



**Office of the New York State
Attorney General**

**Letitia James
Attorney General**

December 22, 2025

Sheriff Tobias J. Shelley
Onondaga County Sheriff's Office
407 S. State Street
Syracuse, NY 13202

Via Email

Re: Executive Law § 75(5)(b) Referral of Deputy Lindsey Giles
OAG Matter No. 1-818139538

Dear Sheriff Shelley,

The Office of the New York State Attorney General has reviewed the Executive Law § 75(5)(b) referral of complaints involving Deputy Lindsey Giles from November 2023 to December 2024.

First, we credit the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) for conducting a thorough investigation into the referred complaints. OAG concurs in the OCSO findings for each matter. In three of the five incidents, Deputy Giles engaged in misconduct that warrants retraining and performance monitoring in addition to the discipline already imposed, as described below. However, given the disparate nature of the conduct in each of those incidents, we have not made a finding that Deputy Giles engaged in a pattern or practice of misconduct under Executive Law § 75(5)(b).

In Case Number 23-106, Deputy Giles failed to properly investigate a driver who caused a three-car accident despite signs of intoxication and/or being under the influence of a narcotic substance that was conveyed to her about the driver, possibly as a way of extending a courtesy to another member of service.

In Case Number 24-087, Deputy Giles initiated a search and seizure of the complainant without probable cause, apparently because he, shortly before his detention, swore at Deputy Giles. There was no evidence that the complainant acted in a threatening manner or was engaged in a crime. OCSO concluded that Deputy Giles lacked sufficient justification to stop the complainant, place him in custody, and search him. To the extent the complainant was targeted for his speech, even if unpleasant, it was protected by the First Amendment.

In Case Number 24-159, Deputy Giles provided her handcuffs to a civilian who was scuffling with his foster child inside a school while classes were in session and in front of other students, violating numerous department policies. It appeared that Deputy Giles had little information about this matter because she was walking by when this civilian asked for her handcuffs. In her written report and when describing the incident to her superior officer regarding the minor's detention, Deputy Giles omitted that she had given her handcuffs to this civilian.

While these acts do not constitute a pattern or practice of misconduct under Executive Law § 75(5)(b), each is significant.

OCSO already has imposed discipline in connection with these incidents. In addition to that discipline, we recommend that OCSO develop a plan for monitoring Deputy Giles' conduct for not less than a year and that she be provided with additional training in the laws of search and seizure, Department's policies and protocols, and an admonition that professional courtesies and acts of retaliation have no place in law enforcement.

We appreciate your cooperation and that of your agency.

Thank you,

Mihea Kim
Assistant Attorney General

Lillian Marquez
Deputy Bureau Chief
Law Enforcement Misconduct Investigative Office