



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND
PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE
Internal Affairs Unit



COMPLAINT INQUIRY REPORT

C-21-047

NAME OF EMPLOYEE: Sgt. Bryan J. Fahey, #160
DESPP Headquarters
1111 Country Club Rd.
Middletown, Ct. 06457

Tpr. Trn. Mathew Costello, #1139
Troop L-Litchfield
452A Bantam Road
Litchfield, Ct. 06759

COMPLAINANT: Sean Paul Reyes



ALLEGATION:

On or about July 26, 2021, the complainant, Sean Paul Reyes, submitted the following complaint while in person at the State Police Internal Affairs Unit: To whom it may concern, On July 23rd 2021 at approx.. 11:15 AM, I went to the Connecticut State Police (CSP) headquarters located in Middletown. My purpose was not only to file a formal complaint with Professional Standards for an unlawful detainment and violation of my rights that occurred earlier that day, (See Attached Statement) but also to peacefully exercise my 1st Amendment rights to film in public (Freedom of Press). I first addressed my complaint with Trooper Costello, who agreed with Trooper Lavoie's violation of my rights and he claimed it to be "interfering" to not provide identification when a State Trooper orders you too. I tried to explain to him that you need reasonable articulable suspicion that a crime has been committed. He didn't agree with that factual statement and we debated it. He also wouldn't allow me to exercise my first amendment right to film inside of the public lobby, when I asked him why I wasn't allowed he said he doesn't know why but he just knows I can't. I bring that up to illustrate that the CSP's ignorance of laws and citizens' rights is a systemic problem and needs to be addressed. Sgt. Bryan Fahey came outside to speak with me from the start he was obviously upset and agitated. He asked if I was recording him and I said I was. He then says "Then I don't want to talk to you... You want to talk to me like a man we can talk man to man." He asked me what my problem was and I began to explain to him the details of my complaint. He then interrupts me and informs me that he is a supervisor for special licensing and firearms and that he is extremely busy. Then directs me to use the professional standards form they provided and go in Internal Affairs which is not located at CSP headquarters. I asked him for the address he gave to me. Instead of going back inside the station,



**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND
PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE**



Since 1988

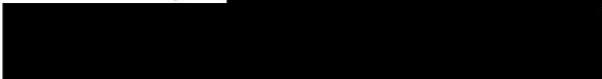
Internal Affairs Unit

Sgt. Fahey decides to stare at me waiting for me to leave in my opinion even pressuring me to leave. I did not leave as I was going to continue to gather content for my story and film peacefully outside before I went to IA. I told Sgt. Fahey " I thought you were busy.... " He said "I am" I responded "Then you should get to work." That is when he exploded like a ticking time bomb and started to attack me. He then attempts to steal my phone, but fails on the first attempt saying "We are going to have a problem you and I, definitely" That is when he again goes to steal my phone and this time he was successful. He rips my phone out of my hand and flings it backwards on the ground causing my phone to break and stop recording. He then began violently pushing me backwards while grabbing my shirt and threatening me. Scared for my life, I keep repeating "there is a body camera" he said "I am not wearing one" I tell him that Trooper Costello has one on and recording. As Trooper Costello witnessed this robbery and assault take place, he did not uphold the law and protect me from Sgt. Fahey, instead he takes out his cuffs and tells me I'm interfering." After the assault, Sgt. Fahey tells me to leave and he walks away. Another unidentified Trooper retrieves my phone, give it to me and tells me to get out of here. I complied as I was terrified of what could happen next. I have submitted a FOIA request for Trooper Costello's body camera footage. There were also a number of witnesses outside who witnessed the incident. Sgt. Fahey's actions are inexcusable and downright criminal. I am demanding an immediate investigation into this incident. After reviewing the law, I believe Sgt. Fahey should be criminally charged with the following:

1. *Unlawful Restraint 2nd Degree*
2. *Assault 3rd Degree*
3. *Robbery 3rd Degree*
4. *Larceny 2nd Degree*

Additionally he should be charged federally for being in violation of 18 U.S. CODE 242 Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law. I will be forwarding this statement to the FBI and Justice Department. This was as serious violation of my constitutional rights and also acts of egregious criminal behavior by a supervisor of the CSP. I sincerely hope that at the end of this investigation Sgt. Fahey is held accountable for his unlawful actions. In my opinion he is a danger to the public. I will continue to peacefully exercise my rights to promote transparency and accountability for all. (sic)

Sincerely,
SeanPaul Reyes



Sean Paul Reyes written statement July 26, 2021 @ 15:59 Hours, Internal Affairs Office

The following written statement was taken by Sgt. 's Ventresca and O'Donnell while at the Internal Affairs Office. It should be noted that Mr. Reyes videotaped the interview which was thirty-six (36) minutes long and was conducted in the front lobby waiting room of the Internal



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



Since 1988

Internal Affairs Unit

Affairs Office Bldg.#6. Mr. Reyes then, without delay, posted an edited version, twenty-seven minutes and sixteen seconds long (27:16) to his You Tube channel, Long Island Audit, which resulted in one hundred ninety- six thousand (196 k) views.

“On July 26, 2021, at approximately 1550 hours, I met with Internal Affairs investigators at 294 Colony St Building #6, Meriden, CT I submitted two (2) separate complaints. The first, outlined my illegal detainment at Bradley International airport, the second, outlined my interactions with Connecticut State Troopers at 1111 Country Club Rd, Middletown. Both incidents took place on Friday, July 23, 2021. Both of my complaints I initially provided are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I met with IA investigators to further elaborate on damages to my phone, and to discuss any injuries I received. My I-phone R pro- color blue, under 631-255-9510, was damaged by Sgt. Fahey. The damage included a hairline crack and minor chipping to the rear of the blue plastic on the phone. The phone was still operable, but I elected to buy a brand new I-phone 12 Pro, at the apple store, located in Smith Town NY, for \$1,100, including taxes. I did a sim card swap and was able to use my old I-Phone to upload the videos from 7-23-21 to YouTube. The old phone was still functional. As for any injuries I sustained, I had no physical injuries from Sgt. Fahey, but he pushed me forcefully for approximately 15-20 feet, in the chest area, while grabbing my shirt. I almost tripped on the curbing during the incident. I did not receive any medical treatment as I had no injuries. I will not be signing this statement until I seek legal advice via my attorney.”

=====

On or about Friday, August 20, 2021, this investigator was assigned this Complaint Inquiry by the Professional Standards Commanding Officer, Major Daniel Loughman #015.

