

December 16th, 2020

Re: Internal investigation 20-A1 001

On 10/19/2020 I, Chief Brown, was approached by Detective Lewsader informing me that he was investigating an allegation of criminal sexual assault (report #20-0777). A female minor (name to be excluded due to age) was alleged to have had sex with multiple adult males. Detective Lewsader had spoken to the reporting party to the allegations, B [REDACTED]. B [REDACTED] told Lewsader that the minor was having sexual relationships with several adult males. At the conclusion of the interview with B [REDACTED], she told Lewsader that the minor had also been speaking to Phillip Kohlenberg. B [REDACTED] claimed that the minor was communicating with Kohlenberg through Facebook and that the messages between the two were sexual in nature.

After learning of this, Lewsader contacted me and apprised me of the situation. I told Lewsader to continue to conduct the investigation as he normally would and if he discovered any evidence that would substantiate the claim of an inappropriate conversation between Phillip and the minor that he was to immediately let me know.

Later, on the same date, Lewsader made contact with the minor and her parents ([REDACTED] [REDACTED]). Lewsader spoke to them at their residence located at [REDACTED] Street in Paris. While there, Lewsader was granted permission to look through the minor's cell phone. While searching through her phone, Lewsader discovered a conversation through Facebook messenger between Phillip and the minor. The messages began on 4/27/20 and the last seen message occurred on 9/18/20. It appears that the minor first contacted Phillip by wishing him a happy birthday and that message was sent on 4/27/20. The messages would continue over the next several months and become sexual in nature. In one message the minor asks Phillip "R u n ur cop car" where Phillip responds "Yep. Phone ringing nonstop already". The minor responds, "I thought so you were on my ass", and Phillip responds, "Was in a hurry...hope you enjoyed it". The messages also speak of "booty Calls" and using handcuffs. Phillip also asks the minor if she may be able to stop by his house sometime to say hi. It should be noted that Phillip does ask the minor if she still lives at home and whether or not she has any kids. See attached incident Fact Synopsis from Lewsader.

After Lewsader learned of the above mentioned conversation, he contacted me and notified me immediately. After learning of this, I contacted Sergeant Wendy Westfall from the Illinois State Police Zone 5 investigations. I have worked numerous times with Sgt. Westfall. I asked Sgt. Westfall if the zone would investigate this case. Westfall told me that I would need to contact Master Sergeant Chad Dumonceaux and he would make the determination on that.

On 10/21/20, I made contact with Dumonceaux. I apprised Dumonceaux of the situation and he advised me that his team would investigate the case and Dumonceaux requested that I send him the messages between the minor and Phillip which was done via email. I also advised Lewsader to complete a fact synopsis of the incident and email it to Dumonceaux which was also done on 10/21/20.

I would later receive a call from ISP Zone 5 Investigator, John Haley. Haley advised me that he would be the lead investigator on the case. During the week of 10/25/20, Haley informed me that he and his Sergeant planned on conducting an interview with Phillip at his home. The interview was conducted on 10/28/20. After the interview, I served Phillip a notice of paid investigatory suspension (see attached).

Haley informed me that during the interview with Phillip on 10/28/20, he was very cooperative. Phillip did not deny speaking to the minor. Phillip acknowledged the messages mentioned earlier in this report occurred between him and the minor. Phillip claimed that he did not know the minor to be only 16 years of age. Phillip told the investigators that he only learned of the minor's age after he observed the report that was on file with our department (Case #20-0777). After realizing this, he blocked her from Facebook, according to Phillip. Haley requested Phillip release his cell phone to them so they could conduct forensic search of the phone. Phillip granted them permission to conduct the search and released his cell phone to them.

After the interview, Haley told me that they would continue to conduct the investigation and that he would reach out to me at a later date.

During the week of 11/01/20, I was advised by Lewsader that newly appointed Paris Police Officer Jeffery Martin had a discussion with Phillip about the minor prior to Martin leaving for the academy in June, 2020. I was told that Martin had discussed the age of the minor with Phillip at that time.

