

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Gwynne L. Tavel, Jr. (“TAVEL”) served as a sworn police officer in the Annapolis Police Department starting on or about August 5, 2015. Officer Tavel was transferred to what is now called the Criminal Investigation Section (“CIS”) on or about July 13, 2017 and was promoted to Corporal in CIS on or about September 5, 2019. The rank of Corporal is a supervisory position in the Annapolis Police Department Criminal Investigations Section. Corporal Tavel¹ was responsible for case assignments as well as approving case status changes submitted in written reports by detectives in CIS.

The Annapolis Police Department has General Orders, which serve as published directives to enforce policies and procedures originated by the Annapolis Police Department upon sworn personnel under the Department’s command. The Annapolis Police Department used a case management system called “In Pursuit” to track and manage its cases. The Annapolis Police Department assigned a unique case number to each case assigned to an officer in CIS.

General Order J.5 establishes guidelines for the designation of case closures. The cases can be recorded as: open, suspended, closed by arrest, closed by exception, false reports and unfounded complaints. Pursuant to General Order J.5, “Closed by Exception” are cases where law enforcement is not able to close by arrest. Many times all leads have been exhausted and everything possible has been done in order to clear the case. If the following questions can all be answered “yes”, the offense can then be cleared “exceptionally” for crime reporting purposes: 1. Has the investigation definitely established the identity of the offender? 2. Is there enough information to support an arrest, charge, and turning over to the court for prosecution? 3. Is the exact location of the offender known so that the suspect can be taken into custody? 4. Is there some reason outside law enforcement control that precludes arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender?”

On or about August 17, 2018, a supervisor in the CIS Department assigned Annapolis Police Department case number 18-3551 to Corporal Tavel. Case 18-3551 was classified as a sex offense where VICTIM 1 reported that she was raped. On August 28, 2018 at 12:51 PM, VICTIM 1 emailed Corporal Tavel to discuss her case. Corporal Tavel responded to her email on August 28, 2018 at 12:53 PM. VICTIM 1 emailed Corporal Tavel her response on August 28, 2018 at 1:03 PM. VICTIM 1 emailed Corporal Tavel to ask about her case on August 29, 2018 at 10:50 AM. There was no response from Corporal Tavel.

On August 15, 2019, Corporal Tavel emailed a list of his cases and their respective statuses to his supervisor. In that email he stated that case 18-3551 “Open, further interview/casework.” VICTIM 1 did not hear from Corporal Tavel after this date and no documented case work was done after this date.

On April 15, 2020 at 12:38 PM Corporal Tavel accessed the RMS database for file 18-3551. On April 15, 2020 at 12:38 PM Corporal Tavel closed case 18-3551 as “Closed by Exception” or “CX” in the system, adding the language: “victim refuses to cooperate, unable to

¹ During some of the periods referenced in the statement, Corporal Tavel had not yet been promoted. He is referred to as Corporal Tavel throughout the statement for consistency.

continue investigation”. Corporal Tavel did not contact VICTIM 1 before making this closure, after making this closure, or to advise her of the closure.

Case 18-3551 was listed as a case in a file cabinet to be sent to a long-term storage facility.

If called to testify, witnesses would identify Corporal Tavel as the individual who accessed the RMS database and changed the case to “CX” as well as the individual who did not take steps required to close the investigation before changing it in the system. All events occurred in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.