



**TO:** File  
**FROM:** Eric Gandy, Chief of Police  
**CC:**  
**DATE:** April 10, 2026  
**RE:** Office of Professional Standards Investigations CC2026-009, IA2026-002, IA2026-003

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On January 20, 2026, citizens came to the Clearwater Police Department to file a complaint regarding Officer Daniel Braniff. That complaint was documented as CC2026-009.

Days later the same citizens levied additional complaints with the Clearwater Police Department regarding separate incidents and allegations of misconduct against agency members. Those contacts resulted in the initiation of Internal Affairs investigations IA2026-002 (Officer Braniff / Officer George Solakian) and IA2026-003 (Officer Braniff).

The findings of those investigations are summarized below:

### **CC2026-009**

#### **Involved Employee**

Officer Daniel Braniff has been with the agency for two years and six months.

#### **Allegation**

On January 17, 2026, Officer Braniff engaged in an interaction with a citizen who had inserted himself into an unrelated traffic stop Officer Braniff was conducting near the intersection of North Martin Luther King Junior Avenue and Palmetto Street. After concluding the traffic stop, Officer Braniff redirected his attention to the citizen and initiated a verbal exchange that escalated into a heated confrontation. During this interaction, Officer Braniff demonstrated unprofessional conduct by using profanity and adopting an aggressive posture toward the citizen. The appropriate general order for the allegation is as follows:

Discourtesy (212.24) - Members shall be courteous to the public, superior officers, subordinates, and associates in person and by telephone and written correspondence and shall control tempers and exercise patience and discretion; no member shall engage in argumentative discussions even in the face of extreme provocation. In the performance of their duties, members shall not use coarse, violent, profane, or insolent language or gestures, and shall not express any prejudice concerning race, religion, politics, national origin, lifestyle, or similar personal characteristics.

#### **Disposition**

Based on the facts documented in the Division Level Investigation, the allegations against Officer Braniff were sustained.

**Discipline/Corrective Action**

In accordance with progressive discipline guidelines, Officer Braniff received the following:

- **Letter of Reprimand**
  - **Mandated to attend De-escalation Training**
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**IA2026-002**

**Involved Employee**

Officer Daniel Braniff has been with the agency for two years and six months.

**Allegation**

On November 7, 2025, Officer Daniel Braniff engaged with two citizens in Crest Lake Park and presented an unprofessional demeanor and used inappropriate language toward them. The appropriate general orders for the allegations involving Officer Braniff are as follows:

**On/Off-duty Conduct Morale/Efficiency – Image/Public Confidence (213.49)** - No member shall engage in conduct on or off-duty which adversely affects the morale or efficiency of the agency; nor shall any member engage in conduct on or off-duty which has a tendency to destroy public respect for the member and/or the agency and/or destroy confidence in the operation of the municipal service or which tends to affect the members performance in the work setting whether or not such act is a criminal offense.

**Discourtesy (212.24)** - Members shall be courteous to the public, superior officers, subordinates, and associates in person and by telephone and written correspondence and shall control tempers and exercise patience and discretion; no member shall engage in argumentative discussions even in the face of extreme provocation. In the performance of their duties, members shall not use coarse, violent, profane, or insolent language or gestures, and shall not express any prejudice concerning race, religion, politics, national origin, lifestyle, or similar personal characteristics.

**Disposition**

Based on the facts documented in the administrative investigation, the Discipline Review Board sustained the allegations.

**Discipline/Corrective Action**

In accordance with progressive discipline guidelines, Officer Braniff received the following:

- **40-hour Suspension.**
- **Light-duty assignment immediately following the suspension, until a mandatory psychological fitness-for-duty exam takes place.**
- **The Office of Professional Standards will conduct weekly random monitoring of Officer Braniff's BWC for a period of six months.**

**Involved Employee**

Corporal George Solakian has been with the agency for seven years and ten months.

**Allegation**

On November 7, 2025, Officer George Solakian engaged citizens Todd and Slone Bonnewell at Crest Lake Park and failed to intervene when another officer became argumentative and discourteous. The appropriate general orders for the allegations involving Officer Solakian are as follows:

**Neglect of Duty (212.46)** - Members shall give attention to the performance of duty. Violations of this section shall include but are not limited to failure to take appropriate action on a crime scene, disorder or other act or condition deserving attention.

**Misconduct Known to Agency Members (213.50)** - Members knowing of other members violating laws or ordinances or rules of the agency, or lawful orders, where such violation may hinder the police purpose or bring embarrassment to the agency, shall report same to their immediate supervisor. Information gained via peer support communication, the peer support member may divulge said information if one of the following exemptions applies (F.S. 111.09 (2)a-d):

- A. The first responder peer is a defendant in a civil, criminal, administrative, or disciplinary proceeding arising from a complaint filed by the first responder who was a party to the peer support communication, in which case such information may be divulged but is limited to the scope of the proceeding;
- B. The first responder who was a party to the peer support communication agrees, in writing, to allow the first responder peer to testify about or divulge information related to the peer support communications;
- C. Based on the peer support communications, the first responder peer suspects that the first responder who was a party to the peer support communications has committed a criminal act or intends to commit a criminal act. There is no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature may arise against, the first responder peer for disclosing information under this paragraph; or
- D. There are articulable facts or circumstances that would lead a reasonable, prudent person to fear for the safety of the first responder who was a party to the peer support communication, another person, or society, and the first responder peer communicates the information only to a potential victim and law enforcement or other appropriate authorities. There is no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature may arise against, the first responder peer for disclosing information under this paragraph.

**Disposition**

Based on the facts documented in the administrative investigation, the Discipline Review Board sustained the allegations.

**Discipline/Corrective Action**

In accordance with progressive discipline guidelines, Corporal Solakian received the following:

- **1-day (8 hour) Suspension.**
  - **Removal from the Corporal Program with the ability to reapply after one year.**
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**IA2025-003**

**Involved Employee**

Officer Daniel Braniff has been with the agency for two years and six months.

**Allegation**

On October 15, 2025, Officer Braniff, while investigating an incident at 1166 Palmetto Street, was discourteous to a citizen unrelated to the call. The appropriate general order for the allegation involving Officer Braniff is as follows:

Discourtesy (212.24) - Members shall be courteous to the public, superior officers, subordinates, and associates in person and by telephone and written correspondence and shall control tempers and exercise patience and discretion; no member shall engage in argumentative discussions even in the face of extreme provocation. In the performance of their duties, members shall not use coarse, violent, profane, or insolent language or gestures, and shall not express any prejudice concerning race, religion, politics, national origin, lifestyle, or similar personal characteristics.

**Disposition**

Based on the facts documented in the administrative investigation, the Discipline Review Board sustained the allegation.

**Discipline/Corrective Action**

In accordance with progressive discipline guidelines, Officer Braniff received the following:

- **40-hour Suspension.**

\*\*\*Be it noted, Officer Braniff received a total 80-hour suspension as a result of sustained violations in cases IA2026-002 and IA2026-003.