On 11/09/20, I conducted an interview with Martin at the police department in my office. I asked Martin if he ever had a conversation with Phillip in reference to the minor. Martin told me that while he was on Phillip's shift, prior to leaving for the police academy, he had a conversation with Phillip about the minor specifically. Martin said that he and Phillip were patrolling near the area of Lakeside Terrace when Phillip had pulled over and stopped the squad car. After pulling over, Phillip appeared to have been texting or messaging someone on his phone. Phillip then asked Martin if he knew the minor in question. Martin responded "Yeah I know her, why." Phillip then told Martin that the two had been messaging each other. According to Martin, he told Phillip that the minor was only 15 or 16 years old. Phillip responded by saying "No way". Martin then told Phillip he knew the minor to only be 15 or 16 years old because Martin was once good friends with the minor's brother. Martin claimed he told Phillip approximately 3 times of her age and Phillip responded by saying he would block her from his phone after the third time he was told. Martin would also tell me that ISP had conducted an interview with him prior to me speaking to him.

During the course of my internal investigation, I was told by an employee of the police department that a dispatcher, whom often worked with Phillip, had concerns about working with him in the future. The dispatcher I am referring to is Holly Schwarz.

On 12/07/20, I spoke to Schwarz by way of phone. I asked Schwarz if she had concerns of working with Phillip in the future. Schwarz told me that during her career at the police department, she had worked with Phillip often. Schwarz told me that on numerous occasions Phillip would speak of his sex life. Phillip would often speak of his "whores" to Schwarz unsolicited. Schwarz claimed that often times she would be working alone in the radio room and Phillip would randomly speak of having anal sex with his

“whores”. Schwarz stated that Phillip would constantly degrade women in front of her and at times she would tell Phillip that she did not wish to hear it. She would also remind Phillip that he had a daughter and questioned how he could talk about women like he did. I asked Schwarz if she would be willing to submit a statement to me describing the comments that Phillip would make. She agreed and provided me the attached statement.

On 12/07/20, I spoke to ISP investigator Haley requesting an update on the investigation. Haley informed me that they had conducted another interview with Phillip and that this interview occurred at his office. I am not certain of the date this interview took place. I have yet to receive the completed report from Haley. During this interview, they asked Phillip whether or not he had ever spoken to anyone in reference to the minor. Phillip disclosed to them that he had spoken to Jeffery Martin about the minor. According to Haley, Phillip said that Jeffery only told him the minor was young and did not tell him how old she was. Haley told me the interview lasted approximately 3 hours but did not yield any other evidence.

Haley also told me that they had collected over 6,000 pages of Facebook information from Phillips phone and upon inspection they did not see any other conversation that occurred between Phillip and the minor. Haley also told me that there was no evidence to suggest that Phillip and the minor had ever met up or engaged in a sexual relationship. Haley also told me that Phillip appeared to be truthful in both interviews.

Haley presented the case to the appellate prosecutor and was advised that she would not be seeking any charges on Phillip and that the messages did not meet her burden of a crime.

On 12/14/20, I had a meeting with Phillip. This occurred at Phillip’s residence. Phillip made statements to me that he understood his actions were careless when it came to the minor and that his life has been in a downward spiral since his divorce. Phillip maintained to me that he did not know the minor’s age and that he would never seek out an underage individual to have any type of relationship with. I told Phillip that he was a police officer and that as police, we are held to a higher standard. I also told him that his actions do not reflect well on the department or the City of Paris. I also told Phillip that there was an allegation of sexual harassment due to his constant talk of sex while at work. Phillip told me that he would often engage in sexual talk when others would speak about it. I told Phillip it was alleged to have occurred often when it was only him and a dispatcher together alone in the same room. Phillip acknowledged he needed to change his behavior and that as a supervisor he should have never behaved in the way that he did. I informed Phillip that I would conclude my investigation soon and would be contacting him in the near future.

Several Paris Police Department policy violations have occurred with these two incidents relating to the sexual harassment policy and the ethics policy. Not only has Phillip’s actions diminished the trust of the public but his actions have also diminished the trust of his fellow co-workers especially with Phillip being a supervisor with the Paris Police Department.

