

Town of



Normal

TO: Officer Amanda Street

NOTICE of TERMINATION

You are notified that based on the information contained in I21-02, an internal investigation completed by Lieutenant Edmiaston, I find that there is just cause to support your dismissal from employment as a police officer with the Town of Normal. The reason for the dismissal is set forth in the Report of Recommended Disciplinary Action, which is attached here to and incorporated by reference.

You are notified that per section 5.6 of the collective bargaining agreement you shall have three (3) calendar days, from the date of issuance to appeal the dismissal to the City Manager. You will be placed on paid administrative leave pending the City Managers ruling on this personnel action or until the time limit has expired with no written appeal.

Served this 24th of May, 2021 by Chief Rick Bleichner



Rick Bleichner  
Chief of Police  
Town of Normal

*"Committed to Service Excellence"*

# Normal Police Department

## Recommendation for Disciplinary Action

**Employee Name:** Amanda Street  
**Employee ID#:** 7231  
**Division:** CID  
**Shift:** 5  
**Supervisor:** Lt. Tim Edmiaston  
**Date of Incident:** April 2, 2021

### Action Recommended:

Termination

### Statement of Facts Regarding Misconduct:

On April 2, 2021 Amanda Street was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol by the McLean County Sheriff's Department. She refused to provide a breath sample and a search warrant was sought and granted. After being compelled to provide a breath sample by the warrant, she submitted to testing. Her blood alcohol content was 0.148. During the formal administrative investigation, Officer Street was found to have committed several directive violations.

### Supervisory Summary:

On April 2, 2021 at approximately 1:22am Amanda Street was driving off duty and was stopped by McLean County Deputy Adrian Walden-Ortiz for disobeying a stop sign and improper lane usage. During the stop and his initial contact with Amanda, Deputy Ortiz asked Amanda how much she had to drink. Her response was "Do you know who I am?". He told her he did. He asked if she had her gun on her and she said, "it's over there" (she later told him it was on the passenger seat in her purse, and it was recovered after she was arrested during an inventory of her vehicle).

Deputy Ortiz asked Amanda to perform Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST's) and she complied. During SFST's Deputy Ortiz noticed several indicators of impairment and asked Amanda to submit to a Portable Breath Test (PBT). She refused. Deputy Ortiz placed Amanda under arrest for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol (DUI) and transported her to the McLean County Sheriff's Office (MCSO).

At the MCSO Amanda refused to provide a breath sample. Deputy Ortiz sought and obtained a search warrant for blood, breath, and urine from Amanda. Amanda complied with the search warrant and after 6 failed attempts due to insufficient sample, she provided a breath sample at 3:30am that was 0.148. Amanda was booked into the county jail for the following charges: DUI, DUI with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) over 0.08, Disregard Stop Sign and Improper Lane Usage. She posted bond and was released.

On April 2, 2021 at approximately 6:25am Amanda notified me that she was arrested for DUI. I told her to stay at home and I would contact her later in the morning. I notified AC Klingele.

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Officer Flood received a photo via text on his department issued cell phone from Amanda at 11:06pm Thursday night (April 1, 2021). At approximately 7:53am, after she was arrested and notified me of the arrest, Amanda sent him a text that said "Please delete and don't share the photo I sent. Please and thank you."

News articles were published by BlnNews, The Pantagraph, centralillinoisproud.com (WMBD), Heart of Illinois ABC, Illinoisnewstoday, WEEK and WJBC. These articles identified Amanda as a Normal Police Officer and School Resource Officer at Normal West Hight School and gave details of her arrest, including her booking photo.

I received and reviewed the MCSO police report (202104038), the in-car dash camera video from Deputy Ortiz's squad car, video recordings of the reading of the search warrant and breath sample, and videos from the jail booking process.

I spoke with MCSO Sgt. Moss, who administered the breathalyzer when Amanda was compelled to submit to a breath test per the terms of the search warrant. Regarding Amanda's 6 failed attempts due to insufficient sample, he said he felt like she was intentionally not blowing hard enough.

