

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE



Sheriff's Deputy Arrested

Cincinnati Ohio, July 02, 2020 – Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil reports the arrest of Sergeant Jesse Franklin as a result of an indictment returned by a Hamilton County Jury for assault, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

On June 9, 2020, Cincinnati Police Officers arrested Nicholas Ballachino for Disorderly Conduct While Intoxicated and Obstructing Official Business. During the admissions process into the Hamilton County Justice Center, as Mr. Ballachino was being searched, a physical altercation occurred between Mr. Ballachino and Sheriff's deputies, resulting in Mr. Ballachino being restrained on the ground by multiple deputies. A review of video footage of the incident shows that, while Mr. Ballachino was on the ground in handcuffs, Sgt. Franklin kicked Mr. Ballachino in the head. Sheriff Neil became aware of this incident, immediately ordered a criminal investigation, and suspended Sgt. Franklin's police powers. Upon completion of the investigation, this matter was forwarded to the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office. The Prosecutor's Office then presented the case to the Grand Jury, leading to an indictment and subsequently Sgt. Franklin's arrest.

Sheriff Neil stated, "As Sheriff of Hamilton County, I am outraged and shocked by this egregious conduct. These actions are inconsistent with our training and will not be tolerated under my watch. I have suspended Sgt. Franklin without pay and am proceeding with the disciplinary process as required under the applicable collective bargaining agreement."

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