



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

**Letitia James
Attorney General**

September 17, 2026

Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch
New York City Police Department
One Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Via Email

Re: Executive Law § 75(5)(b) Referral of Police Officer Krishawni Denton
OAG Matter No. 1-817977408
Tax No. 967479

Dear Commissioner Tisch,

We have reviewed your agency's referral of Police Officer Krishwani Denton pursuant to Executive Law Section 75(5)(b). Based on our review, we have concluded that Police Officer Denton engaged in a pattern of misconduct involving repeated abuses of authority, including unlawful searches and seizures while assigned to Police Service Area 3.

Our findings are based on the following incidents:

CCRB #202207345: On October 28, 2022, at 6:43 p.m., Officer Denton and Officer Steven Guerrero approached Complainant 1 while inside their unmarked police vehicle as Complainant 1 walked on Fulton Street and Grand Avenue in Brooklyn. From inside their police vehicle, Officer Denton asked Complainant 1 to identify the contents of his pocket because they observed him placing a dark-colored object in his jacket pocket. Complainant 1 ignored his request and ran away. Officer Denton exited the vehicle and pursued him on foot, while Officer Guerrero pursued in the vehicle with lights and sirens activated. Within approximately two blocks, Officer Denton intercepted Complainant 1 and immediately frisked his right jacket pocket. Once the second officer arrived, the officers held Complainant 1 against a gate and Officer Denton frisked his lower torso. After finding no weapons, Officer Denton asked Complainant 1 for his name and identification. Complainant 1 provided his name but stated that he did not have his ID with him. Complainant 1 then requested to call his mother. In response to Officer Denton asking him why he ran away, Complainant 1 stated that he did not know they were police officers. Throughout the exchange, Complainant 1 repeatedly asked why he was stopped. Neither officer gave an explanation.

CCRB investigated this incident and substantiated the allegations against Officer Denton for an unlawful stop and frisk and failure to explain the basis of the stop. Both officers testified that they approached Complainant 1 after observing him place an unknown object in his pocket. While Complainant 1's actions may have justified the officers' request for additional information, they were insufficient to justify the stop and frisk. Additionally, Administrative Code § 14-174 requires officers to provide an explanation of the reason for their law enforcement activity unless doing so would impair their investigation. BWC footage confirmed that both officers failed to explain the reason for stopping and frisking Complainant 1. For this incident, CCRB recommended Command Discipline B, but NYPD took no disciplinary action.

CCRB # 202301273: On January 27, 2023, at 9:05 p.m., Complainant 2 parked his vehicle in front of a restaurant on Marcy Avenue in Brooklyn. He and his two passengers then started to exit the vehicle when Officer Denton and other NYPD officers stopped them because they observed him driving a vehicle with darkly tinted windows.

Officer Denton did not engage with Complainant 2 but approached the back passenger side where Passenger B sat and observed Passenger B move both of his hands to the left side of his body and turn away from Officer Denton. Officer Denton ordered Passenger B to remain in the vehicle and Passenger B complied. Approximately 30 seconds later, Officer Denton ordered him to exit it and Passenger B stepped out. Officer Denton handcuffed Passenger B and frisked his clothing based on Passenger B's purported movements while sitting inside the vehicle. After Officer Denton frisked him, he asked Passenger B for his identification and Passenger B responded, "Yeah, right there," indicating its location. Officer Denton removed Passenger B's wallet from the right side of his jacket. He then used Passenger B's ID to search for open warrants associated with his name.

CCRB investigated this incident and substantiated the allegations against Officer Denton for an unlawful frisk and detention of Passenger B. Officer Denton stated that he frisked Passenger B because Passenger B may have possessed a weapon since he moved his hands to the left side of his body as the officers approached. CCRB determined that such movement, on its own, is insufficient to create a reasonable suspicion that a person is armed and dangerous or had committed, committing, or about to commit a crime. Further, CCRB determined that Officer Denton lacked a founded suspicion of criminality to ask Passenger B about the location of his identification. Passenger B did not give him consent to remove the wallet from his jacket pocket after he indicated its location. Given that Officer Denton's frisk revealed no dangerous objects or weapons and Passenger B did not voluntarily consent to the search of his jacket pocket; Officer Denton's search was unlawful. Given that Officer Denton did not have a reasonable suspicion that Passenger B had committed any felonies or misdemeanors, Officer Denton's warrant audit was also unreasonable. For this incident, a CCRB Administrative Prosecution is pending.

CCRB #202303582: On April 22, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., Officer Denton responded to a request for backup on an in-progress traffic stop at the corner of Marcus Gravey Boulevard and Hart Street in Brooklyn. Upon his arrival, Officer Denton approached the rear passenger side of the vehicle and requested that Complainant 3 step out of the vehicle. As Complainant 3 exited

the vehicle with his hands raised, Officer Denton observed a bulge on Complainant 3's torso and bulges on both sides of his pants pockets. Based on Officer Denton's knowledge of other occupant's criminal involvement gang activity and the bulges in Complainant 3's clothing, Officer Denton proceeded to frisk Complainant 3 pants pockets and torso area and did not find weapons or dangerous objects.

CCRB investigated this incident and substantiated an allegation of an unlawful frisk of Complainant 3. Officer Denton could not recall any prior personal interactions with any of the vehicle's occupants, and he possessed only vague knowledge of Complainant 3's gang associations or possible connections to violent crimes. Additionally, Officer Denton could not describe the shape of the bulges in Complainant 3's clothing or whether they resembled any dangerous objects. CCRB concluded that, based only on the nondescript bulges and his second-hand knowledge of Complainant 3's history, Officer Denton lacked a reasonable suspicion that Complainant 3 was armed and dangerous. For this incident, CCRB recommended Command Discipline B, but NYPD took no disciplinary action.

CCRB #202308665: On August 3, 2023, at 11:45 p.m., Officer Denton responded to a call for backup in the parking lot of 433 Lafayette Avenue in Brooklyn. Upon arrival, Officer Denton and other NYPD officers handcuffed Complainant 4 for arrest. As Officer Denton and another officer physically escorted Complainant 4 to a nearby police vehicle, Complainant 4 pulled away from them and moved towards another individual who had been arrested and was being escorted to a different police vehicle. While Officer Denton maintained his hold on Complainant 4's rear-cuffed arms, he reached out, grabbed Complainant 4's hair, and pulled Complainant 4 toward him.

CCRB investigated this incident and substantiated the allegation involving Officer Denton's use of physical force against Complainant 4 as unreasonable. BWC showed Officer Denton reaching for Complainant 4's hair and CCRB determined that Officer Denton appeared to reach specifically and intentionally for Complainant 4's hair even though reasonable means of control were available such as pulling his arms or taking hold of his clothing. CCRB concluded that Officer Denton's use of force was unreasonable. For this incident, CCRB recommended Command B discipline, but NYPD took no disciplinary action.

Based on the substantiated incidents above, we find that Officer Denton engaged in a pattern of unlawful searches and seizures. We recommend that Officer Denton be retrained on the *DeBour* framework for street encounters.

Regarding Officer Denton's use of unreasonable force, OAG recognizes its serious impact on public trust and safety and NYPD strictly proscribes the use or application of such force. We recommend that Officer Denton uses of force be monitored by his immediate supervisor and addressed where appropriate.

Pursuant to Executive Law § 75(5)(c), please provide a written response within 90 days as to NYPD's response to these recommended remedial actions, including documentation of any training provided.

Thank you,

LETITIA JAMES
Attorney General of the State of New York

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Office