

RECTORY OF
ST. MARY'S OF REDFORD PARISH
14601 MANSFIELD AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48227

9 March 1979

Commander Anthony Fierimonti
Detroit City Police, 12th Precinct
Woodward and Seven Mile
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Commander:

This letter is an attempt to alert you to an incident involving totally inappropriate behavior on the behalf of on of your Detroit City Policemen; an Officer Melvin Henry, Badge number 2314. Allow me to elaborate:

I am a Seminarian for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Maryland and am doing an Internship at Precious Blood School at 13436 Grove in Detroit. I am teaching school. On the morning of Thursday, March 1, 1979 at 7:10 a.m. I was stopped by this Officer for allegedly "rolling through a Stop sign". Whether or not I actually did "roll" through the Stop sign is debatable; I contend that I did not. The point of my letter to you is that Officer Melvin Henry did in fact act in a most unmannerly fashion in his handling of the incident.

Officer Henry ordered me quite rudely to produce my driver's license as well as my car registration which I did; he grabbed the license from my hand and made no overture to accept the car registration which I was very obviously holding for him to accept. Officer Henry barked orders at me to get out of my car so he could "pat me down" in an effort to produce a concealed weapon. In the next minute he seemed to have forgotten about the "patting down" which he stated he would do, and ordered me to get into the police car so he could "take me in" to the 12th Precinct for "questioning". In the interim between leaving my car and getting into the police car, Officer Henry proceeded to harass me verbally for no apparent reason.

Being an out of state driver I realize that it is a precaution to transport the out of state driver to the local precinct to pay the fine (in my case, I was made to pay 20.00); but the verbal abuse that I suffered at the hands of this Officer is inexcusable. I did nothing to antagonize this man.

I find it difficult to nuance this event to do the harassment justice. I would suffice it to say that because of this man's ill manners and unprofessional attitude towards a private citizen, I suffered unduly during the day and find it difficult to understand even today, a week later, why he acted in such a way.

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM
Twelfth Precinct

Date
May 28, 1979

Chief Of Police (through channels)

Object: INVESTIGATION AND REPORT ON LETTERS OF COMPLAINT FILED BY MR. MICHAEL FRANCIS SULLIVAN W/M 27,711 HAIDEN CHOICE LANE, BALTIMORE MARYLAND, (DETROIT ADDRESS ST. MARY'S OF REDFORD PARISH, 14601 HANSFIELD) AND SISTER MARY LOUISE WATKINS OF PRECIOUS BLOOD SCHOOL, 13435 GROVE AVE.

Writer was assigned the investigations of the above letters of complaint by Lt. Russell Blanchard of the Twelfth Precinct.

Briefly stated, Mr. Sullivan's letter of complaint states that on March 1, 1979 at 7:10 AM, he was stopped by Officers Melvin Henry, badge 2814, and Alexander Roberson, badge 386, for disregarding a stop sign at Schaefer and Clarita. Upon investigation, Mr. Sullivan states Officer Henry was rude and used an authoritative tone of voice without provocation. Being an out of state driver, Mr. Sullivan was arrested and conveyed to the Twelfth Precinct where he posted a twenty dollar bond and was immediately released.

When interviewed, Mr. Sullivan reiterated his complaint and added that his sole concern in regards to his letter of complaint was Officer Henry's tone of voice.

Mr. Sullivan was asked if Officer Henry used profanity or any undue force. Mr. Sullivan answered in the negative.

Sister Watkins's letter of complaint states that Mr. Sullivan as a result of his arrest was unduely inconvenienced and embarrassed by the officers. Sister Watkins further added that Officer Henry insulted Mr. Sullivan during the course of the investigation and arrest.

When interviewed, Sister Watkins advised writer that though she didn't witness the incident she feels that the officers followed the letter of the law instead of the spirit of the law. Sister Watkins contends that because it was necessary for her to obtain a substitute teacher and respond to the Twelfth Precinct to post a bond for Mr. Sullivan, it showed a lack of cooperation between law-enforcement and the educational services.

