



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency

CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD-COMPLAINT #175

INVESTIGATOR: Tastery Reed Jr.

DATE OF INCIDENT: March 15, 2023

DATE OF FILING: March 15, 2023

COMPLAINT SUMMARY:

Complainant alleges BPD officer posted sexist and derogatory comments under a Facebook post about a Grafton Police Department officer.

OFFICER(S):

1. Edward Gately

DISTRICT: South Boston (D-4)

ALLEGED VIOLATION OF RULE:

Rule 113- Public Integrity Policy, Canon 8

OPAT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION:

Rule 113- Public Integrity Policy, Canon 8: **Sustained**

Based on all of the evidence presented and reviewed, the CRB voted unanimously (6-0) that the complaint be considered **Sustained** on the alleged violation of BPD Rules and Procedures against Officer Edward Gately. Based on the disciplinary matrix, under Mitigating Penalty for a first violation of this rule, the Civilian Review Board has recommended to the BPD Commissioner that Officer Gately receive an **Oral Reprimand**.

After reviewing the Facebook post, additional online information, and speaking to the officer named in the complaint, Investigator Reed verified that it was Officer Gately who posted the comments on Facebook under the alias Buddy Lighter. Investigator Reed reviewed the following BPD Rule: Rule 113- Public Integrity Policy, Canon 8, which states, “Employees shall conduct their private affairs so as not to reflect unfavorably on the Boston Police Department; or in such a manner as to affect their ability to perform their duties honestly, effectively, fairly, and without impairment.” Officer Gately violated this



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department rule by posting derogatory comments on the Grafton Police Department’s Facebook page regarding an officer of that department.

INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

1. Grafton Police Department Facebook post	2. Officer Gately’s Facebook profile (Buddy Lighter)
3. Audio recording of interview of Officer Gately	

Case Summary:

On March 15, 2022, the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) received an allegation from the “Complainant” who alleged police misconduct of a Boston Police Department employee, Officer Edward Gately. The Complainant alleged that the Grafton Police Department was promoting a Women’s History month post to celebrate women Officers. They placed a biography of a new female Officer on their Facebook page along with some of the Officer’s recent achievements. The Complainant alleges that Officer Gately, aka "Buddy Lighter" on Facebook, posted comments that were sexist and derogatory about the Officer.

Interview Summary:

On March 20, 2023, Investigator Reed called the Complainant who alleged that Officer Gately was going back and forth with another individual on the Facebook post. The Complainant stated that the comments were embarrassing and disturbing and that the Boston Police Department would not condone that type of behavior on social media from any employee of their police department. The Complainant added that they are a Police Officer themselves for a nearby town. The Complainant alleged that they knew “Buddy Lighter” to be a BPD Officer named Edward Gately, and that at the time of posting, his profile had a picture of the City of Worcester Police Department.



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Document/Video/Other Investigation Technique Summary:

On June 28, 2023, at 1:00PM, Investigator Reed, along with OPAT Deputy Director John Steies, conducted an in person interview of BPD Officer Gately who was represented by his Attorney, Ken Anderson. Officer Gately was given his Carney Rights, which he reviewed and signed. Officer Gately admitted that he does operate the “Buddy Lighter” Facebook profile, and did post those responses to the Grafton Police Department’s post. Officer Gately stated that he meant nothing sexist about the comment he posted, but that it was more about the politics of such a promotion. Officer Gately elaborated further about his meaning in his comments he made by saying that such a promotion would never occur so quickly within the Boston Police Department. He said that he received a phone call from someone within the BPD after he made the post telling him to delete the post, which he did. Officer Gately stated that he never had any social media training and is not aware of one that BPD provides. When asked to elaborate about his meaning about “juice” in his post, Officer Gately explained that he meant that the Officer could know someone who works for the Grafton Police Department, whether family member or other government officials, that allowed them to gain a quick promotion within the department.

Grafton Police Department - Massachusetts's Post

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23h · 🌐

Part 5 of our series introducing you to some of our newer team members and coinciding with Womens History Month, brings us to Officer Anna Padgett. Officer Padgett, who was born and raised in Grafton, completed her recruit training at MPTC Boylston, graduating in May of 2022. She crushed our Field Training Program, surpassing all program milestones, which allowed her to finish early and hit the streets solo in just 12 weeks. Ofc Padgett is a certified Sexual Assault Investigator, a co-founder of the Departments first Youth Mentorship Program and a certified RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) instructor. Prior to becoming a police officer, Ofc Padgett was a full-time E911 Dispatcher here at GPD. When not serving and protecting her hometown, Anna and her partner are training their 6-month-old Sheppard/Husky mix, Ghost, to be a search and rescue dog. Even though many of you may already know her, please join us in welcoming her to the team and wishing her a long and safe career! #womeninpolicing #WomensHistoryMonth

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Buddy Lighter

Wow less than a year from graduating she did more than the rest of the Department Police Officers....I'm sure everything is on the level

Like Reply 19h



Kelley Ann
Buddy Lighter ?

Like Reply 19h



Buddy Lighter

Kelley Ann She got on in 2022 yet is in a specialized unit??? Hmm??? I'm sure she earned it

Like Reply 19h Edited



Kelley Ann

I see you are also a police officer . Thankyou for your service and for welcoming new officers like Anna padgett to the force

Like Reply 18h



Buddy Lighter

Kelley Ann I'm glad you think that how getting to Specialized Jobs work but that's not reality

Like Reply 18h



Buddy Lighter

Kelley Ann she's a rookie officer with "Juice" cause there's many officers that want specialized jobs but don't get them and it literally has nothing to do with "Showing Initiative"

Like Reply 18h

