

I have worked for three agencies including Madison PD and in that seventeen years, I have NEVER had a complaint or issue concerning emergency driving/due regard or any sort of crash on duty other than sliding into a parked car on a slanted road on black ice during a blizzard. With no previous infractions of similar nature, this single incident resulted in a citation, a letter of reprimand, and on-duty training – for someone who owned their mistake and was accountable to it from day one – fully cognizant of the corrective actions needed making the on-duty training unnecessary. A host of duty related circumstances were relevant to this – the largest being unreliable technology in the form of mapping and address data not being immediately available to me as I responded to this call and tried to verify my target address by glancing for a cross street. The second being the very high likelihood that I was struck by an impaired driver who was not paying attention (they fled, are Revoked for OWI with two prior offenses). I firmly feel the disciplinary actions by the department are more severe than was necessary and do not conform to incremental / progressive discipline which is what the Discipline Matrix SOP is designed to achieve.

The frustration of how the crash was handled led me to send an email that was in hind-sight out of line, however it did not contain any profanities, derogatory, or insulting language. I again owned that mistake and I was given a day off (held in abeyance) due to the “tone” of the email.

Lastly, I have never had any objection with media obtaining the email I sent, however it was brought to my attention that there was speculation that the department was shielding me in a news story. I believe the email should have been released without delay.