I am requesting that Phillip Kohlenberg be demoted from the ranks of a sergeant and be placed back into the patrol division as a patrolman. I am also requesting that Phillip receive a five day unpaid suspension.

Respectfully Submitted

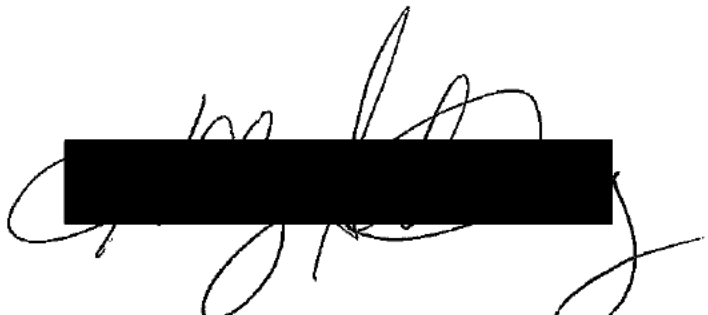
Chief of Police

On 01/19/21, I received a call from appellate prosecutor Kate Kurtz, advising that no charges would be brought against Phillip Kohlenberg. I had previously been advised of this by Detective Haley but did not receive official notification until Kurtz called and advised me of such.

Chief Brown

12/11/20

My name is Holly Schwarz and I am a dispatcher for the Paris Police Department. For the past year or so I have worked on Phillip Kohlenberg's shift. During this time Phillip has brought up his social life several times. Phillip would sit up in the dispatch room on multiple occasions. A majority of the time there would be no other officers in the dispatch room. He would sit at the back computer and more times that not he would be on his cell phone. Phillip would sit there and just start talking about the woman/women he was talking to at the time. He never called any of these women by their names when he spoke of them. Phillip identified all them as "whores". Phillip never had anything positive or nice to say about these women he was talking with. Some of the comments Phillip had made while sitting in the dispatch room are "I wonder what this whore will do", "I wonder if this whore is into anal", "My pull out game is on point", "There are all kinds of whores on these dating sites and they are only looking for dick and I can give them that", "I am talking to two whores and I hope I can keep the conversation going with at least one of them till the weekend". There was a time when there was a female subject on station and after she had left, Phillip stated "I would tap that". He has made the same statement after being out on a call or stop and there was a female involved. Phillip had talked about this woman he was seeing. He never mentioned her name. It was maybe a couple of weeks or so later after he had first talked about this female, Phillip was talking about how he was trying to "hook up" with another woman and this other woman was friends with the one he had been seeing. Then all he did was put down this female, "she is too plain", "she doesn't have her finances in order", "she doesn't discipline her kids correctly". Then came "I will keep her around for when I need some ass". One time Phillip tried to show my a picture of a woman that he found on a dating site he was talking too. I told him I did not want to see the picture and was not interested in knowing about the women he talked too. I cannot think of a time where I have heard Phillip say anything nice about a woman. Phillip was always degrading them. When Phillip would talk about his "whores", I would tell him I have heard enough and he would stop talking about them. There were times I did not pay attention to him talking and when he realized it he would stop talking. There were times where I told Phillip he should not speak about women that way it is not appropriate. This did not occur every night we worked. If it was a three day work week it happened at least one night and if it was a four night work week it happened at least two nights. I personally do not feel comfortable working with or around Phillip. I feel Phillip has no respect for or towards women.


[Redacted Signature]
12-11-20

IN THE MATTER OF PHILLIP KOHLENBERG

FINDINGS AND DISPOSITION

Now comes the City of Paris Police Commission for a hearing on the Petition presented by Police Chief Eric Brown and Proposed Agreed Disposition presented by Chief Brown and Sergeant Phillip Kohlenberg. The City of Paris Police Commission does hereby render the follow findings and decision:

Findings:

- 1) Police Chief Eric Brown and Sergeant Phillip Kohlenberg have entered into an agreement whereby Phillip Kohlenberg will agree to accept fived (5) days off without pay beginning the 3 day of February 2021 and thereafter be reassigned to position of Patrol officer with the City of Paris.
- 2) After being fully advised in the premises therein and having given due consideration, the agreement should receive the a approval of the Board.

