



**AKRON POLICE DEPARTMENT
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
2026-OPSA-01**



TYPE OF ALLEGATION

Obeying All Laws

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT

1/19/2026 at 2:27 a.m.

INCIDENT LOCATION

[REDACTED]
Akron, OH 44314

NATURE OF ALLEGATION AND CASE OVERVIEW

[REDACTED] called the police after her live-in boyfriend, Officer Samuel Putnam, intentionally made contact with or struck a vehicle that she was sitting in during his attempt to drive away from their house.

REPORTING PARTY

[REDACTED]
Assignment: Platoon 3, 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

STATEMENT OF REPORTING PARTY

[REDACTED] told responding supervisors that Officer Putnam was upset over the start of a disciplinary investigation into his response to a call for service on a previous date (see 26-OPSA-02). She stated that he had left work early that night and when he had come back to pick her up, he was intoxicated, so she had driven them home. She stated that once at home, they had gotten into an argument and Officer Putnam had attempted to leave the house. In an attempt to prevent him from driving while intoxicated, she had gotten into Officer Putnam's SUV that was parked in front of his truck. She told supervisors that he had then gotten into his truck and struck the SUV three times in an attempt to push it out of the way.



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INVOLVED OFFICER

Ofc. Sam Putnam
CITY ID# 21659
APD ID# 1679
DOH: 10/28/2024
Assignment: Platoon 3, 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

ACTION TAKEN

On 1/19/2026, Chief Harding made me aware of a call for service at [REDACTED] with incident number 2026-00007010.

Officer Sam Putnam is involved in a relationship with [REDACTED]. Both officers are assigned to Platoon 3. On 1/18, Officer Putnam was ordered to type a response for an investigation reference a previous incident (2025-00144419). He took four hours of compensatory time off at the end of his patrol shift but picked up Ofc. [REDACTED] at the normal end time. She noticed when he picked her up that he appeared to be intoxicated and forced him to let her drive.

When they arrived home, an argument ensued. Ofc. Putnam stated that he was going to leave. [REDACTED] sat in and refused to move an SUV that was blocking his truck in. He subsequently drove his truck, making contact with the SUV. [REDACTED] called 9-1-1 and police were dispatched. Sgt. Film, Sgt. Farr, and Sgt. Orwick reported to the scene. After gathering information, they called the police legal advisor, who did not authorize criminal charges.

I reviewed body-worn camera video from the supervisors who were on scene. Officer Putnam met Sergeant Farr with a beer in hand, but I did not notice obvious signs of intoxication in his interactions on video.

On 1/20/26, I was asked by Chief Harding to serve Ofc. Putnam with an administrative leave notice and to let the FOP president know. I gave a copy to Sgt. Lucey in his office. Sgt. Falcone and I drove to 1091 Carnegie Avenue. [REDACTED] and Ofc. Putnam were both inside. I served him with the notice and asked him if he had any questions. He had none and we left.

On 2/5/26, [REDACTED] was interviewed in the OPSA office reference a potential violation in investigation 2026-OPSA-02. I asked several questions about rumors I had heard of things that she had stated which indicated that she was a victim of domestic violence and that Officer Putnam may be violent. She denied that Officer Putnam had ever struck her. She denied that she had concerns he would hurt her when she returned to the house the next day to retrieve property. She was provided with resources including Ease at Work and Victim's Assistance.

Officer Putnam was scheduled for an interview in the OPSA office on 2/25/26, but he resigned on 2/23/26 effective immediately. As a result, it was not possible to interview him about this incident. There were no further investigative actions to take in this investigation and so it was concluded.



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CONCLUSIONS

After reviewing all of the available information, no procedural violations were discovered. The potentially criminal aspects to this incident were handled by the responding officers and the police legal advisors who were contacted.

While talking with Sergeant Orwick, Officer Putnam mentioned that his dog is a service animal due to his PTSD from being stabbed twice and shot at during his service at his prior police department, the Fostoria Police Department. I looked at Officer Putnam's background investigation and learned that he had worked at the Fostoria Police Department for about a year and a half, but there was no mention of these critical incidents. I called the Fostoria Police Department and spoke with Captain Reinbolt. He told me that Officer Putnam had not been stabbed. He stated that he could recall one incident where during a foot chase, a suspect's weapon had been discharged, but he was not sure if Putnam was involved in that incident.

This investigation was concluded when Officer Putnam resigned on 2/23/26.

INVESTIGATOR:

 #1310
 LT. PATRICK NEUMANN #1310

SUPERVISOR:

 1080
 CHIEF BRIAN HARDING #1080