INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSIBILITY: The Investigating Officer (I/O) for this case was Sergeant II Akeyla Foster, Serial No. 40152, Internal Affairs Division (IAD), Complaint Investigation Section-Central. She can be contacted at (213) 996-2906. Any request for supplemental investigation must be approved by the Commanding Officer at IAD, via an Intradepartmental Correspondence, Form 15.02.00.

STATUTE DATE: On March 14, 2023, Detective II Tommy Thompson, Serial No. 35791, Operations-Central Bureau (OCB) Homicide, was arrested for 20002 (a)(1) California Vehicle Code (CVC), Hit and Run and 23152 (g) CVC, Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence, by the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

On March 17, 2023, Detective II Tommy Thompson, Serial No. 35791, Operations-Central Bureau Homicide, was arrested for 20002 (a)(1) CVC, Hit and Run and 23152 (g) CVC, Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence, by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD).

> **Note:** Both criminal cases were given separate Complaint File numbers that were consolidated and investigated under the Master Complaint File No. 23-000735.

The LASD submitted their criminal investigation to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LACDA) for filing consideration. At the time this complaint investigation was submitted, the criminal investigation was still under review by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. The CHP will submit their case to the LACDA upon receipt of the toxicology report.

The criminal case disposition was unknown at the time the administrative investigation was completed. Thus, the statute date remained **March 14, 2024.**

SUMMARY: On March 14, 2023, at approximately 1203 hours, CHP Officer Hall, Serial No. 21214, Newhall Area Office, responded to a traffic collision investigation at Pico Canyon Road and The Old Road in Stevenson Ranch, California. Upon arrival, Hall located Thompson who was involved in the traffic collision. The at-scene investigation revealed Thompson was involved in an initial collision with a curb and a fixed object, then fled to a nearby gas station in the damaged City vehicle. Thompson purchased an energy drink beverage and consumed it. As Thompson left the gas station, he became involved in a second collision with another vehicle. While conducting his traffic collision investigation, Hall observed Thompson displayed objective symptoms of alcohol and drug impairment. Hall asked Thompson if he had consumed any alcoholic beverages, to which Thompson denied. Hall then asked Thompson if he had ingested any drugs and Thompson advised Hall that he had taken his regular dosage of Ambien.

> **Note:** Ambien is a class of drug known as Sedative-Hypnotics. It is used to treat insomnia and is intended for short term use.

Hall initiated a Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST). Hall attempted to conduct a preliminary balance test on Thompson to determine if he was impaired. Thompson refused being administered a balance test. Based on his observation and training and experience, Hall arrested Thompson for 23152 (g) CVC. Hall transported Thompson to his station and

administered a chemical breath test and his Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) returned .03% and .03%. Based on Hall's investigation, Hall arrested Thompson for 23152 (g) CVC and 20002 (a) (1) CVC.

> **Note:** This incident resulted in an IAD Call-Out response. Lieutenant II Paul Chambers, Serial No. 33097, IAD, Sergeant Maricela Vargas, Serial No. 34999, IAD, and the I/O responded to the location for an administrative complaint investigation. The I/O generated CF No. 23-000735

Thompson was cited and released to Lieutenant II Ryan Rabbett, Serial No. 33690, OCB Homicide (Addendum 1).

ALLEGATION 1. The Department alleges that on March 14, 2023, Detective Thompson, while off-duty, was involved in a hit and run traffic collision while operating a Department vehicle.

ALLEGATION 2. The Department alleges that on March 14, 2023, Detective Thompson, while off-duty, operated a Department vehicle while under the influence of alcoholic beverages resulting in his arrest.

ALLEGATION 3. The Department alleges that on March 14, 2023, Detective Thompson, while on-duty, failed to notify a supervisor prior to leaving city limits in a Department vehicle.

Hall[1] responded to a call for service on March 14, 2023. The call was near Pico Canyon Road and The Old in Stevenson Ranch, in Santa Clarita, California. Hall noticed a vehicle was involved in a traffic crash and observed Thompson sitting in the vehicle. Hall met with and spoke to Thompson. During the crash investigation, Hall noticed multiple indicators of alcohol and drug impairment in Thompson, such as red and watery eyes, the smell of alcohol, slurred speech, and difficulty providing necessary documents. Despite Thompson's denial of alcohol or drug consumption, Thompson admitted he took Ambien, a prescription medication. Thompson refused a SFST and refused to answer questions, leading Hall to form the opinion that Thompson was under the influence of both alcohol and drugs, while driving. Hall concluded, Thompson's combined influence of drugs and alcohol had caused the crash and Thompson was unable to safely to operate a vehicle. Consequently, Hall arrested Thompson for misdemeanor driving under the combined influence of alcohol and drugs. Hall facilitated chemical tests, including a breath test and later a blood test at Henry Mayo Hospital.

> **Note:** The breath test revealed a .03% BAC and the blood test results were pending at the submittal of the complaint investigation.

