



**CITY OF ITHACA**  
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**MAYOR'S OFFICE**  
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**Joint Statement of Mayor Myrick and Chief Naylor**  
**December 3, 2020**

As vividly demonstrated nationwide this year, policing requires public trust. Every day, IPD officers work hard to earn that trust. Unfortunately, there are rare occasions when officers, whether by words or deed, undermine that trust. With this statement we are disclosing a recent such incident, because transparency is essential to trust.

A culture of professionalism and respect for the public is at the heart of a well-functioning police department. As depicted in the body-worn-camera footage that we are disclosing today, an IPD Sergeant's recent comments ran directly counter to IPD's culture of respect and professionalism. While the investigation to date has identified no evidence of any physical abuse or evidence tampering taking place at the hands of this IPD Sergeant, the Sergeant's apparently-fictitious comments remain entirely inappropriate and unacceptable.

On Monday, November 9, 2020, Deputy Chief Joly briefed Chief Naylor to the effect that a Sergeant in the Investigative Division had self-reported his own unprofessional and inappropriate comments while on-duty. These comments, which were captured on the member's body worn camera, regard a prior use-of-force incident and evidentiary integrity.

Chief Naylor notes that "Since the comments regard two areas of critical importance—force and integrity—I immediately ordered a thorough investigation and placed the involved member on suspension from duty." Concurrently, the Chief's Office briefed the Mayor, the City Attorney, and the District Attorney. "As the Chief of Police, I am thoroughly disappointed in the statements made by this Sergeant. They are wholly inconsistent with our values and culture. I took swift action to suspend the involved Sergeant, and in consultation with the Mayor and City Attorney, I will seek to impose appropriate discipline."

"I am keenly aware that this comes at an already-strained moment in IPD's relationship with the public," notes Mayor Myrick. "I continue to believe that IPD as an organization is one of the most professional police departments in the state. But there is clearly room for improvement, and we will continue the hard work of building and maintaining a culture of respect and professionalism throughout the department."

"I will also ensure that, within the bounds of law, we share with the public the conclusions reached through IPD's investigation of this matter. We aim to complete that investigation as soon as possible, and hopefully sometime this month, after which the City will seek appropriate discipline."

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Sergeant Slattery has issued a public apology. Below is his statement in full.

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF SERGEANT KEVIN SLATTERY  
OF THE CITY OF ITHACA POLICE DEPARTMENT

On November 6, 2020 I reported to my superiors at the City of Ithaca Police Department that a week earlier I had recorded myself making inappropriate jokes to a fellow officer about matters relating to a person charged by the Department with Rape. I immediately turned over that recording to my superiors and to the District Attorney's Office. These inappropriate comments were made in jest and do not accurately reflect on my actions in dealing with that subject.

I sincerely apologize to the Department and the community for the embarrassment I have caused. I assure all that these comments do not accurately depict the professional manner in which members of the Department and I have always strived to conduct ourselves. I will work diligently to regain the trust of the Department and community I have so proudly served for the last 15 years.