

West Greenwich
Police Department
Tel (401) 397-7191
Fax (401) 392-3811



280 Victory
Highway
West Greenwich
Rhode Island, 02817

Town of West Greenwich

INCORPORATED 1741

RICHARD N. RAMSAY, CHIEF OF POLICE

September 9, 2013

IA: 2013-001

On [REDACTED], Chief Ramsay, received a letter and an [REDACTED] Complaint form from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] indicated in his letter and on his complaint form that he felt he was a target of racial profiling.

[REDACTED] stated on August 14, 2013 he was traveling on Interstate 95 when he was stopped by [REDACTED] who he only identifies as "Officer Badge [REDACTED]". He indicated that [REDACTED] was tailgating him and was switching lanes on the highway to stay behind his vehicle, until he stopped him [REDACTED] claims the officer(s) asked several questions and asked to search his vehicle. [REDACTED] claims this is not the first time he has felt harassed by the West Greenwich Police Department, naming several roads he was harassed while driving on.

[REDACTED], I completed a search of our computer system for the traffic stop conducted by [REDACTED]. The traffic stop in question was conducted at 1837 hrs Southbound on Route 95 in the area of Exit 7 and lasted approximately 20 minutes, ending in a verbal warning. Documented in the computer under call number [REDACTED]

The radio transmission of the stop were recorded, I listened to the recording and found nothing out of the ordinary. These transmissions were copied onto a CD for documentation. They are as follows:

- 1820 - [REDACTED] calls out with the stop
- 1824 - Asked for the [REDACTED] to stop by his location [REDACTED] On a car stop
- 1827 - Asked to check with Coventry as to why [REDACTED] was listed as a "Caution"
- 1829 - [REDACTED] is heading to the location of the stop
- 1830 - Coventry PD not sure why [REDACTED] is listed as a Caution
- 1833 - [REDACTED] Arrives
- 1840 - Transmission is unclear
- 1840 - Units are clear with verbal warning

I then checked the Cross Agency checks and confirmed Coventry Police did have [REDACTED] listed as a "Caution", I copied this records check for documentation.

After listening to the recording I then checked our computer system for records going back to 2010 for any contact West Greenwich Police may have had with [REDACTED], finding none. The only listed contact was the one in question on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I interviewed [REDACTED] regarding the motor vehicle stop and he provided the following information. He had been working a traffic grant detail the night of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had requested he respond to his location to assist him in the stop of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] indicated he was also conducting a traffic stop at the time of the request and as soon as he cleared his stop, he responded to assist [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] stated upon his arrival he spoke with [REDACTED], who explained that he stopped [REDACTED] because he felt the driver may have been impaired and that when he approached him he was acting very nervous. He stated that [REDACTED] also told him that he had a video camera attached to his dash board and several other pieces of electronic equipment in his vehicle. [REDACTED] informed me that when he was speaking with [REDACTED] he could see [REDACTED] moving around in the vehicle which was making them concerned so he approached the driver's side of the vehicle and began to speak with [REDACTED]. He indicated that after speaking with him for a short period of time, it was decided to release him with a verbal warning.

On [REDACTED] I interviewed [REDACTED] about the traffic stop. He informed me he was entering onto Route 95 southbound and as he was making his way over to the high speed lane he observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed in the left lane. He said once the vehicle passed him he moved into the left lane behind him. He estimated the speed at approximately 75 MPH. He stated he followed the vehicle for a short distance observing the vehicle swaying and observed speeds between 65 and 78 MPH. He indicated the vehicle moved from the left lane to the right lane back to the left lane and back to the right. During this time he remained with the vehicle because he felt the driver may be impaired and after a short time he activated the emergency lights and siren attempting to stop the vehicle. He indicated the vehicle traveled some distance in the breakdown lane before coming to a stop. [REDACTED] said the vehicle was a [REDACTED] with RI registration [REDACTED] and the rear windows were blacked out making it difficult to see inside. Once he was speaking with the operator he stated [REDACTED] told him he was nervous because he noticed the police vehicle behind him and that was why he was swerving. [REDACTED] said he noticed a camera attached to his dash board and several pieces of electronic equipment in the vehicle and when he questioned [REDACTED] about the equipment [REDACTED] said, he is a real-estate agent and he drives around videotaping houses. He said [REDACTED] was shaking and looking into the back seat of the vehicle and he questioned him asking if there was something in the vehicle that he should be concerned about and asked if he could search his vehicle. He said [REDACTED] refused to allow him to search his vehicle. Once back at the patrol vehicle he learned Coventry

had listed a "Caution " in cross agency checks and requested dispatch check with Coventry Police to see why they have a Caution for [REDACTED] in their system.

[REDACTED] indicated he waited for [REDACTED] to arrive and then explain what had transpired. He said while speaking with [REDACTED] they could see [REDACTED] moving around in his vehicle through the side view mirrors so they approach him. Dispatch had informed [REDACTED] that Coventry Police were not able to explain the Caution and after [REDACTED] spoke with [REDACTED] it was determined [REDACTED] was not impaired and was given a verbal warning and released.

I contacted [REDACTED] using the phone number located on the [REDACTED] complaint. He did not answer and I left a message on his voice mail indicating I had conducted an investigation regarding his complainant and would like to speak with him and view the video on the incident he stated he had in his possession.

Upon my return to work on [REDACTED] I had a message from [REDACTED] which indicated he was returning my call, and nothing else. [REDACTED] had left his message on [REDACTED] after normal work hours. I returned [REDACTED] call on [REDACTED] and once again got his answering machine. I left a message on his voice mail explaining my desire to review the tape of the incident he indicated he had in his possession. I never received a return call.

On [REDACTED] 2013 I have completed my investigation.

