct feature changed  
45 "sushi" to "pussy" was credible or plausible, I attempted to recreate the occurrence with  
46 my own cell phone (an iPhone X) talk-to-text feature. I said the word "sushi"

<sup>13</sup> Recording time: 32:28.

1 approximately 20 times, each time trying to pronounce it slightly differently, even mixing  
2 the pronunciation of "sushi" and "pussy." I then tried to purposely slur my speech  
3 attempting to have the talk-to-text feature recognize "sushi" as "pussy." However I was  
4 unsuccessful; the talk-to-text feature wrote out the word "sushi" each time. I then said  
5 the word "pussy" approximately 20 times, each time trying to pronounce it differently  
6 and slurring my speech. The talk-to-text feature recognized it as "pussy" each time. I  
7 also manually typed the word "sushi," misspelling it several times trying to see if the  
8 auto-correct feature would change it to "pussy." I was unsuccessful in all my attempts;  
9 the phone either correctly spelled "sushi" or left it as an unrecognizable word.

10  
11 **INVESTIGATIVE FINDING:**

12 The screen shot of Bennett's text message to [REDACTED] (See Appendix #6) speaks for  
13 itself; there is no ambiguity as to what was sent to [REDACTED]. In the content of the  
14 conversation, Bennett indicates that the word "sushi" was inadvertently changed by the  
15 phone to "pussy." Bennett also stated this explanation in his interview. However, when I  
16 tried to duplicate that auto-correct error, I could not make that happen. That is not to say  
17 the auto-correct explanation for the word "pussy" being sent to [REDACTED] did not occur as  
18 Bennett claimed. The content of the conversation, which was actually sent when the  
19 questionable text was sent, corroborates Bennett's account of why it occurred.

20  
21 In addition, the fact that there is the letter "m" inexplicably inserted in the text seems to  
22 indicate it could have been a voice-to-text feature that was used. The way some cell  
23 phones operate when one is sending a text using the "hands free" feature is that it  
24 interprets the voice message, puts it into a text format and automatically sends it without  
25 the user first reading it. Granted, there are some software that allows the user to first  
26 approve the text before it is sent. Therefore, it is plausible that the message "I'm in the  
27 mood for pussy m big time," could possibly have been generated as Bennett claimed.  
28 There is nothing that indicates Bennett feigned the auto-correct excuse; as in Bennett  
29 only claiming that it was the auto-correction that caused the word "pussy" to be inserted  
30 when he purposely typed it in himself.

31  
32 However, after Bennett explained via texts to [REDACTED] what had happened, he then sent  
33 the message, "I guess the phone reads my mind." [REDACTED] said she was prepared to  
34 accept the oddity of his phone auto-correcting the word "sushi" to "pussy," but that next  
35 text by Bennett made her think that he really wanted to send her that text. That was  
36 objectionable to [REDACTED]. When Bennett was questioned about sending that second  
37 message, he first said he was simply acknowledging the humor of his phone auto-  
38 correcting his message. Bennett believed that because of his good friendship with  
39 [REDACTED] she might have saw the humor in what he sent. But after he looked at the  
40 situation again, Bennett agreed that [REDACTED] took offense at his texts and they were  
41 against the Department's harassment policy.

42  
43 This investigation showed that Bennett's text messages to [REDACTED] on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
44 were inappropriate, not so much the first portion that was possibly caused by his cell  
45 phone's auto-correct feature, but because he sent the subsequent message, "I guess  
46 the phone reads my mind."

47  
48 The finding for this allegation is **sustained**.

1  
2  
3  
4 **ALLEGATION #7**  
5

6 It was alleged by PSD [REDACTED] that on January 27, 2021, Sgt. Michael, while on  
7 duty, sent her an inappropriate text which read, "You look fine as fuck" when referring to  
8 [REDACTED] recent weight loss efforts.

9 The finding for this allegation is **Sustained**.

10  
11 **DISCUSSION OF EVIDENCE - ALLEGATION #7**  
12

13 **Statement of complainant – PSD [REDACTED]**

14 [REDACTED] had a text conversation with Bennett<sup>14</sup> on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (See Appendix  
15 #7).<sup>15</sup> The conversation started at 10:27 pm when both of them were working. After they  
16 had a brief mutual conversation about Cpl. Jauregui using the radio, Bennett texted  
17 Gifford with the messages, "I hear ya," "And I see ya," and "All slim." [REDACTED] said that  
18 "all slim" referred to her being in the process of losing weight. That was why she replied  
19 with "Lol thanks, I'm trying."  
20

21 Then Bennett texted her the following messages:

- 22 - **Well keep going**  
23 - **You look fine as fuck**  
24 - **Lol, don't hold that against me**  
25 - **(two laughing emojis)**  
26 - **Sorry I was completely inappropriate. Please forgive me.**  
27

