

**STATEMENT OF CHARGES AGAINST
TYLER IVERSON
A MEMBER OF THE MINNESOTA STATE PATROL**

Lt. Colonel Rochelle Schrofer, as Assistant Chief of the Minnesota State Patrol, files with the Commissioner of Public Safety, State of Minnesota, the following Statement of Charges against Trooper Tyler Iverson #507, a member of the Minnesota State Patrol, who she believes is guilty of:

Violations of General Orders:

- 10-10-053 Media – Requests and Information
 - II.C.4. When media representatives attend the scene of an incident they should be treated courteously, but not allowed to interfere with the handling of the incident.
- DPS Administrative Policy #1001 Media
 - It is the policy of the Department of Public Safety that a professional working relationship is maintained between members of the Department and news media representatives so both may accomplish their objectives.
 - The Department reserves the right to control access to major incidents or to departmental facilities; however news media representatives shall be allowed access to all public areas that are deemed safe by the agency in charge during incidents.
 - Media credentials may be requested for access to an incident scene or designated restricted areas. Accepted credentials are any valid identification card issued by a news media organization employing the reporter, photojournalist and/or technicians. Such identification is not a license for behavior that may disrupt departmental operations, work areas or an investigation at incident scenes.

Circumstances related to the above allegations are as follows:

On April 13, 2021, Trooper Tyler Iverson made contact with a media representative (hereinafter referred to as "Doe") while on deployment in the city of Brooklyn Center in response to civil unrest resulting in Doe's arrest.

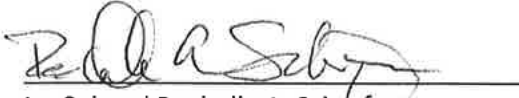
The investigation supports these findings:

- At initial contact, Trooper Iverson was not aware Doe was a member of the media. Media credentials were found in Doe's backpack after her arrest.
- In her interview, Doe stated she immediately identified herself as media. She also stated that she was on a call with work and recalled a trooper repeatedly yelling at her to "turn off your fucking phone." While a trooper secured zip ties around her wrists, she recalled telling another trooper (Iverson) that she was with the media.
- While detaining Doe, Trooper Iverson stated he asked Doe "if she was deaf" and "if she spoke English" in an effort to determine why she had not left the dispersal area. Iverson stated Doe eventually made reference to being press, but was not responding to his other questions.

There is no information to support Trooper Iverson had knowledge of Doe's media status until after he made initial contact. During the arrest, he became aware that Doe was claiming to be media. It is appropriate under policy to ask questions to determine whether this information was truthful (e.g. asking for credentials). However, Iverson instead chose to question Doe about why she failed to comply with the dispersal announcements advising media to leave the area. When he failed to get an answer, he responded with comments about her language and hearing abilities. His response did not meet the Minnesota State Patrol's standards and expectations of professionalism and respect.

Trooper Iverson's conduct is in violation of policy and does not display the core values of the State Patrol.

Dated: December 8, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rochelle A. Schrofer", written over a horizontal line.

Lt. Colonel Rochelle A. Schrofer
Assistant Chief

DATE: December 8, 2021

TO: Trp. Tyler Iverson
District 2900

FROM: Lt. Colonel Rochelle Schrofer *RS*
Assistant Chief

PHONE: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION – IAD CASE #21-13

The Internal Affairs investigation into the allegations contained in the attached Statement of Charges has been completed and the allegations have been *sustained*. It is my intent to take disciplinary action against you in this matter.

You are entitled to an informal meeting for the purpose of allowing you to review the charges against you, review the evidence, and present any additional information on your behalf. Be advised that an Association representative may be in attendance as directed by the trooper's labor agreement.

I have scheduled the meeting at 1700 hours on Wednesday, December 22 at Captain Cheney's office in the Clay County Law Enforcement Center, Moorhead.

Attachment

cc: Major Erickson
Captain Cheney
Sgt. LeDoux
Lynn Mueller
Annie Porbeni
Kate Rios

DATE: December 22, 2021

TO: Trp. Tyler Iverson
District 2900

FROM: Lt. Colonel Rochelle Schrofer *RS*
Assistant Chief

PHONE: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: LETTER OF REPRIMAND – IAD CASE #21-13

This memo shall serve as a written reprimand for violations of General Orders as a result of your actions as outlined in the Statement of Charges dated December 8, 2021.

Per Article 15, Section 1, of the MLEA Work Agreement, a copy of this letter of reprimand will be placed in your Human Resources personnel file. Provided no further disciplinary action is taken against you for a period of two years from the date of this letter, you may make a written request to Human Resources that it be removed from your file.

Be advised that any same or similar conduct may result in further disciplinary action.

This written reprimand may be appealed pursuant to grievance procedures set forth in Article 16 of the work agreement.

cc: Major Erickson
Captain Cheney
Sgt. LeDoux
Lynn Mueller
Kate Rios
Victoria Schwab
Leslie Brzezinski