



December 21, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Statement from Baton Rouge Chief of Police Murphy J. Paul:  
Responding to Accusations by attorney for Siya Creel, former BRPD Officer:**

Mr. Creel, through counsel, has recently alleged in court documents and to the media, that the BRPD terminated his health insurance benefits. Upon a review of our records, we have determined that Mr. Creel was not on BRPD health insurance at the time of his pre-disciplinary hearing, which took place on November 12, 2020. However, we did discover that Mr. Creel applied for health insurance benefits with the BRPD the day after he was informed of the sustained allegations at his pre-disciplinary hearing, but those benefits would not have started until January 1, 2021. Accordingly, Mr. Creel was not on BRPD health insurance at the time of his hearing or at his termination. According to BRPD records, Mr. Creel never carried BRPD health insurance during his employment with the department.

As a result of his pre-disciplinary hearing, it was determined that Mr. Creel violated three BRPD policies, two of which are class 3 violations that carry the potential discipline of termination. The conduct associated with the violations includes (1) giving an on-camera interview that would lead the public to believe he represented the BRPD, without authorization; (2) he was interviewed on-camera while wearing his badge and gun in plain view, without authorization and (3) an audit of his emails showed that he conducted union business, including designing billboards, while on duty for the BRPD.

Decisions concerning officer discipline are governed only by department policy and procedures. Officer terminations are rare at the Baton Rouge Police Department and are never motivated by personal vendettas or political pressure. BRPD attorneys will continue to address these matters in the legal system. I look forward to the opportunity to set the record straight regarding the details that lead to this decision.

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