



## *News Release*

### **Dallas Police Department**

**Police Media Relations Unit**

**Phone: 214-671-4065**

**[pio@dpd.dallascityhall.com](mailto:pio@dpd.dallascityhall.com) / [www.DPDBeat.com](http://www.DPDBeat.com)**

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#### **Chief David O. Brown Disciplines Officers**

Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown disciplined the following officers during hearings this afternoon.

1. Senior Corporal Doreen Sotelo-Celedon was involved in the following incident:

On January 24, 2015, at approximately 2:00 a.m., Senior Corporal Sotelo-Celedon was stop by a Cedar Hill police officer for a traffic violation. Senior Corporal Sotelo-Celedon was subsequently arrested for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). A blood draw was conducted which subsequently resulted in Senior Corporal Sotelo-Celedon being charged with DWI. An Internal Affairs investigation concluded that Senior Corporal Sotelo-Celedon drove a vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

Senior Corporal Sotelo-Celedon was XXXXXXXXXX for her actions. She was hired in July 1991 and was assigned to South Central Patrol Division.

2. Sergeant Frederick Mears, #8602, was involved in the following incident:

On April 16, 2014, Sergeant Mears and three subordinate officers responded to a Suspicious Person call in the 3000 block of State Street, where they came in contact with several male juveniles who initially evaded officers. One of the officers apprehended and placed under arrest one of the male juveniles. While attempting to identify the male, the officer and the male became involved in a verbal confrontation. Following their verbal confrontation, the officer removed his badge, his duty belt, and then instructed another officer to remove the male's handcuffs. Sergeant Mears could be seen on the Digital Video Recorder standing at the front driver's side fender bumper of his police vehicle which was close proximity of the officer and the male during their verbal confrontation. The video also revealed that Sergeant Mears was an active participant in the verbal exchange. However, Sergeant Mears stated he did not observe the officer take his belt off, nor did he hear any officer make a comment regarding removing the male's handcuffs.

An Internal Affairs investigation concluded that Sergeant Mears failed to take proper action as a supervisor when he observed several departmental violations and did not report them in a timely manner. The investigation also concluded that Sergeant Mears was untruthful in a police related investigation.

Sergeant Mears was XXXXXXXX for his actions. He was hired in July 2004 and is assigned to the Central Patrol Division.

3. Police Officer Aaron Tolerton, #9711, was involved in the following incident:

On March 28, 2015, at approximately 11:15 p.m., Officer Tolerton, who was off-duty and dressed in civilian clothes, drove his personal vehicle to 5005 Galleria Drive in an effort to speak with his ex-girlfriend. The ex-girlfriend and her current boyfriend were walking to their apartment from the parking garage when Officer Tolerton blocked their path. The current boyfriend stated that Officer Tolerton exited his vehicle with his badge clipped to his pants and pointed a gun at him. This was observed by a separate witness.

Farmers Branch police responded to the scene, and Officer Tolerton denied to the officers ever pointing his weapon at the current boyfriend. Officer Tolerton later admitted to the Internal Affairs Division that he was not truthful to the Farmers Branch officers during their criminal investigation. It was also discovered that Officer Tolerton was carrying a secondary weapon that he was not qualified to carry.

On March 29, 2015, Officer Tolerton was issued a warrant by Farmers Branch Police Department for Aggravated Assault W/ Deadly Weapon, F/V. On March 30, 2015, Officer Tolerton voluntarily turned himself in to the Farmers Branch Police Department.

An Internal Affairs investigation concluded that Officer Tolerton engaged in adverse conduct when he displayed a firearm in an alarming manner while off-duty, became involved in an incident which resulted in a police response, and was untruthful to the Farmers Branch Police Department during their criminal investigation. The investigation also concluded that Officer Tolerton carried a secondary weapon he was not qualified to carry.

Police Officer Tolerton was XXXXXXXXXX for his actions. He was hired in January 2009 and was assigned to Southeast Patrol Division.