ACTION TAKEN:

On Monday, August 02, 2021, Sgt. O’Donnell with the State Police Internal Affairs Unit emailed the complainant, Sean Paul Reyes to check on the status of the additional items that he, Sgt. O’Donnell and Sgt. Ventresca spoke about on July 26, 2021. Sgt. O’Donnell asked Mr. Reyes to please forward photos of his broken phone and the receipt indicating he purchased a new phone so that Internal Affairs can properly document the property damage. Sgt. O’Donnell also asked Mr. Reyes if he had spoken with his attorney regarding the statement, he provided to Internal Affairs Investigators, and whether or not he would be signing the statement. Sgt. O’Donnell also advised him that I was the assigned investigator for both complaints he had previously submitted.

On or about Tuesday, August 24, 2021, I emailed Mr. Reyes again following up with Sgt. O’Donnell’s previous email requesting those additional items from Mr. Reyes. I requested that Mr. Reyes provide those items as requested as soon as possible so that I may move forward with the complaint investigation.



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



Internal Affairs Unit

As of Wednesday, September 01, 2021, Mr. Reyes had not responded to either Sgt. O'Donnell or I regarding our email request. However, on Thursday, September 30, 2021, Sgt. O'Donnell forwarded me an email from Mr. Reyes, which was sent to her, containing two pictures of an i-Phone. One picture was of the phone screen which was black and the other was of the back of the phone (grey in color) showing a spider web cracking to the back of the phone. There is no way to determine with any certainty the identity of this phone in the picture. Mr. Reyes did not take a picture of the phones serial number and/or any identifying number that would link it to the phone that he had in his possession on July 23, 2021 while outside of State Police Headquarters. Furthermore, the still picture taken from Tpr. Costello's BWC footage shows Mr. Reyes holding a phone that does not appear to match the description of the photos of the phone he emailed Sgt. O'Donnell. The phone which Mr. Reyes was holding appears to have an otterbox type protective case. Mr. Reyes also stated in his statement given that the color of the phone and the damage consisted of a hairline crack and minor chipping to the rear of the blue plastic on the phone. The photos he provided clearly showed more damage than a hair line crack and the phone wasn't blue in color.

On or about Friday, August 27, 2021 at approximately 12:08 hours, I prepared a subject notification for Tpr. Trn. Costello and emailed same to the Troop L, Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Giannone with instructions for the employee.

On Wednesday, September 01, 2021, I received an email response from Sgt. Geddes that Tpr. Trn. Costello was served with the subject notification.

On or about Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at approximately 10:36 hours, I prepared a subject notification for Sgt. B. Fahey, #160 and emailed same to the SLFU Commanding Officer, Captain Pattberg with instructions for the employee.

On Wednesday, September 01, 2021, I received an email response from Captain Pattberg that Sgt. Fahey was served with the subject notification.

.....

During the course of this investigation, I downloaded the BWC footage of Tpr. Trn. Costello and copied same to a DVD regarding his and Sgt. Fahey's interaction with the complainant, Sean Paul Reyes, outside the DESPP Headquarters located at 1111 Country Club Rd., Middletown, Ct. at approximately 11:05 hours.



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



Internal Affairs Unit

Tpr. Trn. Mathew Costello's, #1139 Incident Report CFS 2100298252

Action Taken:

On July 23, 2021 at approximately 1105 hours, a male approached the front door of the State Police Headquarters in regards to making a complaint about a situation that occurred with a Trooper. At approximately 1108 hours, I informed him that if he would like to make a complaint he would need to fill out a form and submit it. I noticed the man recording and I informed him that I will be recording as well. I asked him about the situation and he informed me that he was arrested due to him not providing identification to the Trooper. He informed me that it was his constitutional right and that he did not need to provide his identification. I noticed that the conversation was leading to other questions and noticed the man trying to create an argument with me therefore, I went back into the building and informed a Trooper to get a Sergeant due to this man's complaint. When Sergeant Fahey #0160 spoke with the man, the man explained to Sergeant Fahey that he would like to make a complaint. Sergeant Fahey explained that we do not take complaints in person and that I gave him the form to fill out already. The man then asked to speak with someone from Legal Affairs which Sergeant Fahey provided him the address to their location. The man stood in front of the doors to the entrance of the building and Sergeant Fahey asked him if there was anything else that he could help him with. Sergeant Fahey explained that if he did not have any further business being there then he could leave the premises. The man explained that there was nothing he could further help him with, so it seems like Sergeant could go back to work. Sergeant Fahey asked the man to repeat what he said. The man repeated himself by saying that Sergeant Fahey should get back to work if he was not busy. Sergeant Fahey reached out towards the man and the man's phone fell from his hand. I was unable to see what caused the phone to actually fall to the mulch besides them. Sergeant Fahey explained that he needed to leave immediately, multiple times. As I saw the situation escalating, I attempted to remove the man from the premises and from the bystanders waiting in front of the building, by repeating "Step back" multiple times until he was on the grassy roundabout in front of the building. Sergeant Fahey went back to pick up the man's phone from the mulch and gave it to Trooper First Class Bogiatzopoulos #1320, who then gave it back to the man. To my knowledge, Sergeant Fahey, Trooper First Class Bogiatzopoulos, nor myself turned off the phone. I offered to escort him from the building to his vehicle but he said he would leave. He continued expressing his thoughts on the situation that occurred. It should be noted that during this incident, my Body Worn Camera (BWC) captured everything. It should also be noted that prior to the incident the man was causing a disturbance to civilians who were waiting in line for their Pistol Permits (Please refer to the obtained sworn written statement). The man was later identified by COLLECT and NCIC to be SeanPaul Reyes (DOB 03/28/1991). (sic)

.....



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



Internal Affairs Unit

REVIEW OF TPR. TRN. MATHEW COSTELLO BWC ON JULY 23, 2021 @ 12:05

A subsequent review of Tpr. Trn. Costello's BWC footage from July 23, 2020 at approximately 12:05 hours confirmed in fact that he and Sgt. Fahey, #160 had contact with the complainant, Sean Paul Reyes while outside of the State Police Headquarters Building located at 1111 Country Club Rd., in Middletown, CT.