I spoke with MCSO Deputy Ortiz and he told me that during the administration of the breath test, even though Amanda said she had COVID, he felt as if she was intentionally not blowing hard enough. After 6 failed attempts he told Amanda that they were going to go to the hospital to get blood and urine. Once outside, he gave Amanda another chance to provide a breath sample and she was finally able to give a sufficient sample. Deputy Ortiz told me when he first asked Amanda how much she had to drink she just stared at him and didn't say anything. He asked her if she was going to ignore him and she then said, "do you know who I am?". He believed Amanda's intentions were for him to know that she was a police officer so he would stop his inquiry about her drinking and "give her a break" and let her go.

On April 22, 2021 I interviewed Amanda at NPD. Below is a summary of what Amanda told me during the interview.

On April 1, 2021 she drove to a friend's house and her friend drove to DR McKay's Bar and Grill around 6:30pm for dinner and to play trivia. She drank while she was there but said she did not know how many drinks she had. I pressed her on not remembering how many drinks she had while she was there because I felt like she was withholding the truth. She eventually said she had at least two drinks. She said they went back to her friend's house around 10:00pm, where she had at least one "drink" of bourbon. I asked how much a "drink" was and she said about a shot.

Amanda then drove alone to Kick's Bar in Towanda around 11:00pm. When I asked her if she drank at Kick's, she hesitated and said "I know I had at least one" bourbon. I asked if it was at least one or probably more than one and she said it was probably more than one. She said she didn't remember, and she didn't want to estimate. She said her bill was over \$50, which included "rounds" she bought. I asked if she got herself a drink every time she bought a "round" and she said she didn't remember. I asked if it was likely that she had one herself and she said probably, but she didn't remember. I again felt as if she was withholding information. She said she was at Kick's for a couple of hours and left after bar closing at 1:00am. She said she did not have any conversations about her ability to drive. I asked why she didn't call for someone to give her a ride knowing that she had been drinking and she said she was tired, and it was time to go home, and she didn't think about it.

I later questioned Amanda again regarding how much she drank, because she estimated that she had 5 drinks that night in a 7-hour period. She said she didn't want to estimate because she wasn't counting. She said she didn't know how many drinks she had at DR McKay's because her friend paid the bill, she had one drink at her friend's house, and remembered buying the first drink at Kick's, but doesn't remember how many she had after that. She agreed that she had more than 5 drinks, but she didn't know how many. She said she only drinks Makers Mark bourbon on the rocks but does not remember how many she had.

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I asked Amanda if she remembered running the stop sign and she said she did not remember if she made a complete stop or not.

I asked Amanda what she meant when she asked Deputy Ortiz "Do you know who I am"? She said, "I think my main concern was because my gun was in my purse and I wanted him to know that". She also said, "did he know that I was a police officer". I clarified by saying "you were seeing if he knew you were a police officer" and she said yes. She said she had never met Deputy Ortiz and did not know him.

I asked Amanda if she took her purse into the bar and she said no. She said she makes a point to leave her gun in the car if she is going to be drinking alcohol, and only takes her wallet in with her. I asked if she had her purse at DR McKay's and she said no, only her wallet. Amanda told me the weapon she had in her purse was a Walther PPK, which is one of the weapons she is qualified to carry per NPD qualification records. She said her badge and ID card were also in her purse.

I asked why she refused to take a PBT after performing SFST's and she said she did not know what she was thinking. She said she vaguely remembers doing SFST's and remembers that she was probably more intoxicated than she was when she left the bar. After being placed under arrest, she said she thought that she made a serious mistake.

Amanda said she refused a breath test when she was at the MCSO because based on her performance on the SFST's she was probably over the legal limit and she didn't want to give them more evidence. She said she gave a breath sample after they got a warrant because she didn't want to get charged with a felony. She said it took her 7 attempts to provide a breath sample because she had COVID and she has been dealing with some on-going issues.