I believe the officers actions were appropriate based on the totality on the incident and the investigation will be closed, pending any additional information.

Chief Ramsay



Town of West Greenwich
INCORPORATED 1741

To: Chief Richard N. Ramsay

From: Sgt. Richard N. Brown

Date: October 27, 2013

Subject: Citizen Complaint against Officer –

Dear Chief Ramsay:

On _____, 2013 at approximately 1420 hours, I took a walk-in complaint against _____, which occurred on _____ 19, 2013 at approximately 1700 hours, at the Exit 7 Park & Ride.

Complainant Information:

The complainant provided me with a pre-written statement and he was interviewed by me.

According to _____, his complaint about the officer's actions was the officer being overly aggressive, as was the officer's voice tone. _____ stated the action of the officer was aggressive, in the approach the officer had in pulling up to him. Before _____ had contact, he stated the officer came from the south end of the parking lot, at a high rate of speed, braking hard, pulling the patrol car near him. The officer when speaking to him keeps referring to "illegal activity". The officer obtained his information and ran a check on him.

When I asked what action _____, would he like to see against the officer he gave me the following response. He has been going to the parking lot for approximately 10 years and is not involved in any illegal activity. He stated that he is in fear of intimidation by the officer and he does not feel safe. He has never experienced anything like this before. He has spoken with lots of people and also do not think the officer's action was appropriate.

_____ requested a copy of our policy regarding investigation of an officer. I informed him that I would mail him the policy, as soon as possible, as it was undergoing review by you and me. He was informed in how the process worked and that he would receive a written answer to the finding of the investigation, subject to the Policemen's Bill of Rights.

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October 27, 2013

As per your request, I have enclosed a copy of the West Greenwich Police Department's Policy & Procedure – 130.01 – Internal Affairs Investigation.

If you are in need of any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully yours,

Sgt. Richard N. Brown



Town of West Greenwich
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To: Chief Richard N. Ramsay
From: Sergeant Richard N. Brown
Date: November 1, 2013
Subject: Completed Investigation – Citizen Complaint against

Dear Chief:

I have completed my inquiry into the citizen complaint against

On . 2013 I met with to speak about the incident. He started the conversation by himself identifying the issue of his mannerism in dealing with people. He stated he felt he can come off aggressive, which is part of his personality. We discussed the issue and he has agreed to tone down his approach.

As with any training issue, the goal is for the officer to identify their weaknesses and how they can improve to become better. as done this and will work towards self-improvement.

In closing the inquiry, I told I would be sending a letter to the complaint informing that corrective measures have taken place and the matter is now closed. has agreed to this, as well.

Attached is a copy of the letter I will be submitting to the complaint.

Respectfully yours,

Handwritten signature of Sgt. Richard N. Brown in cursive.
Sgt. Richard N. Brown

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To:

From: Sgt. Richard N. Brown

Date: November 1, 2013

Subject: Complaint filed against a West Greenwich Police Officer.

I have investigated your complaint that you filed on October 27, 2013, regarding a complaint against one of our officers.

Corrective action has been taken and the matter is now closed.

On behalf of the West Greenwich Police Department, we thank you for bringing your concern to us. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours,

Sgt. Richard N. Brown

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RICHARD N. RAMSAY, CHIEF OF POLICE

██████████, 2015

IA: 2015-04-001

Re: Complaint against ██████████

██████████

On Thursday ██████████ I received a phone call from ██████████ stated the ██████████ had pushed her son while he was sitting in a chair and she wanted this looked into. She indicated ██████████ told her on the phone that he had indeed pushed her son and she felt no one should be able to touch her son, especially if he was sitting in a chair.

I asked her if she could explain a little more about what she believes took place, which lead to the officer "Pushing" her son. She said he was in trouble in school and he was most likely very mouthy and rude but didn't understand why an officer would put hands on her son. I explained there could be any number of reasons and I would have to look into it and get back to her.

At this time she began to get very emotional on the phone and it sounded as though she was crying. She said she is battling cancer and has lost her hair which has affected ██████████. She said she knows the stuff that comes out of his mouth is garbage and he uses his mouth as his defense when he is upset. She said the school may have tried to contact her but she was getting cancer treatment. The school also had called her husband who works the ██████████ ██████████, but he was working on a truck and had to go on a service call and he also was not able to get to the school to pick up ██████████

She then said she was not really mad at the officer but was upset with the way everything was going. I did explain I would look into the allegations and get back to her.

I was able to speak with [REDACTED] on Monday [REDACTED] and explained the incident to me. He was called to the principal offices on [REDACTED] at the request of the Mrs. Chandler, high school principal, to assist her in dealing with an unruly student.

[REDACTED] was being very disrespectful toward the principal and in an attempt to calm him down he was told to sit. His response was that the entire thing was "bullshit" but finally sat down. [REDACTED] continued with his disrespectful, until the [REDACTED] approach him and told him once again to not speak. It was at that time [REDACTED] attempted to get up from the chair in an aggressive manner and [REDACTED] had to push him back down into the seat and explained if he tried that again he would be arrested. It seemed to be enough to calm him down. There was no further incident.

[REDACTED] completed a report on the incident the next morning [REDACTED]).

It is deemed that [REDACTED] used only enough force to control the incident and the complaint will be unfounded.

[REDACTED] I attempted to contact [REDACTED] to let her know what I had learned. She did not answer her phone but I did leave her a message to contact me, so I would be able to explain what had taken place with [REDACTED]. A few days later I met with [REDACTED] and she stated she was satisfied with the investigation and thanked me for looking into the incident. She stated her family was going through some difficult times and everyone in her family has been overwhelmed lately. At this time the investigation is closed.

Chief Ramsay