Tpr. Trn. Costello's BWC footage of the interaction between himself, Sgt. Fahey and Mr. Reyes lasted five minutes and eleven seconds (5:11). Tpr. Trn. Costello's BWC comes on and is initially muted when it shows Tpr. Trn. Costello speaking with Sgt. Fahey in the Headquarters Lobby. The audio comes on within thirty-one (31) seconds. Tpr. Trn. Costello is standing with the lobby door open and lets civilians in directing them where to go. Sgt. Fahey is seen walking up to Mr. Reyes who is standing outside on the front sidewalk to the left of the SLFU permit line and main entrance doors to Headquarters. Mr. Reyes is seen holding a cell phone up mid torso height and appears to be filming his interaction with State Police personnel, to include Sgt. Fahey when he approaches Mr. Reyes and starts talking with him. Tpr. Trn. Costello remains at the exit door propping the door open and is seen speaking with civilians who are waiting outside on the sidewalk regarding fingerprint appointments. You can see and hear faintly, in the background, Sgt. Fahey speaking with Mr. Reyes about making a civilian complaint against a Trooper. You can hear Sgt. Fahey speaking with Mr. Reyes as he explains the complaint process. Sgt. Fahey is professional while speaking with Mr. Reyes and does so in a calm conversational tone. He never once raises his voice and/or speaks to Mr. Reyes in a demeaning and/or derogatory tone.

Mr. Reyes is insisting on speaking with someone from Internal Affairs. Sgt. Fahey explains to Mr. Reyes that the Internal Affairs Office is located in Meriden and not located at Headquarters and that he would have to go to the Internal Affairs Office in order to speak with someone. Sgt. Fahey continued to explain to Mr. Reyes that we (State Police) want to entertain his complaint through the proper channels and that he had the outlet to make his complaint in his possession (civilian complaint form). Sgt. Fahey provided Mr. Reyes with the address to Internal Affairs and Mr. Reyes responded that he was going to speak with Internal Affairs. Sgt. Fahey then ended their conversation by wishing Mr. Reyes that he has a great day and nice talking with you. However, Mr. Reyes doesn't move and remains standing outside of the exit doors to DESPP Headquarters and to the left of the SLFU permit line with his cell phone displayed mid-torso high filming everyone around him to include, Sgt. Fahey and Tpr. Trn. Costello. Sgt. Fahey recognizing that Mr. Reyes isn't moving, asks him if he was all set here. Mr. Reyes responds to Sgt. Fahey, "Obviously there isn't anything else that you can help me out." Sgt. Fahey then asks Mr. Reyes if he was going to stand here with his cell phone out. Then there is a back and forth between Mr. Reyes and Sgt. Fahey where Reyes states to Sgt. Fahey, "I thought you were a busy man," Sgt. Fahey responds, "I am a busy man" and then Mr. Reyes tells Sgt. Fahey that he should get to work. Sgt. Fahey begins walking toward Mr. Reyes and responds with; "I should get to work, that's what you're telling me." Mr. Reyes in response starts walking backwards himself, while Sgt. Fahey reiterates to him in a stern manner that, "this is private property." Tpr.



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



Internal Affairs Unit

Trn. Costello can be seen following Sgt. Fahey and removing his handcuffs and verbalizing, “interfering”, directed toward Mr. Reyes. Tpr. Trn. Costello did not get to the point where he needed to place Mr. Reyes in investigative detention by securing him in handcuffs. Sgt. Fahey begins to escort Mr. Reyes off State Property by walking him backwards toward the center grass Island in front of State Police Headquarters. As Sgt. Fahey was escorting Mr. Reyes backwards, Mr. Reyes holds his cell phone up near Sgt. Fahey’s face. Sgt. Fahey not knowing the hidden dangers potentially in the cell phone (Taser, gun), goes to move Mr. Reyes’ hand aside to the right. As this is done, Mr. Reyes can be seen dropping his cell phone into the mulch. Sgt. Fahey does have his hand on Mr. Reyes’ shirt to steady him as he walks Mr. Reyes backwards.

While Sgt. Fahey is escorting Mr. Reyes backwards, he does use an authoritative tone and firm instructions toward Mr. Reyes. It should also be noted that Sgt. Fahey does so without using any obscene and/or derogatory language directed toward Mr. Reyes.

Sgt. Fahey went back to where Mr. Reyes dropped his cell phone and retrieved the phone. Sgt. Fahey handed the phone over to Tfc. Bogiatzopoulos who in turn handed it over to Mr. Reyes. Mr. Reyes was subsequently escorted toward the public parking lot of Headquarters by Tpr. Trn. Costello and Tfc. Bogiatzopoulos without further incident.

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CARLIE ANITA BOWERS

Shortly after Mr. Reyes was escorted away from Headquarters, Tpr. Trn. Costello obtained a written statement from a civilian witness who was waiting in the SLFU permit line outside of State Police Headquarters when Mr. Reyes was outside engaging with Sgt. Fahey. The following is a summary of the statement: While waiting in the SLFU permit line, Ms. Bowers saw a male with a beard wearing a black shirt, dark shorts, black sneakers, and a baseball cap pacing in front of State Police Headquarters recording and talking into his phone. The male walked up to a Trooper and spoke with him for a short period of time. The Trooper then went back inside, and another male came out (Sgt. Fahey) who started to speak with Mr. Reyes. Sgt. Fahey asked Mr. Reyes to put his phone away and then we can talk. Mr. Reyes was given the information on where to make the complaint and the form to fill out. All the while, Mr. Reyes continued to record his interaction with Sgt. Fahey and Tpr. Trn. Costello. Ms. Bowers perceived the distance from Mr. Reyes’ phone and Sgt. Fahey’s face to be approximately five inches. She observed Mr. Reyes to become more aggressive once Sgt. Fahey asked him to leave. Ms. Bowers saw Mr. Reyes drop his cell phone as he was being escorted off the premises. Ms. Bower pointed out that Mr. Reyes made her feel uncomfortable and unsafe as he was pacing back and forth in front of State Police Headquarters. Ms. Bower felt that Mr. Reyes was making a scene and wanted the attention for himself. Ms. Bower’s feels that Sgt. Fahey and Tpr. Trn. Costello handled the situation accordingly...end of statement...

On or about September 16, 2021, at approximately 2126 hours, I received Tpr. Mathew Costello’s explanatory memorandum as requested for this C# investigation:



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND
PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE
Internal Affairs Unit



Trooper Mathew Costello's Explanatory Memorandum

*Subject: C-21-047
Captain Ceruti:*

On Friday, August 27, 2021, I was instructed by you to provide an explanatory memorandum regarding my actions and involvement on an incident that occurred on July 23, 2021 at approximately 1115 hours.