Hall followed the necessary procedures and ensured Thompson was medically cleared prior to his arrest. Thompson was released on a signed promise to appear in court.

> **Note:** See addenda for additional details related to the arrest.

[1] Hall's statements were extracted from the report he authored.

Thompson[2] was assigned to OCB Homicide Division on March 14, 2023. Thompson woke up at approximately 0500 hours that morning. He did not consume any alcoholic beverages prior to his shift. He believed he was able to safely operate a vehicle. Thompson arrived at work at approximately 0600 hours. Later, after Thompson started his shift, he signed out the Department's Dodge Charger with the intentions of booking property at Property Division. While enroute to Property Division, Thompson bypassed dropping the property off when he realized he left his cellular phone at home. Thompson drove home to get his phone. Thompson did not notify a supervisor when he left the city of Los Angeles. Thompson did not make a notification because he lives a few miles away from Mission Patrol Division (Addendum 2).

Thompson retrieved his phone from home. While back enroute to book property, Thompson became involved in a traffic crash Thompson was eating a banana when it fell. As Thompson attempted to retrieve the banana, he collided with an unknown object on the freeway. Thompson did not notify a supervisor immediately because he felt unsafe on the freeway where the crash occurred. Thompson acknowledged the Department policy was to notify a supervisor after he was involved in an on-duty traffic crash in a Department vehicle. Thompson recalled he was involved in a traffic crash, but he had no independent recollection of specific details related to the traffic crash. Thompson recalled going to one gas station. He did not recall going inside an additional gas station to purchase a red bull. Thompson received treatment for a concussion sustained due to the serious traffic crash he was involved in. He contributed the concussion to his lack of recollection and the gaps in his memory.

Thompson worked homicide for over 20 years and the assignment made it difficult for him to sleep without his mind racing. During the middle of the night between 0000 hours and 0400 hours, Thompson began taking shots of vodka to calm his mind and sleep. Thompson did not recall consuming alcohol in the early morning of Marth 14, 2023. Thompson assumed he may have woken up in the middle of the night and consumed alcohol based on his blood alcohol level in the arrest report. Thompson recalled eating dinner between 1900 and 2000 hours on March 13, 2023. He did not recall what he ate. Thompson started drinking on the evening of March 13, 2023 at approximately 2100 hours. Thompson also took between five and ten milligrams of Ambien the night before.

Thompson denied consuming any alcoholic beverage after waking up for work on March 14, 2023. Thompson denied drinking alcohol with anyone. Thompson stated he was fully cooperative with the arresting agency during his arrest on March 14, 2023.

[2] Thompson was interviewed by the I/O and, Detective III David Mejia, Serial 32682, IAD, on August 4, 2023. The interview was uploaded into the Complaint Management System (CMS).

SUMMARY CONTINUED:

On March 17, 2023, at approximately 1300 hours, LASD Deputy Waterman, Serial No. 647475, Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station, responded to a traffic crash investigation at Newhall Ranch Road and Dickson Drive in the city of Santa Clarita, California. The comments of the call indicated a single vehicle versus a pole collision at the location.

Upon arrival, Waterman was met by one of his supervisor's, LASD Sergeant James Peterson, Serial No. 447537, Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station. Peterson advised Waterman that unknown Southern California Edison (SCE) workers witnessed a black 2008 Toyota Tundra, Pick-up Truck, with California License Plate No. 8T36167, collide into a nearby pole. The SCE workers advised Peterson that the driver, later identified as Thompson, was possibly under the influence. Peterson contacted Thompson and detected the strong odor of alcoholic beverages emitting from Thompson. Peterson detained Thompson for the investigation.

Waterman met with Thompson and asked Thompson if he had consumed any alcoholic beverages. Thompson denied he consumed alcoholic beverages but admitted to taking prescription medication. Waterman conducted an SFST on Thompson and Thompson was unable to complete the test. Waterman transported Thompson to LASD Santa Clarita Valley Station to obtain a breath sample. Watermen used the "Datamaster" machine to obtain breath samples from Thompson. The "Datamaster" machine indicated that Thompson's BAC was 0.08% on both samples. Waterman subsequently arrested Thompson for 23152 (a) CVC (Addendum 2) (Video Clip 1), (Video Clip 2), Video Clip 3), (Video Clip 4). (Video Clip 5), (Video Clip 6), (Video Clip 7).

> **Note:** Lieutenant II Yvette Garay, Serial No. 30583, Commercial Crimes Division, and Sergeant II Antonio Garcia, Serial No. 36937, IAD responded to the LASD Santa Clarita Valley Station for the administrative complaint investigation.[3] Garcia generated CF No. 23-000768 for the second arrest.

ALLEGATION 4. The Department alleges that on March 17, 2023, Detective Thompson, while off-duty, operated his privately-owned vehicle while under the influence of alcoholic beverages resulting in his arrest.

