



# Lincoln First Bank of Rochester

CORPORATE AND INSTITUTIONAL TRUST DEPARTMENT, P.O. BOX 1412, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14603

*F*  
*Police Dept*

Allen Whitehead  
10 Granger Place  
Rochester, New York 14607  
May 16, 1978

Commander Willie C. Hoston  
CMD 15th Precint  
Gratiot & Conners Streets  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Commander Hoston:

This letter will serve as a formal complaint against Police Officer K . Krygel, Badge No. 876 of your precinct.

I have grave concerns about the manner in which I was treated by Officer Krygel and feel that he exercised poor judgement and caused me a great deal of embarrasment and inconvenience; I believe his actions should be brought to the attention of the proper authorities.

Enclosed you will find a detailed account of the incident. You will note that copies of this account have been sent to several people, including the Mayor of Detroit. As I indicated to you in our conversation, I am pursuing this matter because what Officer Krygel did is unconscionable and I question his ability to make logical and rational decisions. I hope that this excessive display of authority is not common practice for the Detroit Police Department.

Mr. Russi and I would like to commend you on your quick response and attention to this matter. I understand and appreciate the awesome task you and your officers undertake, but I'm sure you understand my position. This situation deserves further attention and clarification. You have been sent this account for that purpose, and your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Allen Whitehead

AW:gw

Enc.

Copies: Walter Douglas  
Deputy Police Chief Bannon  
William L. Hart, Chief  
Council Woman Maryanne Mahaffy

On May 8, 1978, at approximately 6:15-6:30 p.m. I was stopped by Officer K. Krygel on Gratiot and Seneca Streets for exceeding the speed limit. My business associate and I waited in our vehicle while Officer Krygel returned to his patrol car with my license and rental car agreement. In the rear window we noticed Officer Krygel using his radio.

Several minutes passed and Officer Krygel finally returned to our vehicle and in an authoritative voice asked me to get out of the car. I asked "why" and he said, "Because your're under arrest!"

I asked Officer Krygel why I was under arrest and he said "Because you are an out-of-state driver". He told me to place my hands on the roof of the car, spread my legs and he searched me. He asked me to put my hands behind my back and he then handcuffed me. I asked if all of that was necessary, he said "yes". I asked if this was a law or standard procedure, he said "yes", that it was standard procedure. I said "I can't believe this".

He and another Officer who had arrived on the scene led me to the patrol car and placed me in the back seat. My rental vehicle was turned over to my companion, Mr. Russi, and he followed us to the 15th Precinct.

Note: The only words spoken to Officer Krygel prior to his command to get out of the car was, his statement that I had exceeded the speed limit, and his request to see my license and registration, and my answer of "yes".

At the Precinct I was decuffed and placed in the outer Lock-up area. After several minutes of detention I heard one of the other Officers ask Officer Krygel "What's this guy in for?" and "are there any wants and warrants on him?". Officer Krygel replied "speeding" and "no" (important).

A few minutes later Officer Krygel explained that I had to post \$50.00 Bond, that I could waive trial and plead guilty, or appear at a hearing. I opted for the hearing because of the severity of the treatment I had received.

On May 9, 1978, I appeared at Room 215 at Traffic Court. After a 2½ hour wait I appeared before Judge Ryan. I pleaded guilty with an explanation. The Judge allowed me to briefly state my case and ask some questions of him. I asked if it was Detroit law for out-of-state traffic offenders to be arrested and treated as such. He said "no". I stated that I would like to know if Officer Krygel has arrested and treated in this manner every out-of-state driver he has given a citation. At this point Judge Ryan turned to Officer Krygel and asked why he acted in this manner. Officer Krygel stated for the first time, that he was unable to check for wants and warrants due to the fact that the computer was down. The Judge turned to me and said, "There's your answer Mr. Whitehead, the Officer couldn't verify if you were wanted for anything".

Judge Ryan was extremely fair and suspended the sentence, did not impose a fine, reduced the charge and allowed me to have my \$50.00 returned. I thanked him. After waiting another hour and ten minutes I received a check in the amount of \$50.00 from the City of Detroit.

Needless to say I still felt upset, my business appointment had to be cancelled and I was extremely concerned about what had happened. Mr. Russi and I decided to speak to Commander Hoston of the 15th Precinct. We gave this very same account to the Commander who was extremely understanding. The Commander read us the departmental policy allowing for officers to use their discretion in the use of handcuffs and he agreed that the officer may have used poor judgement.

Since there seemed to be some inconsistency in Officer Krygel's testimony as it relates to finding out whether or not there were any "wants or warrants" on me. I requested the Commander to check if the computer was down between 6:15 and 7:00 p.m. on May 8, 1978. The Commander asked a Sgt. Welch to check the Log. Sgt. Welch returned and indicated that from 6:20 to 7:00 p.m. no entries were indicated so the only way to be sure would be to check the tapes for that time period.

On May 11, 1978, I called Commander Hoston and he indicated that he should have an answer by that afternoon and that I should speak with a Lt. Spight or Inspector Bloom. At approximately 4:00 p.m. that afternoon, I spoke with Inspector Bloom, who said that the computer had been down for a short time but went back in service shortly after 6:00p.m. This would indicate that the computer was functioning when we were stopped for the speeding violation.

Inspector Bloom continued to say something regarding the channels used for transmission and that there were no transmissions from the unit in question from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. This is the approximate time I was detained at the 15th Precinct.