28 [REDACTED] replied "It's ok thanks, I'll take it," which meant she would accept his apology.  
29 When [REDACTED] received that set of texts from Bennett, she thought of it in two different  
30 ways; on one hand, she thought it as a complement, as in someone noticed she was  
31 trying to lose weight and encouraged her to keep going, but on the other hand, it was  
32 vulgar and a "stereotypically male" thing to say. [REDACTED] did not want to cross that line  
33 with Bennett or get inappropriate with him. [REDACTED] said, "I thought like, 'Hear you go, I  
34 got to ignore him again just so he can stop the text thread.'"  
35

36 However, Bennett then kept the conversation going by texting, "Oh well I'm gonna talk  
37 all kind of shit now...lol," and [REDACTED] responded with, "Lol what why." [REDACTED] took his  
38 text to mean that Bennett was going to be inappropriate with her again.  
39

40 Then Bennett texted, "Because I want too. I held off for far to [sic.] long not being able  
41 to.. lol." [REDACTED] stated she used to date an officer who is no longer working at Banning  
42 PD. [REDACTED] believed that what Bennett meant by this last text was that since she was no  
43 longer dating that officer, Bennett could "make a move" on her and attempt a personal  
44 relationship. [REDACTED] replied, "OMG LoL" (Oh my god) (laugh out loud). Her intent was

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<sup>14</sup> See Investigator Note #4

<sup>15</sup> It should be noted that [REDACTED] only gave me this information after I specifically asked her if she had received any other inappropriate or sexual texts from Bennett, after I questioned her about allegation #6.

1 not to respond to Bennett and continue the conversation. Bennett continued to text, "It's  
2 not funny, this is some serious shit here." ██████ took that to mean that Bennett really  
3 wanted to say those things to her. ██████ replied, "No, it's not serious," trying to tell him  
4 that they both should not cross that line (as in become inappropriate with each other).

5  
6 When ██████ was asked if Bennett should have texted her "You're as fine as fuck" when  
7 talking about her losing weight, ██████ said, "As a sergeant, no. But I also have a  
8 friendship with him as well. I didn't bring any of these things forward because I didn't  
9 really take it as, I mean yeah it's inappropriate, but I didn't take it as hostile." ██████ did  
10 not think of the text as Bennett pressuring her to do something for fear of retaliation.  
11 She thought of him as a friend, but he had not sent her these types of text messages  
12 before. She said, "I guess it's my turn for him to try and be inappropriate towards me to  
13 see if I would take the bait."

14  
15 **Statement of subject employee – Sgt. Michael Bennett:**

16 Bennett stated he recalled this text conversation and he was working at the time. He  
17 confirmed the first part of the conversation ("All slim") was him acknowledging to ██████  
18 that she has been losing weight. Bennett believed that sometime during that same day,  
19 he saw ██████ in the station and it was readily apparent that she had lost weight.  
20 Because she had changed so much since the last time he saw her, Bennett texted her,  
21 "You look fine as fuck," in the text message conversation. Bennett said of that text, "It's  
22 horrible. At the end of the day, it's horrible. But I'm saying it more as an encouragement,  
23 sir." Bennett believed that ██████ understood him and was accustomed to his form of  
24 dialogue believing at the time that she would have taken it as him giving her a  
25 compliment for losing weight. Bennett added, "In hindsight, not good." Bennett  
26 acknowledged it was not appropriate to use that language towards a female co-worker  
27 and it violated the Department's harassment policy.<sup>16</sup>

28  
29 Bennett believed that there was missing "context" or missing messages after ██████  
30 text of, "It's ok thanks, I'll take it." Bennett did not know what he meant by the two  
31 messages, "I'm gonna talk all kind of shit now" and "Because I want to, I held off for far  
32 too long not being able to." Bennett believed there was something missing that could  
33 possibly bring meaning to those messages. Bennett did not recall what those two texts  
34 were referring to or what he meant by them.

35  
36 **Document/Video/Audio Review:**

37 From the screen shot Gifford provided of the Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 text conversation she had  
38 with Bennett (See Appendix #7), the text messages were as follows:

39  
40 Bennett ██████

41 I hear ya.

42 And I see ya.

43 All slim.

44 Lol thanks, I'm trying.

45 Well keep going

46 You look fine as fuck

<sup>16</sup> Recording time 37:18 and 40:42 respectively

1 Lol, don't hold that against me  
2 (two laughing emojis)  
3 Sorry I was completely inappropriate.  
4 Please forgive me

It's ok thanks, I'll take it.