I am making this statement/report for administrative purposes only. I have done so in compliance with an order of a supervisor. This statement/report in no way constitutes any waiver of my rights under the current collective bargaining agreement, the U.S. Constitution, the Connecticut Constitution, or any other statute, and this statement/report or any part thereof may not be used against me in a subsequent criminal proceeding or any civil or administrative procedure outside the Connecticut State Police Department.

For the month of July, I volunteered to take the front desk position in the State Police Headquarters for Troop L. On July 23, 2021, at approximately 1105 hours, a male who was later identified to be Sean Paul Reyes (DOB 03/28/1991) who will now be identified as Reyes. Reyes approached the front door of the State Police Headquarters, located at 1111 Country Club Road, Middletown, CT. Reyes wanted to make a complaint about a situation that occurred with a Trooper, at Bradley International airport. It should be noted that the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit (SLFU) was very busy on this day. The line for SLFU was wrapped around the building.

I called Legal Affairs via telephone and informed legal about Reyes. Legal informed me to give him the "Uniform Civilian Complaint Report" and if he had any questions to have Reyes give them a call. At approximately 1108 hours, I informed Reyes that if he would like to make a complaint, he would need to fill out a complaint form and submit it which I provided him a copy of this form. I asked him if there was anything else I could help him with and if he would like to talk about what occurred then he can either step inside the State Police Headquarters to protect Reyes's privacy or stay outside. I noticed that Reyes wanted to go inside of the building while recording. I informed him that he could not record inside the building and Reyes asked, "Why can't I film inside?" I stated, "I am not 100% sure, I just know you cannot film inside. It is State property". I then stated, "You can film out here (outside of the building) all you want", referring to the front of the State Police Headquarters. Reyes stated, "Okay let's do it that way". I noticed that Reyes was recording, so I informed Reyes that I would be recording as well.

Reyes explained to me that he was filming at the Bradley International Airport for a story that he was working on. Reyes informed me that he is an independent journalist. Reyes explained that a "TSA Officer" (Transportation Security Administration) approached him, and Reyes explained



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



Since 1988

Internal Affairs Unit

to her why he was there, Reyes stated, "She didn't like it". Reyes explained that the "TSA Officer" got her supervisor and that the supervisor of that "TSA Officer" allowed him to film. Reyes said a Trooper at Bradley Airport asked him for his identification. Reyes explained that he did not give his identification to the Trooper. Reyes and the Trooper had a discussion about the legality of Reyes being detained. From the information that Reyes had given me, it sounded as though the Trooper at the Airport detained him for possible interference to further gather information about Reyes. I stated to Reyes, "It could be possibly interfering with an officer, if an officer asks you for your driver's license or some type of form to identify you". Then Reyes stated, "It's so scary that you're even saying that" and then stated "You have no right to know who I am." I was attempting to inform Reyes that it states under C.G.S. 53a-167a, "A person is guilty of interfering with an officer when such person obstructs, resists, hinders or endangers any peace officer or officer's duties." Therefore, with the information that I gathered I believed the Trooper at Bradley International Airport detained him for interfering. I further explained and gave Reyes examples as to when we ask for identification such as during a traffic stop.

Reyes informed me that it was his constitutional right and that he did not need to provide his identification to the Trooper at the airport. I noticed that the conversation was leading to other questions and noticed Reyes trying to create an argument by stating, "I am not trying to get in a debate with you" I stated, "No, not at all, Sir." Reyes then stated, "I know the law", therefore, I went back into the building and informed a Trooper to get a Sergeant due to Reyes's complaint. Sergeant Fahey, #0160, of SLFU, arrived and spoke to Reyes. Reyes explained to Sergeant Fahey that he would like to make a complaint. Sergeant Fahey explained that we do not take complaints in person at this location and that Reyes already had the form. Reyes then asked to speak with someone from Legal Affairs which Sergeant Fahey provided him with the address to their location. Reyes stood in front of the doors to the entrance of the building and Sergeant Fahey asked him if there was anything else that he could help him with. Sergeant Fahey explained that if he did not have any further business being there then he could leave the premises. Reyes explained that there was nothing Sergeant Fahey could further help him with. Reyes further stated that Sergeant Fahey could go back to work. Sergeant Fahey asked the Reyes to repeat what he said. Reyes repeated himself by saying that Sergeant Fahey should get back to work if he was not busy. Sergeant Fahey reached out towards Reyes and the Reyes's phone fell from his hand. I was unable to see what caused the phone to actually fall to the mulch. Sergeant Fahey explained that Reyes needed to leave immediately, multiple times. As I saw the situation escalating, I attempted to remove Reyes verbally from the premises and from the bystanders, who were waiting to conduct their business. I repeatedly requested that Reyes "Step back". I requested this multiple times until Reyes was on the grassy roundabout in front of the building. During this time, I obtained my hand cuffs preparing to detain Reyes if it should become necessary. It should be noted that Reyes asked "You were going to arrest me?" I explained to him that I was not going to arrest him, I was going to detain him. Sergeant Fahey went back to pick up Reyes's phone from the mulch and gave it to Trooper First Class Bogiatzopoulos #1320, who then gave it back to Reyes. To my knowledge, Sergeant Fahey, Trooper First Class Bogiatzopoulos, nor I turned off Reyes's phone. I offered to escort him from the building to his



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



Since 1988

Internal Affairs Unit

vehicle, but he said he would leave. He continued expressing his thoughts on the situation that occurred. Reyes then returned to his vehicle and departed the area without further incident.

It should be noted that during this incident, my Body Worn Camera (BWC) captured what occurred. It should also be noted that prior to the incident, Reyes was causing a disturbance with civilians who were waiting in line for their Pistol Permits. (Please refer to the obtained sworn written statement).

