

Game Commission confirms departure of dispatch supervisor named in Broad + Liberty investigation

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The Pennsylvania Game Commission has confirmed that John “Dug” Hudson, a dispatch supervisor named in a *Broad + Liberty* investigation into workplace harassment and retaliation at the agency’s Central Dispatch Center, is no longer employed by the commission.

A PGC spokesperson confirmed Hudson’s departure in response to a *Broad + Liberty* inquiry, but the agency declined to say whether he was terminated or resigned, declined to identify the reason for his separation, and declined to say whether he received any severance. The spokesperson directed further questions to the commission’s earlier statements.

Those earlier statements did not address any of those questions.

Hudson was named in a March 30, 2026, *Broad + Liberty* **report** in which seven former dispatchers described years of sexual harassment, public humiliation of staff through mandatory training exercises, and retaliation against employees who raised complaints. Multiple sources described serious physical and mental health consequences they attributed to the work environment, including panic attacks, blood pressure emergencies, significant weight and hair loss, depression, and in at least one case, suicidal ideation during a commute to work.

The March 30 report was itself a follow-up to a January 27, 2026, *Broad + Liberty* **investigation** in which two other former Game Commission employees described a similar pattern of harassment and retaliation at the agency. That report was further corroborated by a 2024 Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board **ruling** finding that the commission had engaged in retaliatory conduct against a game warden, and a March 2026 arbitration award finding that the commission had improperly issued retaliatory written reprimands to two union officials who had publicly criticized agency leadership.

In response to the March 30 report, the commission issued a statement acknowledging that its HR office had received complaints about the centralized dispatch center in February 2024, but said investigators were unable to find credible evidence substantiating the allegations. The commission said that some of the claims presented in the *Broad + Liberty* report were new to the agency, and that it had immediately commenced a new investigation and suspended one employee pending results.

The commission has not said whether that investigation is complete, what it found, or what actions resulted.

Broad + Liberty asked the commission to explain how its 2024 investigation failed to produce findings consistent with the accounts of seven on-record former employees, and to address the accountability of the two supervisors above Hudson in the dispatch center's chain of command — both of whom are named in the March 30 report. A PGC spokesperson said the agency's legal team had directed it to point *Broad + Liberty* and its readership to its earlier statements.

Those statements did not address either question.

Broad + Liberty also asked Governor Shapiro's office whether it has confidence that the commission can conduct a thorough and impartial investigation, given that the commission itself has acknowledged it investigated these same matters in 2024 — an investigation that, in light of Hudson's subsequent separation, appears to have failed to produce any tangible action. The governor's press office responded: "The Administration does not comment on personnel matters. The Shapiro Administration is committed to ensuring safe, respectful workplaces across the Commonwealth. It expects any allegations of misconduct to be reviewed promptly, thoroughly, and in accordance with established policies."

The response did not address whether the governor has confidence in the commission's current investigation, nor whether he believes the 2024 review met the standard his office described.

Hudson's departure marks the first concrete personnel consequence to follow the *Broad + Liberty* investigation. Whether it will be the last remains an open question. The two supervisors above Hudson in the dispatch center's chain of command remain employed by the commission, according to sources.

Hudson did not respond to messages sent to email addresses and a phone number believed to be his.

NOTE TO READERS: This story was reported entirely by Todd Shepherd. The first draft of this article was written with significant assistance from an AI writing tool as part of an editorial experiment at *Broad + Liberty*. Shepherd reviewed, edited, and is responsible for all factual content.

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