



August 28, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## STATEMENT FROM CHIEF PAUL

The Baton Rouge Police Department is actively investigating an officer-involved shooting which occurred on August 7, 2018 involving Police Officer Yuseff Hamadeh. We recently released our new policy concerning the release of critical incident video evidence. We stand by the new policy and understand the public's expectation in releasing video evidence sooner rather than later. It is our intent to follow our new policy and continue to release video evidence of critical incidents as soon as possible to build on the trust we have with the community we serve.

There are two independent investigations under way: a criminal investigation by BRPD Detectives and an administrative investigation by BRPD's Internal Affairs Division. Neither the officer's body camera nor the front in-car camera were on during the incident. However, the rear in-car camera was on, but it was facing downward, and did not capture any video evidence pertinent to the case. There is audio from the rear in-car camera that is currently being analyzed by investigators. In addition, we are reviewing video evidence provided by a concerned citizen that shows video of the traffic stop.

In certain instances the release of critical incident evidence, absent a thorough examination of the evidence, could compromise investigative efforts. We will release the footage in question at the appropriate time once we determine that releasing the critical incident video evidence is in the public's best interest.

As your Chief, I wholeheartedly believe in transparency. I have worked hard to gain the public's trust since I took the oath of office in January of this year. I want to reassure the citizens of Baton Rouge that our Baton Rouge Police Officers are conducting a thorough investigation into this incident. We are asking for the public's patience in this matter as our Detectives and Internal Affairs Investigators work diligently to exhaust all investigative efforts to conclude these investigations. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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