STATEMENT:

While on scene I was able to obtain a sworn written statement from Carlie Anita Bowers (DOB 12/12/1998). A summary of that statement is as follows:

"On July 23, 2021 at approximately 12:10PM, I provided Trooper Costello #1139 a sworn written statement on what I heard and observed on today's date. A male that was wearing a black shirt, dark shorts, black sneakers, a baseball cap and a beard. This man was pacing in front of the State Police Headquarters recording and talking into his phone. I observed the man recording by the observation of his screen on the phone. The man than walked up to the trooper, the trooper was explaining what he needed to do. Then the Sergeant came to speak to the man, the Sergeant asked the man to put his phone away and we can talk. The man pointed out that the trooper had on a body cam and explained so do I. The Trooper then gave the man information on where to make the complaint and the form to fill out. At this point the man was still going on and recording. It should be noted that the man was putting the phone into the Sergeant face it had to be approximately (5) five inches away from the Sergeant face. During this time that is when the Sergeant asked him to leave and that is when the man started to become aggressive with the Sergeant and the Trooper that were on scene. The man dropped his phone as he was being escorted off of the premises. It should be noted that I did not feel comfortable with this random man recording myself and my (8) eight month old child. The man that was pacing back and forth made myself feel very unsafe at a State Police Headquarters. This man was making a scene and wanted the attention it was obvious. I want take a moment and state that the Trooper and the Sergeant handled the situation accordingly from my observation." (sic)

*Respectfully Submitted,
Trooper Mathew Costello #1139*

.....
On or about Monday, September 20, 2021 at approximately 08:18 hours, as requested, I received Sgt. Fahey's explanatory memorandum with nine (9) pages of the following attachments:

Witness statement from Carlie Anita Bowers

Amazon Streetwise smart cell phone STUN Gun

Four (4) page article about a handgun that folds up and looks like a cell phone

Picture of a ranch house with the caption: Brian Fahey 5 Duprev Driver Enfield CT 06082



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



Internal Affairs Unit

Copy of email to; Colonel Mellekas, Governor Lamont, Attorney General, LTC. DelGrosso, LTC. Goncalves, and newsdesk@wfsb. The email content had threats of violence against Sgt. Fahey.

Sgt. Fahey's explanatory memorandum stated the following:

Sir,

I am making this statement/report for administrative purposes only. I have done so in compliance with an order of a supervisor. This statement/report in no way constitutes any waiver of my rights under the current collective bargaining agreement, the U.S. Constitution, the Connecticut Constitution, or any other statute, and this statement/report or any part thereof may not be used against me in a subsequent criminal proceeding or any civil or administrative procedure outside the Connecticut State Police Department.

This memo is in response to your request to detail my actions during an incident at Connecticut State Police Headquarters on 7/23/2021. The accounts detailed in this memo are truthful to the best of my knowledge. This incident was captured on the BWC of Trooper Costello.

On July 23, 2021 I was working day shift and was one of two sergeants assigned to the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit at Connecticut State Police Headquarters in Middletown. At approximately 1115 hours the front desk trooper, Trooper Costello, came into the unit and advised me that there was a guy at the front of the building asking to speak with a supervisor. Trooper Costello would come into the unit from time to time and ask me to speak with someone out front so his request on the above date wasn't out of the ordinary. As Trooper Costello and I were walking through the front lobby he, Costello, identified the individual wishing to speak with me and at that time I made contact with a male party who was standing just outside the front door. I immediately noticed that this individual was holding a cell phone, approximately chest high, and appeared to be videotaping our interaction. I asked this person if he was videotaping "me" and he responded "yes, that he was a journalist and he wanted to make a complaint about a violation of his civil right." As he began to explain his complaint to me, I stopped him and asked if him if it had anything to do with firearms or SLFU. I explained that I was the Sergeant in the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit and not in Internal Affairs. He asked to speak with someone in Internal Affairs and said he knew they were in this building. I explained that IA was not in this building, but I gave him the address, and explained where the IA building was located on the property. He continued to record me as I stood at the front door waiting for him to leave. At one point he told me I "should get back to work." As he put the camera closer to my face, I told him that he and I were going to have a problem. I then reached up to move his hand away. Through my training and experience as a law enforcement officer I know that cell phones can be altered and modified to be used as a taser or a firearm.



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



Since 1988

Internal Affairs Unit

(Following this incident, I conducted an internet search and discovered that Amazon sells a STREETWISE SMART CELL PHONE STUN GUN THAT GIVES OUT 14,000,000 VOLTS and costs \$22.90. I also found a US company that invented a gun that looks like a cell phone).

When the male pulled his hand away, he immediately held it and his phone back towards my face again. At that time, I moved his hand away causing his cell phone to drop straight down into a bed of mulch. A witness to the incident, CARLIE ANITA BOWERS, gave an unsolicited written statement (see attached) saying in part;

"It should be noted that the man was putting the phone into the Sergeant face it had to be approximately (5) five inches away from the Sergeant face. During this time that is when the Sergeant asked him to leave and that is when the man started to become aggressive with the Sergeant and the Trooper that were on scene."

"It should be noted that I did not feel comfortable with this random man recording myself and my (8) eight month old child. The man that was pacing back and forth made myself feel very unsafe at a State Police Headquarters. This man was making a scene and wanted the attention it was obvious. I want take a moment and state that the Trooper and the Sergeant handled the situation accordingly from my observation."

At that point the male was escorted away from the building and back to the center island in the front parking lot. As he was walking backwards, I was holding onto the bottom portion of his shirt to ensure he didn't trip over a curb or lose his balance and fall backwards. On his YOUTUBE video the male describes being "violently pushed backwards" but as seen on the BWC footage this never happened. The male and I spoke for a minute and then I went and picked up his cell phone from the mulch. I never stopped the phone from recording and to the best of knowledge the phone was not damaged. In the video that this male posted on YOUTUBE he says I threw his phone 20 feet away. This is a lie and as stated in the written statement given by CARLIE ANITA BOWERS, the man dropped his phone as he was being escorted off the premises." This is also observed on the BWC. After retrieving the phone, I handed it to detective Bogiatzopoulos who in turn handed it back to the male. Although he says his phone was broken, he is clearly observed recording or viewing his recordings as he was escorted off the property. Also, he never showed Trooper Costello or Detective Bogiatzopoulos the broken phone as they were escorting him off the property. Two other individuals, Sean Ferris (203-733-8757) and Joseph Fiorella (203-572-6849) provided their information to a trooper at the scene and were willing to give statements.

It should be noted that since this male posted his video along with his explanation/lies of the incident I have received dozens of phone calls, and emails threatening lawsuits and that "I should and will be fired and arrested." Two particular emails that were brought to my attention threaten to use "lethal force" against me and the writer of one stated "I'd rather be alive on trial for manslaughter with FAHEY DEAD." Another put a photo of a house into an email with the address and my name. The house wasn't my house but the intent to post my address was



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



Internal Affairs Unit

there. The video he posted online has 181,000 views and approximately 4900 comments, most of which are threatening in manner. (sic)

Respectfully,

Sgt. Bryan Fahey 160

Attached to Sgt. Fahey's explanatory were the following:

Advertisement page from Amazon with the product: Streetwise Smart Cell Phone STUN Gun 14,000,000 volts w/LED Flashlight and Loud Alarm and can be bought off Amazon for \$22.90.

