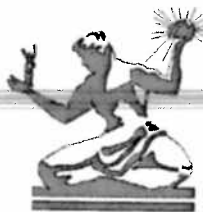


City of Detroit  
Fire Department  
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Field Operations  
Shift Supervisor



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June 11, 2015

To: Raymond Birch  
Assistant Superintendent  
Detroit Fire Department/EMSD

From: Jerald James  
Shift Supervisor  
Detroit Fire Department/EMSD  
Field Operations

Subject: **ROMEO 33 RESPONSE (RUN 282/CAD 303)**

Sir,

On May 30, 2015 the crew of Romeo 33 (EMT's Ann Marie Thomas and [redacted] were dispatched to run #282 cad # 303. The run was located at [redacted] for a report of a baby not breathing. Prior to making the scene the unit was placed in position at Pembroke and Rosemont.

On June 4, 2015 I was given the directive to investigate the allegation of refusing to respond to a non-violent call for service for the aforementioned crew.

### **DISCUSSION**

On May 30, 2015 the crew(s) of Romeo 33 and Medic 51, as listed above, were dispatched to a call for service for a baby not breathing. Shortly after going enroute there was a request from Romeo 33, EMT [redacted] for the eta of the transporting unit as well as Police. Upon arriving at Pembroke and Rosemont Romeo 33, EMT Thomas while driving, placed the unit in position with no explanation given to dispatch. Assistant Fire Dispatcher [redacted], after hearing the unit stage, provided updated information that the child was not breathing; the baby was hooked up to an oxygen machine because it was premature. Romeo 33, specifically EMT Thomas, acknowledged the updated information and requested another eta of the transporting unit. EMT Thomas, while her partner was responding to dispatch, then contacted 1105 via her personal cell to state her case relative to going in position. Per 1105 the conversation was as follows:



**Tech Thomas** – Dispatch is not letting us go in position on this run.

**1105** – What do you have?

**Tech Thomas** – It's a baby not breathing, no scout available, I'm not about to be on no scene 10 minutes doing CPR you know how these families get.

**1105** – We are going to get an ES Channel.

**Tech Thomas** – Can you make the scene.

**1105** – I'm coming from downtown.

The conversation was ended at that point. 1105 then requested an ES Channel with both Romeo 33 and Medic 51. While on the ES Channel 1105 had dispatch recite the comments of the run. After hearing the comments, and obtaining an eta from Medic 51 and requesting the eta of police, 1105 then ordered Romeo 33 to make the scene. After his second inquiry EMT [redacted] acknowledges the order to make the scene. EMT Thomas again requests the eta of the transporting unit. 1105, via dispatch, was hailed by Romeo 33 on ES channel 4. EMT Thomas then inquires was 1105 going to make the scene. When provided with his response she then states "51 is still giving a 12 minute eta". 1105, yet again, orders Romeo 33 to make the scene. After two additional attempts the order is again reiterated with direction on how to handle. At this point EMT [redacted] acknowledges the order and subsequently places the unit on the scene. After the run the crew was subsequently placed out of service Administrative and directed to report back to quarters where they were subsequently placed off duty LWOPCA and directed to report to Administration on that following Monday June 2, 2015.

The order to place the unit out of service and both Technicians off duty LWOPCA, without doing an investigation, was given by 1105 on your orders.

## **SUMMARY**

On June 05, 2015 the crew of Romeo 33, Thomas and [redacted], were interviewed in the presence of the Union Representative R. Mathews. Prior to the interview the crew was provided with the divisional Union Rights documentation and indicated they understood their rights and had no questions. Prior to being interviewed EMT Thomas indicated that the decision to go in position was hers and hers alone. EMT [redacted] indicated that she was never concerned for her safety and would have made the scene without a problem.

After going in position, Thomas even inquired from [redacted] was she "comfortable" making the scene to which she replied yes. As EMT Thomas was the driver EMT [redacted] had no ability to alter her actions.

During the interview, and in her written response, EMT Thomas stated that she noted a squad car nearby and requested they make the scene to assist. Although this statement was supported by EMT [redacted], Thomas never reported that information to dispatch or 1105.



1105, upon being contacted by EMT Thomas after placing her unit in position, was given the rationale of not doing CPR for 10 minutes as a reason for not making the scene. Only after being ordered to do so several times does it appear that EMT Thomas finally acquiesced her position and drove the unit to the scene. Even in her written statement she continues to reference the response time of the transporting unit. At no point did she document her concern for her safety or that of her partner.

The actions of EMT Thomas directly contributed to an approximately 19 minute response time (from time of call to Romeo 33 making the scene) for a baby not breathing. It should be noted that there was a ROSC although the baby was pronounced the next morning at Sinai-Grace Hospital.

### **CONCLUSION**

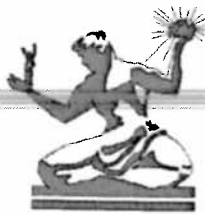
After reviewing all the evidence provided and speaking with all parties involved I conclude the following;

- EMT Thomas refused to respond to a call for service for a baby not breathing for no reason other than not wanting to perform CPR for what she perceived to be an extended period of time as stated to 1105. At no point, in any of her statements to dispatch, 1105 or her written account, did she ever project a concern for her safety nor did she ask for an eta for police more than once. In all of her subsequent statements to dispatch over ES channel 4 she consistently asked for the eta of the transporting unit. EMT Thomas even went as far as reminding 1105 that the transporting unit still had a 12 minute eta. after being ordered to make the scene on at least 4 separate occasions. There was no information provided in the initial call nor any subsequent updates to support the actions of EMT Thomas. Even during her interview, when asked was she scared, she replied she was not scared but concerned.
- EMT \_\_\_\_\_ appears to be an unwilling participant on this run and was placed in an unfortunate situation by a tenured employee.
- A review of the CAD ticket shows a statement "refused to make scene w/o scout". At no point, in any of the audio files forwarded, did either employee of Romeo 33 make this statement. This statement should be investigated and handled by the Communications Division.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

As the investigating officer I recommend the following;

- EMT \_\_\_\_\_ be found as not contributing to the actions of EMT Thomas and be returned to her duties as an EMT for the Division.



- EMT Ann Marie Thomas be charged for the following violation(s).
  - General Rule 5.43 Neglect of Duty – EMT Thomas did exhibit a willful and wanton disregard for her duties as a member of this department by refusing to make a scene for a patient/baby not breathing. The fundamental duty for members assigned to the EMS Division is to respond appropriately and treat the sick and injured. Her refusal to do so, based on her opinion of an extended CPR requirement, is in clear contrast to her duties and shows a depraved indifference to this family.

All relevant documents have been attached for your review.

:JKJ

enclosures