4. Sergeant Jorge Guzman, #7826, was involved in the following incidents:

Sergeant Jorge Guzman became the supervisor over the Explorer program in April 2013. The complainant entered the Explorer Program on December 3, 2012. Shortly after entering the Explorer program, the complainant began having issues at home and school and went to Sergeant Guzman for advice. At this time, Sergeant Guzman and the complainant began communicating via phone calls and texting.

In December 2013, after turning eighteen, the complainant stated she and Sergeant Guzman became involved in an inappropriate relationship. After being invited to the complainant's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party, Sergeant Guzman began visiting the complainant at her residence. During these visits, Sergeant Guzman would watch movies with the complainant while sitting on the couch under a blanket. Some of these visits would last into the late hours and Sergeant Guzman would have to be asked to leave by the complainant's parents. Sergeant Guzman would transport the complainant back and forth between school, police headquarters, his apartment, and her residence.

During their inappropriate relationship, the complainant stated Sergeant Guzman told her, "If anything goes out of here, you will not be in the program." The complainant took this as a threat, and because she loved the program, she did not say anything. At his request, the complainant sent Sergeant Guzman several nude pictures of herself to his private email. When Sergeant Guzman found out the complainant's mother filed a complaint, he told the complainant to delete every picture and text message.

Sergeant Guzman admitted to speaking regularly to the complainant two to three times a week by cellphone calls or texts. He also admitted that he transported her by himself in his personal and city assigned squad car on multiple occasions in violation of departmental directives and that he visited her off-duty at her home on numerous occasions, stayed to watch movies where he often left at late hours, and attended her 18th birthday party.

On April 21, 2014, Sergeant Guzman was given an order by his supervisor to discontinue contact with the complainant, and to contact his supervisor if the complainant attempted to contact him. On October 16, 2014, Sergeant Guzman stated he received a call from an anonymous number. When he realized it was the complainant, Sergeant Guzman called her back twice. Sergeant Guzman notified his attorney, but failed to notify his supervisor of the communication.

In a separate incident on May 2014, Sergeant Guzman used his police identification card to influence an employee at a TABC licenses establishment to allow eight to ten underage kids inside the establishment to play volleyball. Sergeant Guzman would also go paintballing with the Explorers and on occasions would have Explorers visit him at his residence to play video games. On at least one occasion, the Explorers stayed overnight at Sergeant Guzman's apartment. Sergeant Guzman had not received permission from his chain of command, nor were there any other advisors present, which is a direct violation of departmental policy.

During the course of the Internal Affairs investigation, the following rule violations were also observed:

Between April 2013 and May 2014, Sergeant Guzman was assigned a marked police vehicle. During this period, Sergeant Guzman only signed on to the Mobile Digital Computer eight times.

On May 1, 2014, Sergeant Guzman moved to an apartment in Dallas as a "courtesy officer" where he currently resides. On multiple occasions, Sergeant Guzman failed to submit the required form requesting permission for outside employment.

The Internal Affairs investigation concluded that Sergeant Guzman engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a Dallas Police Explorer, failed to follow a direct order of a supervisor, and fraternized with Dallas Police Explorers outside of authorized Explorer activities. The investigation also concluded that Sergeant Guzman only logged into his Mobile Digital Computer eight times while on-duty between April 10, 2013 and May 21, 2014, and that he failed to follow off-duty employment policy.

Sergeant Guzman was XXXXXX for his actions. He was hired in September 1999 and was assigned to Central Patrol Division.

5. Sergeant Jason Scoggins, #7814, was involved in the following incidents:

On September 28, 2014, Sergeant Scoggins was dispatched to a call regarding a Disturbance Active Shooter in a Vehicle in the 4800 block Live Oak Street. A short time later, Sergeant Scoggins located a possible suspect vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. The vehicle fled the location and a brief pursuit ensued. During the Internal Affairs investigation, Sergeant Scoggins stated that his Digital Video Recorder was full and that his supervisory responsibilities took the majority of his shift. His statement was not consistent with the Automatic Vehicle Locator and recorded mileage on his vehicle checkout sheet.