A four-page article regarding a US company invents gun that looks just like a cellphone; sparks criticism.

A Minnesota company invented a handgun that folds up to look just like a cell phone. Ideal Conceal is a double barrel .380 caliber pistol with a grip that folds up to make the weapon look like a smartphone about the size of a Samsung galaxy S& with a protective case-about 3 inches by 5 inches.

While reviewing the BWC footage of Tpr. Costello it is very clear that Reyes held his cell phone up chest high in front of Sgt. Fahey at close range which is very concerning should the phone be altered with one of the above listed devices.

The email to Colonel Mellekas stated verbatim:

“Soon we will be able to use lethal force against BRIAN FAHEY for battering citizens. I want to know at what point did FAHEY have the right to use force? 19:53

<https://youtu.be/6Ds8WuSTxfA>

I have watched more violent lunatics in the Connecticut Police than anywhere else. We are going after FAHEY & take his qualified immunity and the CSP for violation of Connecticut Penal Code 53a-61.

The federal violation of Title 42 USC § 1983 & Title 18 USC§ 242 by FAHEY under your auspices will involve loss of FAHEY's qualified immunity and compensatory & punitive damages from FAHEY personal and the CSP.

I travel thru Connecticut on I-95 & because of the psychotic MATTHEW SPINA I purchased a .38 to carry concealed in my car last year. Now watching BRIAN FAHEY's assault and battery beginning at 19:45 <https://youtu.be/6Ds8WuSTxfA> I know I made the right decision.



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



Internal Affairs Unit

I'd rather be ALIVE on Trial for manslaughter with FAHEY DEAD rather than violent FAHEY alive after murdering me and your IAB clears him for killing me on a public street for telling him "GO BACK TO WORK"

You have bad cops STAVROS and we, the people lives are in danger and we need to defend ourselves and we will."

.....

On or about Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at approximately 1530 hours, I had the opportunity to speak with a civilian witness, Sean Ferris, who on July 23, 2021, was waiting outside in front of Headquarters in the SLFU pistol permit line waiting to be called on. Mr. Ferris was waiting in line with his friend, Joseph Fiorella. Mr. Ferris advised me that Mr. Reyes was outside in front of Headquarters filming the Troopers. While speaking with the Troopers, Reyes was stubborn and became uncooperative and disrespectful to the Troopers by pushing the limits. Mr. Ferris' perception was that the Troopers acted professionally and, in his opinion, handle the incident just fine.

.....

On or about Tuesday, October 19, 20201, I had the opportunity to speak with a civilian witness, Joseph Fiorella, who on July 23, 2021, was waiting outside in front of Headquarters in the SLFU pistol permit line waiting to be called on. Mr. Fiorella was waiting in line with his friend, Sean Ferris. Mr. Fiorella advised me that Mr. Reyes was outside in front of Headquarters filming the Troopers. Reyes was antagonistic and obnoxious and was clearly trying to bait the Trooper. Reyes was making a scene trying to get a reaction out of the Trooper who was just doing his job and, in Fiorella's opinion, was not over the top.

It should be noted that as of September 22, 2021, the complainant in this matter, Sean Paul Reyes, had yet to respond to either Sgt. O'Donnell's or my request with respect for additional documentation regarding his alleged damaged cell phone, and whether or not he will provide his signature to the statement he gave to Sgt. O'Donnell and Sgt. Ventresca on July 26, 20201, while at the Internal Affairs Office. However, on or about on Thursday, September 30, 2021, Sgt. O'Donnell forwarded me an email from Mr. Reyes, which was sent to her, containing two pictures of an I-Phone. One picture was of the phone screen which was black and the other was of the back of the phone (grey in color) showing a spider web cracking to the back of the phone. There is no way to determine with any certainty the identity of this phone in the picture. Mr. Reyes did not take a picture of the phones serial number and/or any identifying number(s) that would link it to the phone that he had in his possession on July 23, 2021 while outside of State Police Headquarters. Furthermore, the still picture taken from Tpr. Costello's BWC footage shows Mr. Reyes holding a phone that does not appear to match the description of the photos of the phone he emailed Sgt. O'Donnell. The phone which Mr. Reyes was holding appears to have an otterbox protective case. Mr. Reyes also stated in his statement given that the color of the



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



Internal Affairs Unit

phone and the damage consisted of a hairline crack and minor chipping to the rear of the blue plastic on the phone. The photos he provided clearly showed more damage than a hair line crack and the phone wasn't blue in color.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSION:

Upon receipt of Mr. Reyes' complaint, I conducted an inquiry into his concerns, which included the following: A review of BWC video footage, a review of police reports, a review of witness statements, both written and verbal, and a review of detailed explanatory memorandums.

The inquiry determined that on July 23, 2021 at approximately 1105 hours, a male who was later identified as the complainant, Sean Paul Reyes (AKA Long Island Audit) approached the front door of the State Police Headquarters, located at 1111 Country Club Road, Middletown, CT. Reyes wanted to make a complaint about a situation that occurred with a Trooper, at Bradley International airport. It should be noted that the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit (SLFU) was very busy on this day. The line for SLFU permitting was wrapped around the building.

The front desk Trooper, Trooper Costello, called Legal Affairs via telephone and informed Legal Affairs about Reyes. Legal informed Trooper Costello to give Reyes the Uniform Civilian Complaint Report, DPS-678-C-1 and if he had any questions to have Reyes give Legal a call. Trooper Costello subsequently provided Reyes with a copy of the Uniform Civilian Complaint Report so that he could fill out and submit with his complaint. Trooper Costello asked Reyes if there was anything else he could help him with, and if he would like to talk about what occurred then he can either step inside the State Police Headquarters to protect Reyes's privacy or stay outside. Trooper Costello advised Reyes that he could not record inside of Headquarters. While standing out front of Headquarters, Trooper Costello noticed that Reyes was recording, so he informed Reyes that he would also be recording with his BWC as well.

Reyes proceeded to provide Trooper Costello with his version of what had just occurred between himself and Tfc. Lavoie while he was filming at the Bradley International Airport for a story that he was allegedly working on. Reyes proceeded to inform Trooper Costello that he is an independent journalist. Trooper Costello listened to what Reyes had to tell him about the interaction he had with Tfc. Lavoie while at BIA, which was captured under C-21-146 with the investigative findings of no policy violations.