I asked Amanda about the picture she texted to Officer Flood and why she later asked him to delete it. She would not give me a specific reason and said she just didn't want the picture to be out there. She said it was just a picture of her and Dan and said she didn't want him (Officer Flood) to be in the middle.

I asked Amanda if she was planning on going to work on Friday morning and her response was "I don't know". She confirmed that she didn't have pre-planned time off.

Amanda's actions documented in this investigation violated numerous departmental directives and Illinois laws. She demonstrated a blatant disregard for not only these laws and directives, but also for public safety. Below is a summary of her actions that violated Normal Police Department policies.

### 2801.4-1 CONFORMANCE TO LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- Amanda violated Illinois Criminal Statutes by driving when her blood alcohol content was 0.148, which was well over the legal limit of 0.08.
- Amanda violated numerous Town directives that are outlined below.

### 2801.4-3 ABUSE OF POSITION

- Amanda abused her position because she attempted to use her official position as a police officer to avoid being arrested for DUI. When asked about her alcohol consumption she first ignored Deputy Ortiz, then asked if he knew who she was. Amanda said she made this statement because she wanted Deputy Ortiz to know that she was a police officer and had her gun in the car, however she did not voluntarily offer that information to him. If this were true, she would have told him immediately when he approached her car, but she did not. Her question was in response to Deputy Ortiz asking her how much she had to drink. She asked Deputy Ortiz "do you know who I am" as a direct response to his inquiry of how much alcohol she had consumed. If her true intention was for him to know she had her gun, she would have told him. Instead, she was evasive when

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answering his question regarding her alcohol consumption and wanted him to know she was a police officer. Deputy Ortiz believed that Amanda wanted him to know she was a police officer so he would stop his inquiry into her alcohol consumption, and would ultimately let her go, because she was a police officer.

### 2801.4-9 CARRYING FIREARMS

- Amanda possessed her firearm after consuming alcohol. She went to DR McKay's Bar and Grille and had at least two alcoholic drinks, then went to a friend's house where she had at least one more alcoholic drink, then drove her car to Kicks Bar and Grill while her firearm was in her purse on the passenger seat of her car. While at Kicks Bar and Grill she consumed more alcoholic drinks and again drove while her firearm was in her purse on the passenger seat of her car.

### 2801.4-21 INTERVENTION

- Amanda sent a text to Officer Flood at 0753 asking him to delete a photograph she sent him the previous night before she was arrested. This was almost an hour and a half after she notified me that she was arrested for DUI. When I asked why she wanted him to delete the photograph she said she didn't want him (Officer Flood) to be in the middle. Amanda knew this investigation was going to be conducted, and she was interfering with the investigation by trying to keep Officer Flood, and the photograph, out of the investigation.

### 2801.4-33 REPORTING FOR DUTY

- Amanda was scheduled to work on Friday April 2 at 0800 and did not report for duty due to her excessive consumption of alcohol.

### 2801.4-38 TRUTHFUL STATEMENTS

### 2801.4-39 DUTY TO ANSWER

- During the administrative interview, Amanda was able to fully recall and answer most of the questions asked of her, however failed to give details to several questions that potentially pointed to the admission of wrongdoing.
  - She said she could not recall how many drinks she had at DR McKay's Bar and Grill, however she easily recalled activities and times she was there.
  - She said she had "at least one drink" at her friends' house, again easily recalling what time she went there and what time she left but not how many drinks she had.
  - When I asked how many drinks she had at Kicks Bar and Grill her response was "I don't know, I had at least one". She easily recalled that she bought several rounds, and knew how much her bar bill was, but "couldn't recall" how many drinks she had.
  - When I asked if she bought herself a drink whenever she bought a "round" she said she didn't remember.
  - Amanda could not recall if she made a complete stop at the stop sign where the deputy observed her first traffic violation.
  - When I asked why she made the statement to Deputy Ortiz "Do you know who I am" she said, "I think my main concern was because my gun was in my purse and I wanted him to know that". This is a vague and evasive answer. Amanda never voluntarily told the Deputy that her gun was in her purse, which makes this statement untrue.
  - When I asked why she refused to take a PBT she said she didn't know what she was thinking, but easily recalled thinking she made a serious mistake when she was taken into custody, which was only a few seconds after refusing the PBT.
  - When I asked why she refused to take a breath test later at the Sheriff's office she said she didn't want to give the deputy more evidence of her being DUI. This is an example of an honest statement.
  - When I asked why she gave a breath sample after the Deputy obtained a search warrant, she said "I didn't want to get charged with a felony". This is an example of an honest statement.