ALLEGATION 5. The Department alleges that on March 17, 2023, Detective Thompson, while off-duty, provided a false statement to an outside law enforcement agency when Thompson stated that he did not consume any alcoholic beverages prior to operating his personally-owned vehicle.

Waterman[4] responded to a traffic crash on, March 17, 2023. The crash involved a single vehicle and a pole near the intersection of Dickson Drive and Newhall Ranch Road in Santa Clarita, California. Waterman's supervisor, Peterson, arrived at the scene before Waterman. Peterson contacted Thompson and suspected Thompson was under the influence of alcohol. Peterson detained Thompson until Waterman arrived. Thompson identified himself as an LAPD

[3] Lieutenant Garay was assigned to IAD at the time of this incident.
[4] Waterman's statements were extracted from the report he authored

detective and claimed his vehicle lost power, causing the accident. Waterman completed an investigation that included a SFST. The investigation indicated impairment. A breath test showed a BAC of 0.08% to 0.09%. Thompson was arrested and booked on charges of driving under the influence (23152(a) and 23152(b) CVC).

After medical clearance, Thompson was booked into Santa Clarita Station jail, Thompson's firearm was secured, LAPD was notified and took possession of the firearm. Thompson's vehicle was towed and stored as per the appropriate code and policy of LASD.

> **Note:** Thompson's had secured his Glock firearm in a locked container, inside the rear passenger area of his truck.

Thompson recalled that on March 17, 2023 he was involved in a traffic crash in the Santa Clarita, California, while driving his privately owned black, Toyota Tundra, California License Plate No. O1 License Plate. On March 16, 2023, Thompson consumed vodka throughout the evening and into the early morning. He did not recall if he took any Ambien. On March 17, 2023, Thompson woke up between 0700 and 0800 hours and immediately consumed one, 12-ounce celebratory Irish Coffee (alcoholic drink containing two shots of Jamison whiskey combined with coffee) for Saint Patrick's Day. Thompson then went back to sleep for several hours. Thompson woke up at approximately 1100 hours. He was hungry and felt he needed to put some food on his stomach.

Thompson did not feel impaired after he woke up the second time. Thompson's vehicle was low on gasoline. Thompson planned to grab food from Carl's Jr. Restaurant after he put gas in his vehicle. While enroute to the gas station, Thompson took a large sip of mouth wash because his mouth felt dry. As Thompson waited for the light to change, his vehicle ran out of gas. Thompson was at the intersection of Dickason Road and Newhall Ranch Road, in the City of Santa Clarita. He was a short distance from the gas station, so he decided to push his vehicle to the gas station nearby. Thompson exited his vehicle and began to manually push his vehicle while simultaneously guiding the steering wheel. He gained enough momentum to drive the vehicle to the gas station. Thompson was wearing loose fitting sweat pants that fell around his knees. Thompson's sweat pants prohibited Thompson from moving quickly to enter the vehicle and steer the vehicle from the driver's seat. Consequently, Thompson loss full control of the vehicle and was dragged as he held on with his right hand. Thompson tried to press the emergency brake on his vehicle, but he was unsuccessful and unable to regain control of the vehicle.

> **Note:** Thompson's vehicle was towed by the CHP official police garage at the time of the arrest, and the I/O was unable to verify if the vehicle had gas in the tank.

Thompson has a medical condition that prohibits him from performing the Standard Field Sobriety Test as explained and demonstrated. Thompson did not believe he was impaired at the time he operated his vehicle.

In hindsight, Thompson believed he experienced burnout after a long career. In June of 2022, Thompson struck his head on the top of a police shop. Thompson believed the injury damaged him. Thompson was left with excruciating headaches after the injury. Thompson accepted full

responsibility for his behavior and two alcohol related arrest within four days. Thompson realized after his arrest he had a severe problem with alcohol. Thompson accepted he was an alcoholic and obtained treatment at a licensed facility. Thompson has not consumed alcohol since the arrest. Thompson was remorseful and made it clear that he would accept punishment including but not limited to an alcohol contract prohibiting him from drinking.

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTES:

1. Full length reports are available in the attached addenda. Statements were paraphrased with pertinent information as determined by the I/O.

ADDENDA:

1. California Highway Patrol Driving Under the Influence Arrest Report.
2. Daily Sign-In Sheets for Operations-Central Bureau, Homicide Division.
3. Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Driving Under the Influence Arrest Report.
4. Video Clip No. 1.
5. Video Clip No. 2
6. Video Clip No. 3
7. Video Clip No. 4
8. Video Clip No. 5
9. Video Clip No. 6
10. Video Clip No. 7

INVESTIGATED BY:

AKEYLA FOSTER, Sergeant
Complaint Investigation Section, Central
Internal Affairs Division

9/25/2023
Date

RUTHANN CHAVEZ, Lieutenant
Officer in Charge,
Complaint Investigation Section-Central
Internal Affairs Division

10/18/2023
Date