



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



November 03, 2021

Sean Paul Reyes

Mr. Reyes,

Your complaint dated July 26, 2021, regarding your interaction with Sgt. Fahey and Tpr. Trn. Costello while out front of the State Police Headquarters located in Middletown, Ct, 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 was not limited to, reviewing all available body-worn video footage, reviewing police reports, obtaining detailed explanatory memorandums from the State Police personnel that were involved and speaking with witnesses and reviewing witness statements.

Mr. Reyes, as such, the inquiry did in fact determine that on July 23, 2021 at approximately 1105 hours, you approached the front door of the State Police Headquarters, located at 1111 Country Club Road, Middletown, CT. You wanted to make a complaint about a situation that occurred with a Trooper, at Bradley International airport. At the time you showed up at Headquarters, the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit (SLFU) was very busy. The line for SLFU permitting was wrapped around the building, which created a significant challenge to those State Police Personnel working the lobby/desk area.

Mr. Reyes, upon your arrival at headquarters you made contact with Trooper Costello and informed him that you wanted to make a complaint regarding an interaction you had with a Trooper while at BIA. Trooper Costello informed you that if you would like to make a complaint you would need to fill out a form and submit it. You continued to film Tpr. Costello as he was explaining the complaint process to you. While telling Tpr. Costello about your interaction at BIA and what occurred, it appeared to Tpr. Costello that you were trying to escalate the conversation and bait him into a further argument.

Tpr. Costello went into Headquarters and located Sgt. Fahey, who then came out front of Headquarters and met with you, as you were filming the interaction on your cell phone. The interaction was also captured on Tpr. Costello's body-worn camera. Sgt. Fahey assisted you in providing the guidance and assistance that you requested pertaining to filing a complaint. You apparently were not satisfied with the assistance that Sgt. Fahey provided you and became uncooperative, which was corroborated by witnesses waiting in the permit line. After your business was concluded in front of Headquarters with Sgt. Fahey you insisted on remaining on the grounds of Headquarters with the intention of filming a further confrontation between yourself and State Police personnel, in this case, Sgt. Fahey. In this particular incident you exhausted your stay and purpose for remaining on state property. You clearly made other civilians present outside of Headquarters feel uncomfortable during your confrontation with Sgt. Fahey.

Sgt. Fahey was professional with you and spoke to you in a conversational tone never once using any derogatory and/or insulting language directed toward you. He was patient with you as he tried to explain the complaint process and how you had the outlet to make your complaint. Sgt. Fahey also expressed to you that the State Police wanted to entertain your complaint, however, through proper channels. Sgt. Fahey further explained that you could not speak with anyone from Internal Affairs



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because Internal Affairs was not located at Headquarters. You on the other hand, became persistent and remained standing at the front doors with obviously no further business and/or purpose.

Mr. Reyes, I trust you can appreciate the difficult and challenging tasks Troopers face on a daily basis to ensure the safety and security of the public. Connecticut State Troopers feel it a privilege to serve the public and citizens of Connecticut. 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 Costello in the above referenced matter appeared lawful, proper and within department policy. However, that being said, we recognize that this situation was rapidly evolving which created a significant amount of tension.

In summary, you were not assaulted and per your statement you provided to Internal Affairs, you did not seek out any medical treatment because you did not sustain any injuries from Sgt. Fahey. Your phone was not thrown, it fell from your grasp into a bed of mulch. You failed to provide the purchase documentation for your phone as previously requested by Sgt. O'Donnell. We as an agency acknowledge when our personnel fall short in their performance expectations. In this case, Sgt. Fahey could've been more effective with deploying de-escalation techniques, which will be addressed through administrative action.

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 are 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

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Connecticut State Police
Internal Affairs Unit