Officer Henry, when interviewed, advises that during the investigation Mr. Sullivan displayed a recalcitrant attitude regarding the traffic violation for which he was stopped. Mr. Sullivan's attitude prompted Officer Henry to arrest Mr. Sullivan instead of issuing a warning. Officer Henry added that at no time did he use an offensive tone of voice or insult Mr. Sullivan.

Officer Roberson advised writer that in his opinion Officer Henry did not use an offensive tone of voice nor was Mr. Sullivan insulted or treated rudely. Officer Roberson also stated that he did attempt to console Mr. Sullivan at the Twelfth Precinct when Mr. Sullivan started weeping, but no apology was offered by Officer Roberson to Mr. Sullivan.

(2)

Writer's investigation reveals that the officers followed the guidelines outlined in General Order 77-39, Section 10, which states that when a non-resident of this state is arrested for a traffic violation, he shall be required to accompany the officer to the station.

Mr. Sullivan's contention that Officer Henry's tone of voice was offensive or authoritative is an objective opinion not supported by witnesses.

Sister Watkins was advised of the results of writer's investigation and was informed that though this incident might have inconvenienced her and Mr. Sullivan, that members of the Twelfth Precinct would certainly endeavor to assist her and anyone else in the education field within the guidelines of the Detroit Police Department.

Sister Watkins refrained from expressing satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the results of writer's investigation.

Writer was unable to contact Mr. Sullivan regarding the results of the investigation.

In conclusion, the investigation reveals no misconduct by the officers involved.

All known witnesses have been interviewed. Recommend that this matter be considered closed with no further action taken.

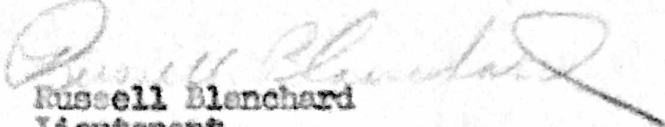
William Carlisle
Sergeant 8-1215
Twelfth Precinct

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chief of Police (Through Channels)

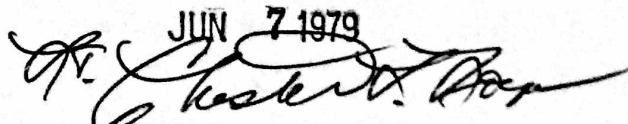
June 1, 1979

I have reviewed Sergeant Carlisle's investigation of Mr. Sullivan's and Sister Watkins complaint of the incident which took place on March 1, 1979, and find it to be complete and thorough. I concur with Sergeant Carlisle's conclusion that there was no misconduct by the officers involved. Recommend that the matter be closed and no further action be taken.


Russell Blanchard
Lieutenant
Patrol Operations Section
Twelfth Precinct

APPROVED

JUN 7 1979


INSPECTOR, 12TH PREC.

THIRD ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chief of Police (Through Channels)

June 7, 1979

Writer personally contacted Sister Watkins regarding the aforementioned complaint and her dissatisfaction with the service of the Twelfth Precinct over the past year and a half.

Sister Watkins related that since the date of the incident involving Mr. Sullivan, her contact with the department has greatly improved.

Officers assigned to the School Units have stopped and visited with her regarding current and potential problems.

On June 6, 1979, two persons were apprehended during a break-in of the school. She relayed that she was very pleased with this and hopes the cooperation will continue.

In conclusion, writer concurs that there was no misconduct on the part of the officers and recommend that the matter be closed.

Anthony Fiorimonte
Anthony Fiorimonte
Commander
Twelfth Precinct

APPROVED
JUN 12 1979
[Signature]
DEPUTY CHIEF
WESTERN OPERATIONS

APPROVED
JUN 14 1979
James Bannon
EXECUTIVE DEPUTY CHIEF

complaints