The Internal Affairs investigation concluded that Sergeant Scoggins failed to follow established procedure when he did not upload his Digital Video Recording equipment at the beginning of his shift. The investigation also revealed Sergeant Scoggins violated the Emergency Vehicle Operations Policy and provided written inconsistent, conflicting and/or misleading information in his internal statement.

In a separate incident on March 2, 2014, Sergeant Scoggins responded to a call involving a wrong way driver on East R. L. Thornton Freeway (I-30). Sergeant Scoggins activated his emergency equipment to respond to the call, reaching speeds up to 50 miles per hour in 30 miles per hour zone and 95 miles per hour in 60 miles per hour zone.

At the scene, Sergeant Scoggins traveled eastbound in the westbound lanes of I-30 behind the wrong way driver. Sergeant Scoggins continued to travel eastbound in the westbound lanes of I-30 for approximately 5 minutes. Sergeant Scoggins stated that his vehicle was obstructed by another officer's vehicle; therefore, he

was unable to safely exit the freeway. His Digital Video Recorder revealed no obstruction and that he had several opportunities to exit I-30, but failed to do so.

Once the wrong way driver came to a stop, a felony traffic stop was conducted. In an internal statement, Sergeant Scoggins stated the wrong way driver failed to comply with the verbal commands, resulting in Sergeant Scoggins pushing the driver and grabbing the driver's arm. His statement does not parallel with the Digital Video Recorder.

An Internal Affairs investigation concluded that Sergeant Scoggins exhibited unacceptable conduct when he operated his police vehicle in an unsafe manner, which endangered his safety and others, and he violated the Digital Video Recorder policy. The investigation also revealed Sergeant Scoggins was untruthful in a police related investigation, he failed to complete a Blue Team Use of Force Report before the end of his tour of duty, and he used inappropriate force against a citizen.

Sergeant Scoggins was XXXXXXXX for his actions. He was hired in September 1999 and is assigned to the North Central Patrol Division.

6. Police Officer Daniel Razo, #9702, was involved in the following incidents:

On September 5, 2014, a woman filed a complaint against Officer Daniel Razo. The complainant alleged she became involved in a sexual relationship with Officer Razo and that Officer Razo gave her information on Vice "round-ups." The complainant stated she and Officer Razo met in April 2012, while Officer Razo was on a prostitution call. Officer Razo was aware the complainant was a known prostitute. Officer Razo gave the complainant his personal cell phone number and shortly thereafter, Officer Razo began texting her. During the relationship, Officer Razo disclosed to the complainant several times when Vice operations would take place, the identities of the undercover officers, the descriptions of the vehicles driven by the officers and their locations. Officer Razo would warn her when "prostitutions stings" would take place so she could avoid being arrested. The complainant would then pass this information along to her circle of friends who were also prostitutes. Telephone and text message records indicated that Officer Razo and the complainant were involved in an intimate relationship for an extensive period. Officer Razo admitted to these actions. Officer Razo also admitted to taking the complainant to her place of residence while on duty in his police vehicle.

An Internal Affairs investigation concluded that Officer Razo associated with a person of immoral character, provided law enforcement sensitive information to an unauthorized person and used City equipment for a purpose other than departmental or City business.

In a separate incident on July 8, 2014, Officer Razo's ex-wife was at the home of a friend when Officer Razo arrived at that location and allegedly banged on the door and threatened to shoot the dogs in the front yard. The homeowner called the police; however, Officer Razo left the location before the Ellis County Sheriff's Deputies arrived. On a recorded conversation between Officer Razo and his ex-wife, Officer Razo stated that he went to that location to retrieve his ex-wife's wedding ring. The Ellis County Sheriff's Deputies responded to Officer Razo's residence and issued him a criminal trespass warning.

An Internal Affairs investigation concluded that Officer Razo was involved in an incident which resulted in a response by the Ellis County Sheriff's Department.

Officer Razo was XXXXXXXXXX for his actions. He was hired in January 2009 and was assigned to the Southwest Patrol Division.

Under civil service rules, all employees have the right to appeal his discipline.