Reyes went into details of the entire incident which also involved TSA personnel. During the course of their conversation, which Trooper Costello remained very professional and not argumentative. Reyes informed Trooper Costello that it was his constitutional right and that he did not need to provide his identification to the Trooper at the airport. Trooper Costello noticed that the tone of the conversation was leading to other questions and noticed Reyes trying to bait and trap Trooper Costello by creating an argument, therefore, Trooper Costello went back into the building and informed a Trooper to get a Sergeant due to Reyes's complaint.



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND
PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE
Internal Affairs Unit



Upon Trooper Costello's request, Sgt. Fahey came out to meet with Reyes and immediately noticed that he was holding a cell phone, approximately chest high, and appeared to be videotaping his interaction with law enforcement personnel. Sgt. Fahey asked Reyes if he was videotaping "him" and Reyes responded, yes, he was and that he was a journalist and he wanted to make a complaint about a violation of his civil rights. Reyes began to explain his complaint to Sgt. Fahey, who stopped him and asked if him if it had anything to do with firearms or SLFU. Sgt. Fahey explained to Reyes that he was the Sergeant in the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit and not in Internal Affairs. Sgt. Fahey explained to Reyes, who was otherwise insistent, that Internal Affairs was not located inside of Headquarters. Reyes asked to speak with someone in Internal Affairs. Sgt. Fahey showed a good deal of patience with Reyes, who was quickly becoming argumentative and persistent to speak with someone from Internal Affairs. Sgt. Fahey remained professional never once speaking to Reyes in a derogatory or otherwise unprofessional tone. Sgt. Fahey provided Reyes with the address to where Internal Affairs was located while Reyes continued to film Sgt. Fahey.

Sgt. Fahey explained to Reyes, more than once, that the State Police want to take his complaint and that he had the form in hand to pursue such complaint. Sgt. Fahey was patient and professional while explaining the complaint process and pointing out to Reyes that he had the complaint form in hand to file a complaint. Reyes continued to stand in front of the doors of Headquarters filming Sgt. Fahey and Tpr. Costello and others waiting in line. One of the witnesses, Carlie Anita Bowers, stated that she felt uncomfortable with this random man recording her and her eight-month-old child. Bowers stated that Reyes was pacing back and forth making her feel unsafe while waiting outside of State Police Headquarters. Bowers further believed that Reyes wanted attention which was obvious to her by the way he was making a scene on the front side walk outside of Headquarters.

During the course of this investigation, I had an opportunity to review Reyes body of work on his YOUTUBE channel, Long Island Audit, which shows very similar patterns in his initial approach and demeanor with other agencies. Reyes starts out being respectful, but that attitude quickly changes as he attempts to bait and trap the personnel who he is debating with. Reyes pattern is to be persistent with an end goal in mind, provoke a response from the law enforcement Officer, ideally a confrontation that is being escalated and/or a heated debate to sensationalize Reyes' interactions and provides for theatrics on his YOUTUBE channel.

In reviewing Trooper Costello's BWC, Reyes' pattern can be seen as Sgt. Fahey is not initially taking the bait and remains professional. Reyes proceeds to say something sarcastic and, in a condescending, and insulting tone to Sgt. Fahey, which invokes a response from Sgt. Fahey. As previously mentioned, adding to the sheer confusion out front of Headquarters was the fact that on this particular day, SLFU, and by default Sgt. Fahey as well, were extremely busy and the permit line waiting outside of Headquarters for SLFU was extremely long as well, which was confirmed by one of the witnesses, Sean Ferris.



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



Internal Affairs Unit

It was corroborated by an independent civilian witness that Reyes was becoming aggressive while speaking with Sgt. Fahey. Sgt. Fahey with concerns for his and others safety, (through his training and experience as a law enforcement officer he has come to know that cell phones can be altered and modified to be used as a taser or a firearm) and whether or not Reyes had altered his cell phone in any way as a weapon, Sgt. Fahey did not feel comfortable with Reyes' cell phone in close proximity to his face. As such, Sgt. Fahey bluntly told Reyes, "that he and Reyes were going to have a problem." Sgt. Fahey started walking toward Reyes. Sgt. Fahey reached up with his left hand in order to move Reyes' right hand w/cell phone from away from in front of Sgt. Fahey's face. At this moment, Reyes dropped his cell phone from his right hand straight down into a bed of mulch. Sgt. Fahey did not grab Reyes' cell phone and throw it twenty (20) feet as described by Reyes in his statement and on his video.

Sgt. Fahey proceeded to escort Reyes away from the building and back to the center island in the front parking lot. As Sgt. Fahey was escorting Reyes, who was walking backwards, he held onto the bottom portion of Reyes' shirt to ensure he didn't trip over a curb or lose his balance and fall backwards. On Reyes' YOUTUBE video he describes being "violently pushed backwards" but as seen on the BWC footage, Reyes was never violently pushed backwards. Once Reyes was escorted to the grass center island, Sgt. Fahey went back to retrieve his cell phone while Tpr. Costello and Detective Bogiatzopoulos remained with him. After retrieving the phone, Sgt. Fahey handed it to Detective Bogiatzopoulos who in turn handed it back to Reyes. Although Reyes claims that his phone was broken, he is clearly observed recording or viewing his recordings as he was escorted off the property. Also, Reyes never showed Trooper Costello or Detective Bogiatzopoulos any damage to the phone nor did he make any mention of damage to the phone as they were escorting him off the property.

Upon further review of a still photo taken from Tpr. Costello's BWC footage of Reyes holding his phone, indicates the following discrepancies: Mr. Reyes holding a phone that does not appear to match the description of the photos of the phone he emailed to Sgt. O'Donnell. The phone which Mr. Reyes was holding appears to have an otterbox type protective case. The photos he sent of the phone did not appear to have an otterbox type protective case. Mr. Reyes also stated in his statement that the color of the phone was blue and the damage consisted of a hairline crack and minor chipping to the rear of the blue plastic on the phone. The photos he provided clearly showed more damage (significant spider web cracking) than a hair line crack and the phone wasn't blue in color, it appeared to be black and grey in color. The BWC footage also shows that Mr. Reyes' phone was not thrown, but was dropped straight downward into a bed of mulch in front of DESPP Headquarters.

As Sgt. Fahey started to escort Reyes backwards, Tpr. Costello recognized the incident escalating and is seen removing his handcuffs in the event that Reyes needed to be detained for further investigative reasons, which he ultimately wasn't.

