



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND  
PUBLIC PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE  
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE  
OFFICE OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



September 14, 2021

Sean Paul Reyes  
[REDACTED]

Mr. Reyes,

Your complaint dated July 26, 2021, regarding your interaction with Tfc. Lavoie on or about July 23, 2021 while at Bradley International Airport, was received at the State Police Internal Affairs Unit. As a result of your concerns, I conducted an inquiry into this matter, which included, but not limited to, reviewing all available body-worn video footage, reviewing police reports and obtaining detailed explanatory memorandums from the State Police personnel that were involved.

Mr. Reyes, as such, the inquiry did in fact determine that Tfc. Lavoie, who was assigned at the terminal located at Bradley International Airport on July 23, 2021, did in fact interact with you while you were in and around the TSA checkpoint within Bradley International Airport. Tfc. Lavoie was alerted by numerous TSA agents of a suspicious male standing near the TSA checkpoint. Based upon the description of the male and the fact that this male appeared to be concealing his identity combined with the assessment from a TSA behavior detection officer, Tfc. Lavoie was well within the frame work of the law to approach you and seek further identification from you. However, what was most unfortunate, is that you became argumentative and uncooperative toward Tfc. Lavoie in response to his request for identification. Based upon all the facts presented to Tfc. Lavoie at the time, he was well within the law while in the performance of his duties as a Connecticut State Trooper to place you in investigative detention in order to further identify you. Tfc. Lavoie was always professional when speaking with you and never once spoke to you in a derogatory and/or demeaning manner. Additionally, the security at BIA was at a heightened risk level due to the visit of a Foreign Dignitary, who was traveling through BIA on that date. Tfc. Lavoie had a responsibility to investigate what was reported to him as a suspicious person who was concealing his identity and causing alarm. As such, Tfc. Lavoie was well within the law to conduct a stop and ID on your person in order to determine your validity and legitimate purpose of business at Bradley International Airport on this date.

Mr. Reyes, it is very unfortunate that you perceived Tfc. Lavoie's initial contact with you as adversarial and a violation of your rights, which was not the case. It is also most unfortunate that your perception lead to your actions, which precipitated Tfc. Lavoie in placing you in investigation detention until he could properly identify you and your legitimate purpose while at Bradley International Airport that day.

Mr. Reyes, during your initial contact with Tfc. Lavoie you told him you were an independent Journalist gathering content for a story and that you had already spoken with a TSA supervisor regarding your right to film. Although TSA has a limited policy regarding filming, the TSA does not operate and run Bradley International Airport. The Connecticut Airport Authority operates and controls Bradley International Airport and the state's five general aviation airports (Danielson, Groton-New London, Hartford-Brainard, Waterbury-Oxford, and Windham airports). The Connecticut Airport Authority has established a policy for individuals seeking Media inquiries, requests for interviews, and requests to film at one of CAA airports. Connecticut Airport Authority has the overall authority of granting media access and permission within the facility of Bradley

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International Airport. As a courtesy, and for security reasons, CAA request that the media contact one of the public information officers (during business hours) and the Bradley Airport Operations Center (after normal business hours) prior to arrival at Bradley International Airport.

When filming, taking photographs, or conducting interviews at one of the CAA airports, media representatives are required to display press identification and identify themselves to anyone they film, photograph and interview. Mr. Reyes, had you taken the time to further inquire regarding the CAA media policy you would've complied and had no issues when Tfc. Lavoie and or TSA agents approached you.

Mr. Reyes, I certainly appreciate the frustration you faced while trying to gather content, as you say you were, for a story. However, the CAA, understandably so, has a strict media policy that State Police personnel are required to enforce while in the performance of their duties at Bradley International Airport. I trust you will appreciate the difficult and challenging tasks Troopers face on a daily basis to ensure the safety and security of the public while at Bradley International Airport. Thank you for your patience and understanding. It is indeed most unfortunate that you perceived the Troopers actions to be inappropriate. Connecticut State Police personnel are always expected to conduct themselves in a professional, fair, and courteous manner during their interactions with members of the public and in the enforcement of C.G.S. to ensure public safety. In those cases where it has been established that a Trooper(s) acted improperly, appropriate administrative action is taken. In this situation, the actions of Trooper First Class Lavoie in the above referenced matter appeared lawful, proper and within department policy.

You may be assured that the Connecticut State Police strives to achieve professionalism in all of its undertakings, and I regret that we failed to convey that impression to you in this case. It is my hope that this letter is received in a positive manner and I hope your future experiences with the Connecticut State Police continue to be positive and pleasant in nature. Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns and affording me the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

*Captain John B. Ceruti, #031*

Captain John B. Ceruti, #031  
Connecticut State Police  
Internal Affairs Unit

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