

New Rochelle Internal Affairs Complaint.

Today's Date: 8/5/21

Date of Incident: 8/2/21

Officer Involved: Officer Bufalmante Shield #1022

Supervisor Involved: Sgt. Redner Shield #19

On August 2, 2021, at approx. 12:00PM, I was peacefully engaging in a constitutionally protected activity at the New Rochelle City Hall. I am an Independent Journalist, I was gathering content for a story. The employees at city hall called the New Rochelle Police department because I would not relinquish my identification. Officer Bufalmante arrived on scene and began to escalate the situation. I calmly explained to him what I was doing, and that I was exercising my 1st Amendment right (Freedom of Press). He demanded ID several times which I refused, as he could not articulate what crime he suspected me of committing. A law enforcement officer CAN NOT go up to law abiding citizens and demand Identification without reasonable articulable suspicion that a crime has been committed, is being committed or will be committed. The only crime he articulated to me was lying to a police officer about your name is a crime, which was irrelevant because why would I lie about a name when I had no legal obligation to provide him with one. He kept insisting that unless I provided my ID I would have to leave city hall. I repeatedly explained to him that he is law enforcement, not policy enforcement. For the record, I was at no time shown a policy requiring ID to enter city hall, but even if it was a policy, a policy cannot violate our constitutional rights. The 4th Amendment protects us from unreasonable search and seizure. A policy demanding ID to enter a PUBLIC building is unconstitutional and therefore cannot be enforced. Sgt. Redner then arrived on scene, I explained everything to him, but sadly his knowledge of the law and citizens rights was also lacking. He agreed with all the unlawful assertions that were made by Officer Bufalmante. After some discussion, Sgt. Redner ordered me to leave leave the building under threat of arrest. The actions by Sgt. Redner and Officer Bufalmante, were not only unprofessional but unconstitutional. They both violated their oath to uphold the law and constitution. The worst part is, they simply could care less, often laughing and mocking me. I am demanding an immediate investigation into this incident. My 1st and 4th Amendment Rights were violated by the New Rochelle Police Department. Due to their unlawful actions I was unable to exercise my rights. (Freedom Of the Press) The entire encounter is on video for the world to see, I will be emailing this department with a link to the video to assist you in your investigation. I hope that the officer and Sgt. Involved are held accountable in some way for their actions. Also I will be exhausting all legal remedies to hold the city and police department of New Rochelle accountable with upcoming civil ligation.

Sincerely,

SeanPaul Reyes