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- When I asked why she asked Officer Flood to delete the text picture she sent to him she said several times "it was a picture of me and Dan Kelley". I had to ask her several times why she asked him to delete it and after I gave her several examples of why she might want him to delete it she said, "mostly I didn't want him to be in the middle of something". This was a very vague and evasive answer.

### 2801.4-40 UNBECOMING CONDUCT

- At least seven news agencies published articles giving details of Amanda's arrest. These details included her booking photo, a list of charges, her position as a Normal Police Officer as well as her position as a School Resource Officer. Several negative comments from viewers were made on the on-line articles. Her actions and the publicity she drew brought disrepute and discredit upon the Normal Police Department.
- At the time of her arrest, Amanda was assigned as a School Resource Officer for Unit 5, assigned to Normal Community West High School. When the details of her arrest were released, Unit 5 Administration contacted the Normal Police Department and asked that she be replaced, because her actions discredited her, and brought disrepute upon her position and their school.
- Amanda sent a text picture to Officer Flood. After she was arrested, she asked officer Flood to delete the picture and not share it with anyone.
  - Amanda asking another employee to delete and hide something that would become part of an internal investigation reflects discredit upon herself. Amanda knew that an internal investigation was going to be conducted and that this text could potentially come to light. She clearly did not want the picture to become involved in the internal investigation and asked the employee to delete it.
  - Amanda was trying to prevent another employee's involvement in the investigation.
  - Asking Officer Flood, a fellow School Resource Officer, to hide something from an internal investigation impairs their working relationship because it reflects her willingness to "lie" or "cover up" something that may bring her discredit. This negatively affects their working relationship and the operation of the School Resource Officer program as a whole.

### 2801.4-44 UNSATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE

- Amanda committed numerous infractions of rules, regulations and directives as outlined in this report.
- Amanda's actions of excessive drinking and driving demonstrated that she was unwilling to maintain sufficient competency to properly perform her duties and assume the responsibilities of her position as a Police Officer and a School Resource Officer. These duties and responsibilities required her to report to work at 8am on Friday April 2, 2021. Her excessive consumption of alcohol, coupled with her arrest, prevented her from fulfilling her duties as a police officer and as a School Resource Officer.
- Because of the discredit and disrepute Amand brought on her position of School Resource Officer and the Normal Community West High School (NCWHS), the school district requested that she be replaced. This required both NPD and Unit 5 personnel to spend a significant amount of time searching for a suitable replacement, significantly disrupting the operations of both agencies. Additionally, an NPD SRO assigned to a different school, an NPD detective and several NPD patrol offices were tasked with fulfilling duties at NCWHS, which disrupted the operations of another school in the district, NPD CID and day shift patrol operations.

### 2801.4-46 USE OF ALCOHOL OFF DUTY

- Amanda's excessive consumption of alcohol off duty resulted in her arrest for DUI, which discredited the Normal Police Department.
- Amanda's excessive consumption of alcohol off duty rendered her unfit to report for her next duty assignment.

Based on the seriousness of this incident, and the criminal and directive violations uncovered during this investigation, I recommend Amanda's employment with the Town of Normal be terminated effective immediately. Her conduct both during the criminal investigation, and also during the internal administrative investigation, revealed her inability to make good decisions and be honest, both of which are imperative qualities police officers must possess.

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## **Prior Discipline:**

04/25/19—Letter of Reprimand for Reporting for Duty—Amanda was scheduled to work day shift patrol during the bid period January – June 2019. Day shift patrol hours are 7am – 3pm. On this date, Amanda did not report for duty at 7am, and called in at approximately 7:05am saying she overslept. She reported for duty at approximately 8am.

