
From: Dana Grigg <djgme@yahoo.com>
To: clerk@kingcounty.org <clerk@kingcounty.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020, 09:03:07 PM PDT
Subject: COMMENT EMAIL

The following commentary was delivered to the Sheriff's office in December 2019. This was blocked and rerouted from the intended recipient, the Chief, and instead sent to a low level officer who supposedly took complaints. She opened a complaint and then buried it. I persisted and eventually, rather than investigating, months later, it was erroneously re routed to the Seattle PD which had no involvement and accordingly closed the investigation immediately. Upon examining her process, I could not be reassured of no retaliation from the officer and additionally the record keeping of the office is questionable as she had no record of this incident.

The fact that there is no citizen oversight of the sheriff's office leads to inherent conflicts of interest as shown by the poor handling of this incident.

My purpose in sending this communication was an understanding that vigilante emotional policing is a culturally supported approach promulgated by the leadership of the King County Sheriff's Dept. I know that the complaint process is broken so I thought that by telling the chief of my fear that the Seattle Sheriff would have an incident of police incited violence against the black community similar to George Floyd and hundreds of others. This incident was surely captured on video. In the wake of the shooting around Westlake Center, the area was over policed and all black men were looked upon with disrespect and suspicion by your officers. This is cheap marketing to make the public thing they are increasing safety when they are actually lowering it.

I am a Black man who has every right to own and run a business as anyone else. I happen to own and run a \$100 million+ investment firm -- a rare black owned business. We employ people in the Seattle area. Had your officer in all his emotional bluster decided to shoot me, it would have cost the city of Seattle tens of millions of dollars to my family and some jobs. Maybe this is a price you want to have at risk every day but as a taxpayer in Seattle, I think there are better uses of funds. You have a race problem and inadequate leadership to deal with it.

Here is my letter to the Chief:

Can you please explain to me how your officers making traffic stops unrelated to a bus or transit vehicle or lane in downtown Seattle achieves your goal of keeping the transit system safe and secure?

Today at 1:30PM one of your officers in a patrol car decided to turn on his lights and stop my vehicle at the intersection of 4th Ave and Pine Street. His complaint? I had entered the left turn lane a few blocks prior for one car length to go around a taxi cab that had stopped in the right lane of traffic to pick up/drop off a fare. There was no safety issue and he did not claim a safety issue but rather his complaint was that I did not "turn left from the left turn lane". Is this your jurisdiction?

Also, the officer demonstrated clear bias and unwillingness to accept or observe the full facts of the situation. In my profession we call this type of bias *data mining*. This type of bias when combined with racial aloofness is toxic. I ask you: do you stop every single car observed to go around taxicabs or uber drivers who have stopped for their riders if they enter a lane that is about to become a left turn only lane when there are no other cars in the lane and it is safe to do so? Should your officer have had his body cam operating? Or is does this behavior occur more with African American than white drivers? Do you even track this data?

Also, if you care about race relations, this was not a legitimate traffic stop but rather, the type of harassment that African Americans have to deal with from law enforcement agencies which the press has reported on extensively. I don't think a video of this incident shown to the public would have made a positive impression of your department. This officer's conduct was unbecoming.

For reference, not that it should matter. I am a 50 year old African American gentleman. I drive a Bentley and I run a major investment company. I have recently moved to Seattle to build a business here, employ local citizens and increase the tax base. I also vote. This type of harassment is not a normal part of my life and struck me as weird entitled and unconscionable if this is how you are behaving towards the citizenry.

I will retain the officer's name for now but I think this behavior should be formally filed against your department -- it reflects badly on all your officers -- so that when one of these incidents becomes a PR nightmare you can't say you were unaware.