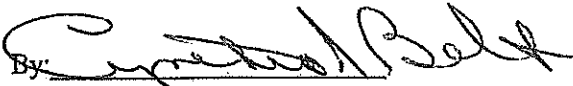
Decision:

After consideration of the Stipulation and Proposed Agreed Disposition presented by Eric Brown, Chief of Police and Phillip Kohlenberg, the Commission directs that Phillip Kohlenberg will serve five (5) days off without pay beginning on the 3 day of

February 2021 and on the sixth day be reassigned to the position of
Patrolman for the City of Paris.

Dated this 2 day of February, 2021.

City of Paris Police Commissioners

By 
Cynthia S. Belt, Secretary

IN THE MATTER OF PHILLIP KOHLENBERG

PROPOSED AGREED DISPOSITION

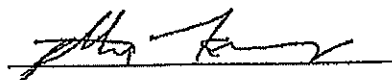
Now comes Phillip Kohlenberg and Paris Police Chief Eric Brown and present a Proposed Agreed Disposition to the Paris Police Commission.

WHEREAS, Paris Police Chief Eric Brown has field a Petition with the Board of Police Commissioners of Paris, Il., pursuant to the Rules of the commission, involving Sergeant Philip Kohlenberg; and

WHEREAS, Chief Eric Brown and Sergeant Phillip Kohlenberg have considered the matter and determined an agreed disposition is most appropriate considering all the circumstances in which Phillip Kohlenberg will agree to receive five (5) days off without pay and after that be reassigned to Patrol Officer the City of Paris.,

The parties come together and recommend to the Paris Police Commission that the agreement presented be approved in that Phillip Kohlenberg will agree to five (5) days off without pay and, immediately thereafter, on the sixth day be assigned to the position of Patrol Officer for the City of Paris.


Police Chief Eric Brown

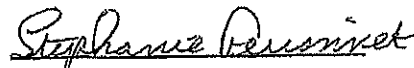

Phillip Kohlenberg

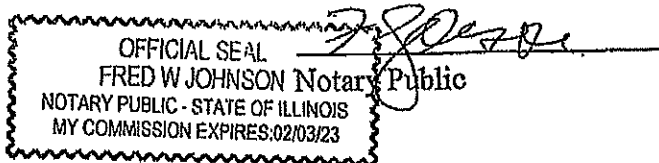
Subscribed and sworn to before me

2-2-2021,
2021.

Subscribed and sworn to before me

February 2,
2021.


Notary Public



WAIVER OF NOTICE AND CONSENT TO PROCEEDING

I, PHILLIP KOHLENBERG, hereby waive the requirement of notice as required in the Rules and Regulation of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners for the City of Paris, and consent to the matter being resolved by the Commissioners based upon the written Proposed Agreed Disposition and the submitted Finding and Disposition.

DATED this 2 day of February, 2020.

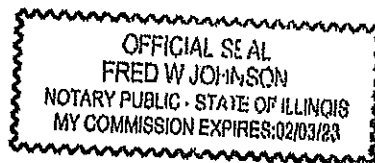


Phillip Kohlenberg

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2 day of February, 2021.



Notary Public



IN THE MATTER OF PHILLIP KOHLENBERG

PETITION

Now comes Police Chief Eric Brown, in accordance with the rules of the city of Paris Police Commission, and Petitions the Commission to approve the reassignment of Phillip Kohlenberg from Sergeant to Patrol Officer and in support thereof states as follows:

Phillip Kohlenberg has entered into an agreement subject to approval by the Board to be reassigned to the position to Patrol Officer and further agrees to accept five (5) days off without pay prior to his reassignment as a Patrol Officer.

WHEREFORE, Police Chief Eric Brown requests the Paris Police Commission approve and adopt said agreement as the Order of the Commission.

Eric J. Brown
Police Chief Eric Brown

Subscribed and sworn to before me

2-2-21, 2021.

Stephanie Peironnet
Notary Public