This incident was rapidly evolving. Sgt. Fahey showed patience as he tried to explain to Reyes that he already had the complaint form and that he could not speak with anyone from Internal



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



Internal Affairs Unit

Affairs because Internal Affairs was not located at Headquarters. Reyes became persistent and remained standing at the front doors with obviously no further business and/or purpose at Headquarters, even after Sgt. Fahey advised him that he could leave the premises. Reyes was ultimately successful in eliciting the response that he wanted for his entertainment gain on his YOUTUBE channel. The matter was reviewed by the State's Attorney Office and determined that no crimes were committed against Sean Paul Reyes. Sgt. Fahey recognized a potential threat to the safety of those assigned to Headquarters and those civilians who were waiting outside in the SLFU permit line. Sgt. Fahey was patient and professional as he explained the complaint process to Reyes. Once it was determined that Reyes' business had been concluded at Headquarters, and he no longer had a purpose and/or reason to remain loitering out in front of Headquarters, Sgt. Fahey decided to ensure Reyes vacated State property without any further incident.

Civil Rights Auditors seek out and film officials while they are performing their duties in public. These auditors target protected places and exhibit behaviors intended to elicit an aggressive police response, and record these engagements, as they anticipate and welcome the ensuing police-citizen conflict. After their police -citizen encounter they then post their recording to a variety of social-media platforms for further elicit responses. One particular response from one of Reyes' followers sent an email to Colonel Mellekas stating in part: *I'd rather be ALIVE on Trial for manslaughter with FAHEY DEAD rather than violent FAHEY alive after murdering me and your IAB clears him for killing me on a public street for telling him "GO BACK TO WORK."*

On Monday, July 26, 2021, Sean Paul Reyes appeared at the Internal Affairs Office Building in Meriden and provided a written statement to Sgt. Donnell and Sgt. Ventresca. Within the statement Reyes stated that he had no physical injuries from Sgt. Fahey and did not receive any medical treatment because he had no injuries. On Monday, August 2, 2021, Sgt. O'Donnell emailed Reyes and requested for him to provide Internal Affairs with photos of his broken phone and the receipt indicating he purchased a new phone so that Internal Affairs could properly document the property damage. Reyes was also asked if he had consulted with his attorney regarding signing the written statement he provided. It should be noted that as of September 22, 2021, the complainant in this matter, Sean Paul Reyes, had yet to respond to either Sgt. O'Donnell's or my request with respect for additional documentation regarding his alleged damaged cell phone, and whether or not he will provide his signature to the statement he gave to Sgt. O'Donnell and Sgt. Ventresca on July 26, 2021, while at the Internal Affairs Office. However, On or about Thursday, September 30, 2021, Sgt. O'Donnell forwarded me an email from Mr. Reyes, which was sent to her, containing two pictures of an i-Phone. One picture was of the phone screen which was black and the other was of the back of the phone (grey in color) showing a spider web cracking to the back of the phone. There is no way to determine with any certainty the identity of this phone in the picture. Mr. Reyes did not take a picture of the phones serial number and/or any identifying number(s) that would link it to the phone that he had in his possession on July 23, 2021 while outside of State Police Headquarters. Furthermore, the still picture taken from Tpr. Costello's BWC footage shows Mr. Reyes holding a phone that does not



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



Internal Affairs Unit

appear to match the description of the photos of the phone he emailed Sgt. O'Donnell. The phone which Mr. Reyes was holding appears to have an otterbox type protective case. Mr. Reyes also stated in his statement given that the color of the phone and the damage consisted of a hairline crack and minor chipping to the rear of the blue plastic on the phone. The photos he provided clearly showed more damage (significant spider web cracking) than a hair line crack and the phone wasn't blue in color.

During the incident at DESPP Headquarters involving Mr. Reyes, he can be heard on BWC stating that he is an independent journalist filming content for a story. Mr. Reyes is a self-proclaimed activists and Civil Rights Auditor who has his own YouTube channel, Long Island Audit, where he posts his cell phone video content to. Although Mr. Reyes uses the guise that he is fighting for the littles guys 1st Amendment Rights, his story line is focused solely on trying to bait and trap law enforcement agencies throughout the Northeast. He records the interaction and then posts the content to his YouTube channel where he then receives subscribers and likes which in turn results in a monetary profit for Mr. Reyes. Currently, Mr. Reyes has posted approximately fifty-nine videos of similar content to his You Tube channel, Long Island Audit, and has over seventy-four thousand subscribers to date.

FINDINGS:

The police/civilian encounter which occurred in front of DESPP Headquarters on July 23, 2021 between Sean Paul Reyes, Sgt. Fahey and Tpr. Costello was a rapidly evolving incident which escalated as Reyes became uncooperative and argumentative towards Sgt. Fahey. That being said, the Connecticut State Police recognize when our personnel fall short in their performance expectations. In this case, Sgt. Fahey could've been more effective in the timely manner of when and how he deployed de-escalation techniques reducing the likelihood of the incident escalating to the point it did. Sgt. Fahey's conduct fell short of what is expected of CSP personal, as it relates to his interaction with Mr. Reyes at the conclusion of their interaction. This performance short coming will be addressed administratively by his supervisor. Tpr. Costello's actions relative to this incident were found to be within department policy.



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



Internal Affairs Unit

List of Exhibits:

Uniform Civilian Complaint 678-C-1
Email correspondence to complainant, Mr. Reyes from Sgt. O'Donnell and I.
Two pictures of an i-Phone with no identifying features
Subject notification and explanatory request (Sgt. Fahey)
Sgt. Fahey's explanatory memorandum w/attachments
Subject notification and explanatory request (Tpr. Trn. Costello)
Tpr. Costello's explanatory memorandum
Tpr. Trn. Costello's initial report CFS 2100298252, to include witness statement
Statement (not signed) given by Complainant, Sean Paul Reyes
DVD of Tpr. Trn. Costello's BWC
DVD of Sean Paul Reyes YouTube Video of Bradley International Airport encounter and
DESPP Headquarters encounter.
Still photo of BWC footage depicting Reyes holding his phone.



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



DATE OF REPORT:

Internal Affairs Unit
December 03, 2021

INVESTIGATOR INFORMATION:

Capt J B Ceruti #031

CAPTAIN JOHN B. CERUTI #031

ASSIGNED INVESTIGATOR
INTERNAL AFFAIRS

A final version of this report has been saved and retained on the Internal Affairs Share Drive.