

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
ETHICS ADJUDICATORY BOARD**

BOARD OF ETHICS

*** DOCKET NO. 2024-16841-ETHICS-B**

IN THE MATTER OF

RICKEY J. BOUDREAUX

*** AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2023-266**

DECISION AND ORDER

The Louisiana Board of Ethics charged Rickey J. Boudreaux with two violations of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics. The Louisiana Board of Ethics proved by clear and convincing evidence that Rickey J. Boudreaux, while serving as the Chief of Police for the City of Youngsville, Louisiana, (1) violated Louisiana Revised Statutes (La. R.S.) 42:1116(A) because he used the authority of his position to compel and/or coerce officers of the Youngsville Police Department not to administer a field sobriety test or to issue a traffic citation to a motorist and (2) violated La. R.S. 42:1117 because he facilitated the payment of gift cards from a motorist to two officers of the Youngsville Police Department for the performance of their duties. Rickey J. Boudreaux is assessed a fine of \$100 per offense, for a total fine of \$200.

APPEARANCES

An adjudicatory hearing was conducted on June 16, 2025, at the Division of Administrative Law in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, before Panel B of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (EAB).¹ Present for the hearing were Rickey J. Boudreaux,² Respondent; Patrick Magee, Respondent's counsel; Wil Giron, an investigator with the Louisiana Board of Ethics (BOE) and Respondent's witness; and Charles Reeves, counsel for the BOE.

¹ The Panel B of the EAB consists of administrative law judges Greta Gilmore (presiding), Monique D. Baham, and Anthony J. Russo.

² Respondent's full legal name is Richard Joseph Boudreaux. See testimony of Respondent.

JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY

The EAB is a legislatively created board, as contemplated by Article X, Section 21 of the Louisiana Constitution. The EAB has original jurisdiction under La. R.S. 42:11421 and La. R.S. 42:1141.5 to determine whether violations of the Code of Governmental Ethics, La. R.S. 42:1101 *et seq.*, have occurred.

This adjudication is conducted in accordance with the Code of Governmental Ethics, La. R.S. 42:1101 *et seq.*, the Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:950 *et seq.*, and the enabling legislation of the Division of Administrative Law, La. R.S. 49:991 *et seq.*

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The BOE alleged that Respondent used the authority of his position as the Chief of Police for the City of Youngsville to compel and/or coerce officers of the Youngsville Police Department (YPD) not to administer a field sobriety test or to issue a traffic citation in violation of La. R.S. 42:1116(A). The BOE also alleged that Respondent violated La. R.S. 42:1117 by virtue of facilitating the payment of gift card from a motorist to the office of the YPD for the performance of their duties in violation of La. R.S. 42:1111(A) and La. R.S. 42:1115.

The BOE offered its exhibits, numbered BOE-1 through BOE-11, which were admitted into evidence.³

Respondent presented witness testimony from Wil Giron, an investigator for the BOE. Mr. Giron testified regarding the video evidence presented for review, and he stated that an officer may use his discretion when deciding whether to issue a traffic citation to a motorist.⁴ Respondent testified on his own behalf. Respondent stated that Kayla M. Reaux (KR), a former elected member of the Youngsville City Council, is a close family friend and that she called him to the

³ BOE's Exhibits BOE-1 through BOE-11 consisted of written exhibits, audio, and video exhibits.

⁴ Testimony of Wil Giron.

scene of an accident on November 12, 2022, because she had just left his house when the accident occurred a short distance away. He said that he was not there to influence the responding officers in any way and claimed that he did not direct any of the officers not to do their job when they were investigating the traffic accident involving KR. He added that KR later gave him envelopes containing gift cards and apology letters and asked him to give them to the responding officers for her because she wanted to apologize for her behavior towards them at the accident scene. Respondent stated that he told the officers that they could keep the cards, give them away, or throw them away. Respondent claimed he did not knowingly violate any ethics laws.⁵

After counsel for the BOE and Respondent presented their cases, the record was closed, and the matter was taken under advisement for a determination of whether Respondent violated La. R.S. 42:1116(A) and La. R.S. 42:1117 and whether he would be subject to civil penalties.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondent was the Chief of Police for the City of Youngsville, Louisiana, in Lafayette Parish, continuously from January 1, 2015, until his resignation, effective August 21, 2023.⁶ On November 12, 2022, the YPD was Respondent's agency, and Respondent was a public servant.

