



# PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Media Relations Unit

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### *Media Release*

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#### **Pasadena Police Department's Response to Allegations Made by Karlee Walker**

On July 26, 2020, the Pasadena Police Department received information from Pasadena Police Sergeant Richard Thornton regarding disparaging posts to social media by his ex-wife Kristin Thornton, who was employed in the Pasadena Police Department's Digital Imaging Unit. These posts resulted in the initiation of an Internal Affairs Investigation.

On July 29, 2020, during the course of the investigation, Pasadena Police Department civilian telecommunicator/jailer Karlee Walker stated that she received several threatening text messages from Kristin Thornton towards the end of May 2020. Although Walker admitted to delaying reporting the messages when she received them, they were investigated once they were shown to her supervisor two months later. After a thorough investigation of the available evidence, the originating source of the messages was unable to be determined.

On August 31, 2020, Kristin Thornton submitted her resignation letter from the Pasadena Police Department, to be effective September 6, 2020.

During the investigation, Karlee Walker took a leave of absence in November 2020 and separated from the organization on May 21, 2021.

Concurrent to this investigation, on June 3, 2021, Kristen Thornton was involved in a disturbance over child custody at Sgt. Thornton and Karlee Walker's residence, which resulted in damage to the front door. (PPD Case# 21-008491) A Follow-up investigation resulted in Kristin Thornton being charged with Class B Criminal Mischief and currently has a warrant for her arrest. (Reference Cause# 2363141 County Court at Law #7.)

At the completion of the Internal Affairs Investigation, Sgt. Thornton has received a 5-day disciplinary suspension for numerous policy violations. Both Karlee Walker and Kristin Thornton separated from the organization before the completion of the internal affairs investigation.

The department has not viewed the videos purportedly submitted to Fox 26 and is therefore not in a position to provide any commentary.

Like all matters brought to the attention of the Pasadena Police Department, these allegations were thoroughly investigated with the available evidence, and disciplinary action or criminal charges were brought when appropriate.

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