6 Oh well I'm gonna talk all kind of shit now... lol

Lol what why

8 Because I want too. I held off for far to long  
9 not being able to... lol

Omg lol

11 It's not funny, this is some serious shit here

12 Lol

No it's not serious

14

15 **INVESTIGATIVE FINDING:**

16 The screen shot that ██████ provided of their text conversation on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
17 (Appendix #7) is self explanatory. ██████ believed that the message from Bennett  
18 saying, "You look fine as fuck" might have been meant as a compliment, but she also  
19 believed that Bennett should not be using that type of language with her, especially  
20 since he was a Sergeant. Even Bennett said that his use of that language was "horrible"  
21 and violated the Department's harassment policy.

23 Bennett said he did not know what the context was behind the three subsequent  
24 messages he sent, "Oh well I'm gonna talk all kind of shit now," "Because I want too. I  
25 held off for far to long not being able to," and "It's not funny, this is some serious shit  
26 here." He did not know what he meant by them or what they were referring to. Bennett  
27 surmised there could be missing texts before them that might explain the messages.  
28 However, ██████ did not say she deleted any part of any text conversation with Bennett,  
29 as Segovia admitted to in her allegations. ██████ believed those last three text  
30 messages implied that Bennett really did want to say what he said in the prior message  
31 and that he wanted to strike up an intimate relationship with her since she had stopped  
32 dating someone at the time. ██████ did not bring this allegation forward when it  
33 occurred because they were close friends, but she was hoping to ignore him for a while  
34 so he would stop being inappropriate with her. ██████ last statement painted a good  
35 picture into how she felt about the Jan 27<sup>th</sup> text message exchange with Bennett, "*I  
36 guess it's my turn for him to try and be inappropriate towards me to see if I would take  
37 the bait.*" These messages from Bennett were simply unwanted.

39 This investigation has clearly shown the Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 messages that Bennett sent to  
40 ██████ were inappropriate and unwanted.

The finding for this allegation is **sustained**.

43

44

45 **CREDIBILITY OF THE WITNESSES:**

46  
47 All of the witnesses appeared to be up-front and honest. Deusenberry said he respected  
48 Bennett for various reasons, but he also did not sugar coat any of Bennett actions

1 towards [REDACTED] Bennett admitted his wrongdoing when he looked back on  
2 the situation as a whole and gave an apparent heart-felt apology for his actions in his  
3 interview (See Interview Summary – Bennett).  
4

5 However, Bennett's explanation of how the word "sushi" was changed to "pussy" seems  
6 too convenient. Many phones show the text wording prior to it being sent, thus giving  
7 the user an opportunity to change it or cancel the text. Besides, if Bennett used the  
8 voice-to-text feature with his team members present and the auto-correct feature  
9 changed the word as he claimed, the team members more than likely would have heard  
10 the verbiage he used when formulating the text. Then if Bennett discovered the  
11 absolutely absurd auto-correct mistake, a normal conscientious person would have  
12 called attention to the mishap and showed them the mistake to confirm with them that  
13 they heard him say "sushi" instead of "pussy," so as to affirm he had witnesses who  
14 could attest he was not being purposely vulgar towards a co-worker. However,  
15 Bennett's only explanation was that he never showed anyone his texts, which seems  
16 like a weak excuse.  
17

18 There were no other apparent witness credibility issues noted with the other witnesses  
19 interviewed. That is not to say they were all truthful or accurate in their statements, but  
20 there were no clear inconsistencies in their statements, or conflicts with other  
21 statements that might call credibility into question.  
22

### 23 CONCLUSION:

24  
25 It should be noted that both complainants in this investigation did not want the  
26 investigation to commence in the first place; however, when questioned, they were  
27 willing to divulge what they experience with Bennett. The digital evidence (screen shots  
28 of the text messages) could not be refuted. Allegations 1, 6, and 7 clearly occurred and  
29 Bennett acknowledged that he should not have sent the messages.  
30

31 [REDACTED]  
32 [REDACTED]  
33 [REDACTED]  
34 [REDACTED]  
35 [REDACTED]  
36 [REDACTED]  
37 [REDACTED]  
38 [REDACTED]  
39 Bennett taking a photo of [REDACTED] in the report room, apparently highlighting her messy  
40 hair, was in bad taste and Bennett admitted it was not appropriate after looking back at  
41 the situation.  
42

43 Backing other officers on traffic stops and calls for service is a requirement for the safe  
44 operation of police services. It was readily apparent to all the Banning witnesses that  
45 Bennett backed [REDACTED] far more often than them, but Bennett's co-workers on the  
46 Gang Taskforce did not see it that way. Any statistical analysis could not be performed  
47 due to Bennett admitting he did not always call out over the radio to have him placed on

1 the calls when he assisted officers.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, it could not be determined if the number  
2 of times Bennett assisted [REDACTED] was warranted or not.  
3

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<sup>17</sup> As a side note, Bennett should rethink his belief that it is acceptable to *not communicate* with Dispatch when assisting officers on their calls. If nothing else, it could become an officer safety issue.

