

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE:

Judge Sonya M. McKnight :  
Magisterial District Judge :  
Magisterial District 12-2-04 : 1 JD 2021  
12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District :  
Dauphin County :

RECEIVED AND FILED  
FEB 23 2021  
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

**ANSWER TO FORMAL COMPLAINT**

AND NOW, this 16th day of February , 2021, comes Heidi F. Eakin, Attorney for Respondent, Sonya McKnight and submits the following answer to the Complaint filed on February 8, 2021.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

1. Admitted.
2. Admitted.
3. Respondent has no direct knowledge to either admit or deny this allegation.
4. It's admitted the vehicle stop occurred within Judge McKnight's jurisdiction.
5. Respondent has no direct knowledge to either admit or deny this allegation.
6. Admitted.
7. No answer required.
8. Respondent has no direct knowledge to either admit or deny this allegation.
9. Respondent has no direct knowledge to either or admit or deny this allegation.
10. Admitted.
11. Admitted.
12. Admitted insofar as Judge McKnight came to the scene of the vehicle stop.
13. Admitted insofar as Judge McKnight asked "What was going on?" regarding the vehicle stop.
14. Admitted.
15. Respondent has no direct knowledge to either admit or deny this allegation.

16. Respondent has no direct knowledge to either admit or deny this allegation.
17. Denied.
18. Admitted in part, denied in part. Judge McKnight admits she contacted Commissioner Carter prior to arriving at the vehicle stop. It is specifically denied, she inquired of the Officers whether Commissioner Carter was on duty.
19. Denied.
20. Admitted.
21. Admitted that Judge McKnight received from the officers, Baltimore's car keys and approximately \$37.
22. Admitted.
23. Respondent has no direct knowledge to either admit or deny this allegation.
24. Respondent has no direct knowledge to either admit or deny this allegation.
25. Respondent has no direct knowledge to either admit or deny this allegation.
26. Admitted.
27. Admitted.
28. Admitted
29. Admitted the allegation correctly recites the probable cause articulated in the Criminal Complaint
30. Admitted.
31. Admitted.
32. Judge McKnight, believed Attorney Brian Perry had made the necessary notifications to comply with Rule 1921.
33. Judge McKnight, believed Attorney Brian Perry had made the necessary notifications to comply with Rule 1921.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi F. Eakin, Esquire

**VERIFICATION**

I, Sonya McKnight, verify that I have reviewed the attached answer to the Complaint and adopt it as true and accurate.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Heidi F. Eakin, Esquire, attorney for Defendant, do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this ANSWER TO COMPLAINT served upon the following individuals be delivering same to the following person at the address below on the below date:

Melissa L. Norton  
Deputy Counsel  
Pa. Supreme Court ID 46684  
Judicial Conduct Board  
Pennsylvania Judicial Center  
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Court of Judicial Discipline  
601 Commonwealth Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

BY:  
Heidi F. Eakin, Esquire

Date: 2-16-21

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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Dauphin County :

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I hereby certify that this filing complies with the provisions of Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts that requires filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Respectfully submitted,

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