KR was an elected member of the Youngsville City Council continuously from January 1, 2015, until her resignation, effective March 30, 2023.

On November 12, 2022, KR went to Respondent's residence to pick up beauty products from Respondent's significant other.⁷ Soon after KR left Respondent's residence on November 12, 2022, KR was involved in a traffic accident where she is alleged to have hit a parked vehicle.⁸ YPD Sergeant Justin Ortis, Officer Bailey Romero, and Officer Tim Mikhael (responding YPD

⁵ Testimony of Respondent.

⁶ BOE-2.

⁷ Testimony of Respondent.

⁸ *Id.*

officers) responded to the traffic accident involving KR.⁹

KR called Respondent to come to the scene of the November 12, 2022, accident.¹⁰

KR gave the responding YPD officers probable cause to believe that she had been consuming alcohol.¹¹ Office Mikhael claimed that Respondent made a gesture for him to cut off his body camera, that they did not administer a field sobriety test to KR because Respondent told the officers that KR was drowsy after having driven for a long time before the accident, and that they did not issue a traffic citation to KR for the accident because Respondent directed them not to do so.¹²

In the days following the accident, KR attempted to contact Officer Romero and Officer Mikhael directly and subsequently delivered the gift cards to Respondent and asked him to pass them along to the officer gave Respondent envelopes with each one containing a \$10 gift card to a coffee house and an apology letter.¹³ KR then asked Respondent to deliver the envelopes to the YPD officers.¹⁴

Respondent admitted that he personally delivered one envelope each to Officer Romero and Officer Mikhael, that he told them the envelopes were from KR to apologize for her behavior at the accident scene, and that the officers could keep the gift cards, give them away, or throw them away.¹⁵

⁹ BOE-3 (Louisiana Uniform Crash Report Vehicle Information and Driver Information) and BOE-6, BOE-7, BOE-8, and BOE-9 (Sworn statements of Respondent, Sergeant Ortis, Officer Romero, and Officer Mikhael).

¹⁰ Testimony of Respondent. *See also* sworn statement of Respondent.

¹¹ BOE-7, Sworn statements Officer Mikhael

¹² *Id.*

¹³ BOE-6. No evidence was presented to show whether Sergeant Ortis was given a gift card.

¹⁴ Testimony of Respondent and BOE-6.

¹⁵ Testimony of Respondent.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The BOE proved by clear and convincing evidence that Respondent knowingly used the authority of his position to compel and/or coerce officers of the YPD not to issue a traffic citation to a motorist, KR, and that Respondent facilitated the payment of gift cards from KR to two officers of the YPD for the performance of their duties. The BOE is authorized to impose upon Respondent a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000.¹⁶

In hearings brought before the EAB, the BOE must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent knowingly committed the violation of any provision of law within the jurisdiction of the BOE.¹⁷ The BOE proved that Respondent violated La. R.S. 42:1116(A) and La. R.S. 42:1117.

(1) Violation of La. R.S. 42:1116(A)

A “public employee” is anyone, compensated or not, who is

(i) an administrative office or official of a governmental entity who is not filling an elective office; (ii) appointed by an elected official when acting in an official capacity, and the appointment is to a post or position wherein the appointee is to serve the governmental entity or an agency thereof, either as a member of an agency, or as an employee thereof; (iii) engaged in the performance of a governmental function; (iv) under the supervision or authority of an elected official or another employee of the governmental entity.¹⁸

A “public servant” is a public employee or elected official.¹⁹

As the Chief of Police for the City of Youngsville, Lafayette Parish, Respondent was a public servant. The evidence supports a finding that on November 12, 2022, after receiving a call from KR, Respondent appeared at the scene of an accident in which KR is alleged to have hit a

¹⁶ La. R.S. 42:1153(A).

¹⁷ La. R.S. 42:1141.5(C). “‘Clear and convincing evidence’, in general, means that the fact of guilt must be proven to a greater degree than by ‘a mere preponderance of the evidence’ but less than by ‘beyond a reasonable doubt.’” *Louisiana State Bar Ass’n v. Edwins*, 329 So. 2d 437, 442 (La. 1976).

¹⁸ La. R.S. 42:1102(18).

