



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 15, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

Bryan Hill
County Executive

Tom Arnold
Deputy County Executive for Safety and Security

FROM: Eric W. Dugger
Independent Police Auditor

SUBJECT: Disposition of Independent Police Auditor Review of Complaint: IPA-23-05

This Summary Memo documents my review of the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) investigation into a complaint of an FCPD officer's use of less-lethal force.

Complaint: A man was arrested by FCPD officers in Reston on April 5, 2023, and immediately complained of shoulder pain. The FCPD conducted an administrative investigation into the complaint and notified the Office of the Independent Police Auditor of the complaint in May 2023.

Summary of Incident: On April 5, 2023, an FCPD officer observed a male walking on a sidewalk on Glade Drive near Albot Road in Reston. The officer documented that the individual appeared to be staggering and had urinated on himself. The officer recognized him from a previous neighborhood incident. Upon approaching the individual, the officer noted signs of intoxication including slurred speech, instability, and the odor of alcohol.

The officer informed the individual that he was under arrest and instructed him to turn around to be handcuffed. After one cuff was secured, the man attempted to pull away. The officer brought him to the ground while attempting to secure the second cuff, but the man continued to resist. The officer maintained control until a second officer arrived, and together they completed handcuffing. When the individual complained of left shoulder pain during the search, the officer requested Fairfax County Fire and Rescue to assess him. He was transported to a hospital by ambulance, where he was issued a summons for Public Intoxication.

Observations: I reviewed the officer's incident report and all available body-worn camera (BWC) footage. The officer remained professional throughout the interaction with the individual, despite the individual repeatedly directing profanity toward him. The individual resisted the officer's attempt to place him under arrest, prompting the officer to use minimal force to gain control and bring him to the ground. After the second officer arrived, they were able to secure the individual's left arm and complete the handcuffing. The officers moved the man to a seated position, where the individual complained of shoulder pain. The officers then promptly requested medical evaluation. The primary officer also directed another officer to request a supervisor respond to the hospital due to the use of less-lethal force.

At the hospital, a responding FCPD Lieutenant interviewed the individual. The man claimed a pre-existing shoulder injury was aggravated during the arrest and asserted that he had not been informed of the arrest and had not resisted. Review of the BWC footage clearly contradicts these claims: the officer explicitly informed the man he was under arrest, and the man resisted until the second officer assisted in completing the handcuffing.

Conclusions: The IAB investigation exonerated the officer of violating FCPD Regulation 201.1 (Knowledge and Obedience to Laws, Regulations, and Training)¹ as it relates to General Order 002, Section VII (Investigative Stops, Frisks, and Searches Beyond the Person)² and General Order 540, Section VI (Less-Lethal Force Options)³.

My review supports the FCPD's determination that the officer was exonerated and concludes the IAB investigation was complete, thorough, accurate, objective, and impartial.

¹ Regulation 201 General Responsibilities, effective September 5, 2022.

² G.O. 002 Human Relations, effective July 9, 2021.

³ G.O. 540 Use of Force, effective August 12, 2022.