## **Directive(s) Violated:**

### **2801.4-1 CONFORMANCE TO LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

A. All employees shall observe and obey all local, State, and Federal statutes, ordinances and laws, all provisions of the Constitution of the State of Illinois and the United States of America and all rules, regulations, directives and orders of the Town and the Department whether verbal or written.

C. A conviction or the violation of any law shall be prima facia evidence of a violation of this section, with the exception of minor traffic violations as provided by state statute.

### **2801.4-3 ABUSE OF POSITION**

A. Employees shall not use their official position, official identification cards or badges for:  
3. for avoiding consequences of illegal acts.

### **2801.4-9 CARRYING FIREARMS**

Officers shall carry firearms in accordance with laws and established departmental procedures. At any time weapons are carried, officers shall also carry a Department I.D. Card and a Departmental Badge. An officer may not carry any firearm when consuming alcoholic beverages, when under the influence of alcohol or at any time and place where the carrying of a weapon would not be appropriate.

### **2801.4-21 INTERVENTION**

A. Employees shall not knowingly interfere with cases being handled by other employees of the Department or by any other governmental agency

### **2801.4-33 REPORTING FOR DUTY**

Employees shall report for duty at the time and place required by assignment or orders and shall be physically and mentally fit to perform their duties. They shall be properly equipped and aware of information required for proper performance of duty.

### **2801.4-38 TRUTHFUL STATEMENTS**

An employee shall give truthful statements at all times regarding the scope of employment and operations of the department, except when legitimately necessary during criminal investigations. A statement, written or verbal, should not be made unless the employee is sure of its truthfulness whether under oath or not. Intentional omissions or failure to recall relevant information in the course of the performance of police duties, is the same as being untruthful.

There is no justification for lying or failing to tell the whole truth during an internal investigation or other official proceedings. Typically discipline is much harsher for lying or attempting to cover up than what the employee would have received for the initial rules violation. Examples of official proceedings could be but are not limited to;

- False, misleading or vague testimony during an internal investigation to cover up wrongdoing of oneself or other employees.

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## 2801.4-39 DUTY TO ANSWER

Upon the order of the Chief of Police or the Chief's designee as a superior officer conducting an administrative or criminal investigation, employees will truthfully answer all questions specifically directed to them regarding the investigation. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to be in violation of one's Federal or State statutory or Constitutional rights.

## 2801.4-40 UNBECOMING CONDUCT

Employees shall conduct themselves at all times, both on and off duty, in such a manner as to reflect most favorably on the Department. Conduct unbecoming an employee shall include that which brings the Department into disrepute or reflects discredit upon the employee as a member of the Department, or that which impairs the operation or efficiency of the Department or employees.

## 2801.4-44 UNSATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE

A. Employees shall maintain sufficient competency to properly perform their duties and assume the responsibilities of their positions. Employees shall perform their duties in a manner which will maintain the highest standards of efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out the functions and objectives of the Department. Unsatisfactory performance may be demonstrated by:

3. Failure to conform to work standards established for the officer's rank, grade, or position

B. In addition to other indication of unsatisfactory performance, the following will be considered prima facie evidence of unsatisfactory performance:

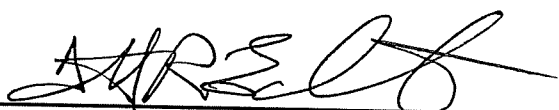
2. Any infractions of rules, regulations, directives or orders of the Department.

## 2801.4-46 USE OF ALCOHOL OFF DUTY

Employees, while off duty, shall refrain from consuming intoxicating beverages to the extent that it results in behavior which discredits the Department, or renders the employee unfit to report for their next duty assignment.

### Employee Acknowledgement

This document is to make you aware of the violations of departmental and to notify you of the outcome of the formal investigation.



Supervisor Signature

05/24/21

Date



Chief Signature

05/24/21

Date