¹⁹ La. R.S. 1102(19).

parked vehicle.²⁰ The responding YPD officers issued sworn statements stating that, at the direction of Respondent, they did not administer a field sobriety test to KR and did not issue a traffic citation to KR for the accident. The evidence shows that Respondent intervened on KR's behalf at the accident scene. The BOE proved by clear and convincing evidence that because Respondent used the authority of his position to compel and/or coerce officers of the YPD not to conduct a field sobriety test or to issue a traffic citation to KR, Respondent violated La. R.S. 42:1116(A).

(2) Violation of La. R.S. 42:1117

La. R.S. 41:1117 provides that “no public servant or other person shall give, pay, loan, transfer, or deliver or offer to give, pay, loan, transfer, or deliver, directly or indirectly, to any public servant or other person anything of economic value which such public servant or other person would be prohibited from receiving by any provision of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics.”

By his own admission, Respondent, while serving as the Chief of Police for the City of Youngsville, accepted envelopes from KR to give to the YPD officers who had responded to the November 12, 2022, accident, with each envelope containing a \$10 gift card from a coffee house and an apology letter. Respondent further admitted that he gave one envelope each to only Officer Romero and Officer Mikhael, that he told them KR sent the envelopes to apologize for her behavior at the accident scene, and that he told them they could either keep the gift cards, give them away, or throw them away. Because each of the \$10 gift cards that Respondent delivered to Officer Romero and Officer Mikhael had economic value, Respondent violated La. R.S. 41:1117. As such, the EAB is authorized to impose against Respondent a civil penalty under authority of La.

²⁰ Testimony of Respondent, and sworn testimonies of Sergeant Ortis, Officer Romero, and Officer Mikhael.

R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(4)(a) and (b), not to exceed \$5,000 for each occurrence.

Penalties

La. R.S. 42:1153(A) provides with respect to penalties:

Upon a determination that any elected official or other person has violated any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the [BOE] except violations of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act which shall be governed by Chapter 11 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the [EAB] may censure the elected official or person, or impose a fine of not more than \$10,000 or both.

Having found that Respondent violated La. R.S. 42:1116(A) and 42:1117, the EAB imposes a fine in the amount of \$100 per violation, for a total of \$200.

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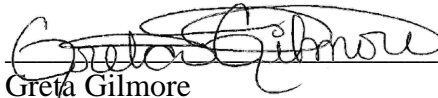
ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that Rickey J. Boudreaux violated Louisiana Revised Statutes 42:1116(A) by using the authority of his position as Chief of Police for the City of Youngsville, Lafayette Parish, to compel and/or coerce officers of the Youngsville Police Department not to administer a field sobriety test or to issue a traffic citation to Kayla M. Reaux.

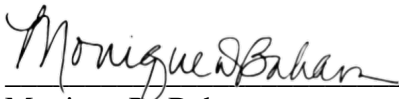
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Rickey J. Boudreaux violated Louisiana Revised Statutes 42:1117 because he delivered envelopes containing gift cards from Kayla M. Reaux to two officers of the Youngsville Police Department for the performance of their duties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 42:1153(A), for violating Louisiana Revised Statutes 42:1116(A) and 42:1117, Rickey J. Boudreaux is assessed a fine of \$100 per offense, for a total fine of \$200.

Rendered and signed on January 5, 2026, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Greta Gilmore
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Ethics Adjudicatory Board, Panel B
Division of Administrative Law



Monique D. Baham
Administrative Law Judge
Ethics Adjudicatory Board, Panel B
Division of Administrative Law



Anthony J. Russo
Administrative Law Judge
Ethics Adjudicatory Board, Panel B
Division of Administrative Law

NOTICE OF TRANSMISSION OF DECISION OR ORDER

I certify that on Tuesday, January 06, 2026, I have sent a copy of this decision/order to all parties of this matter.

Clerk of Court
Division of Administrative Law

REVIEW RIGHTS

This is the final decision of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board. You may seek rehearing or reconsideration of this decision, subject to the grounds for and time limitations provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes 49:977.1. A request for rehearing must be sent to one of the addresses listed below.

EMAIL: EABprocessing@adminlaw.la.gov

FAX: (225) 342-1812

HAND DELIVERY TO:

1020 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

MAIL:

Division of Administrative Law

ATTN: Ethics Adjudicatory Board

P.O. Box 44033

Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4033

You have the right to appeal this decision to the Court of Appeal, First Circuit, in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 42:1142. You must file a written motion for appeal with the Ethics Adjudicatory Board within thirty (30) days after the transmittal of notice of this decision.