

Police Commission 9 11 2023

Good evening my intent here is to ask to be placed on the police commission agenda in the next meeting.

I'm going to give an example of some of the things that I would like to address however I'm trying to keep it minimal tonight since I only have a few minutes to speak.

I would like to make it very clear

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Anyone that views the video of the attack that injured my eye has stated that they can not believe anyone could come to the conclusion that the person that was squatting waiting to attack me and I walked into each other...

It's totally obvious in the video that in his hand he had a cell phone and not only did he spring from a squatting position two steps towards me as he extended his arm and jammed his phone into my phone injuring my eye, traveling an estimated 7 to 8 feet to attack me. Everyone is disturbed a that a 74 year old was attacked by this young man and excuses are being made fior the attacker.

The police reported to the state's attorney that they don't know what I was struck with in spite of the fact it's clearly detailed in my original statement to the police when it happened. It's also impossible not to see what it was when you view the video.

So I'm requesting the name of the person that caused this injury and I'm wondering if the police department has a copy of the video from his phone since he appeared to be squatting there videotaping me.

After viewing the video I submitted to the police department and seeing that the person who assaulted me was filming I would hope the investigating officer went down to see what he had on his camera for evidence.

This is necessary if I decide to file a civil action against my attacker.

And I want to mention that in the police reports there is a claim that I have no facial hair...WOW

I have had a beard since I got out of high school and it has gotten this long because I made a vow that I would not trim it until I received all of the information I requested from our public servants.

It has been growing untrimmed for a year now..

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I asked [REDACTED] a year ago why he would make the claim that I belonged in handcuffs and violated someone's civil rights because I was attacked and injured.

I was verbally assaulted in my first conversation with the [REDACTED] because I called the people in my sister in law's house "SQUATTERS"...That is what they told us they were. But I need to point out I never made that statement about squatters to the police chief so I am not sure where he heard it or why it would encourage him to verbally assault me during our conversation.

I was called a liar in a meeting here by the [REDACTED] and by [REDACTED] a year ago when they made the claim that there never was a request for a call to be made to the police after I was assaulted.

[REDACTED] told me I could sit with him and view the video so I could point it out to him and then at the last second he decided no he didn't want me present.. I don't know why because I could have pointed out to him exactly where it is and it's very obvious in the video.

So to this day I have no answer to the question if the [REDACTED] or if [REDACTED] has even viewed the video and if a call was requested to be made to the police in the video as I stated it was.

I went to City Hall on 8/23/2023 to speak to [REDACTED] about the

minutes of the police commission because I knew she recorded them.

The police commission meeting minutes were last posted in April as of that date.

I thought that was kind of odd so I went to speak to her about the process from start to finish to publish the minutes of the meetings. I had approached [REDACTED] previously and I asked her if she minded if I filmed our conversation and she said she did... Out of respect for her I did not film the conversation.

When I went there on 8/23/2023 I did not film the conversation because I respect her feelings in spite of the fact I have every right to film in public and now know that it is necessary to film at all times to be sure the truth is exposed.

While I was speaking to [REDACTED] about I was verbally attacked in the hallway by a woman screaming at me. She said I had spent too much time in City Hall and that I had to leave the premises immediately... She said that I had spent time in her office as well... I have never met this lady nor did I realize that she owned an office in City Hall.

I asked her who she was and why she would say such a thing to a member of the public and she just stood there screaming and said call the police...

At that point I said I would like to get your picture if you don't want to identify yourself and she took off fleeing down the hallway never identifying who she was...

Three police officers showed up and started to question

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I said I haven't done anything wrong I'm standing here asking for public information regarding police commission meeting minutes since they are way behind being posted on the internet.

I said I was here trying to find the process from start to finish on the minutes

We ended up in the office of the secretary of the mayor and the city attorney speaking with [REDACTED]...

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I started filming at that point because the police officers came in very hot and refused to listen to what I had to say...

I thought it was the duty of a police officer to de-escalate a situation...

After things calmed down a bit I invited them to sit in an open room outside of [REDACTED] office and that is where we had a discussion. I asked [REDACTED] for the name of the person that attacked me and who made a phone call to the police over nothing going on...

[REDACTED] told me she believed the lady's name was [REDACTED] and that was it. I never got an answer to who placed a phone call to the police..

One of the officers kept saying what are you after the minutes and I said no I'm not after the minutes I'm after the process from start to finish..

He left the room went somewhere and came back..

I explained again that I was after the process of the minutes not the minutes themselves at that point because I was trying to find out why the minutes were only posted until April. There are other reasons as well that I would like to know what the complete process is because I have submitted important evidence at the meetings where I spoke and none of it appeared in the minutes of the meetings.

During the discussion I was told by officer [REDACTED] that I should become an auditor..I guess it bothered him that I was filming and he said to get the camera out of his face while I was seated and he was standing. The camera was pointed at the table at that time. However his body cam was pointed at me at the same time. There is video proof of what I am stating. Thank God.

We had a discussion in that room with two police officers present and I filmed it and I was told by Officer [REDACTED] that he was filming it as well..

I said I think it's great because with film there should be no questions..

I asked who the lady was that came up screaming that caused this incident... I never got an answer but I figured in their investigation they would find out and identify the person that caused such a disturbance.

After we were done speaking the officers went back into the office to speak with [REDACTED] and I inquired about any video taken in that room and I was told the body cams were not on. That seemed a little suspicious to me..

After the discussion with the police my constitutional rights were violated again because I was not allowed to go speak to [REDACTED] to obtain the information I went there originally to obtain.

I thanked the officers for their time and shook their hands and left the building very disappointed..

I went to the police department on at least three occasions to attempt to get a copy of the incident report...

I was told during each attempt it was not done that I would have to return and either speak to [REDACTED] when he was on duty or wait until it was in the records department..

I finally was presented a copy of the incident report and was shocked that it had no information in it.

I explained to the young lady in the records department that I had been there several times now to get it and I would like to speak to someone about it since it seemed very incomplete to me..

I took the copy of the document and went to the window supervisor so I could discuss it with him.

When reading this document I got a feeling that it IMPROPERLY points to me as causing some problem since no one else is named not even the person who caused the problem, [REDACTED]. why?

The statements in that report are not based on anything factual...

The only person that I intended to make an appointment with was the [REDACTED] attorney because I had addressed with her and [REDACTED] previously that the minutes of the police commission meetings still were not updated from April and I had other business with her.

I ended up speaking with a sergeant and he advised me what to do and I thanked him for it..

That is a small portion of what I have encountered as a member of the public trying to seek information regarding an injury I received that is is being covered up by The Police department..

I'm requesting time to show the video of the attack to everyone, including the commission members and the public, so there is no question in anyone's mind about the assault that took place. I have nothing to hide.

There are other issues involved in this case that I think are very serious and need to be addressed by this committee.

We need officers to support their oath of office to the constitution.

We need transparency in our government.

We need respect for the public that pays the bills of the public servants

We need public servants to identify themselves whe asked.

I am requesting that this statement be entered into the minutes of this meeting.

Thank you for your time..

Richard Fey 9/11/2023

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Rutland City Police Department NEPBA Local 425

9-11-23

To: Police Commission

From: Officer Timothy Rice

Subject: Communication from the union

Commission,

I apologize for not being at the last two meetings. I do want to provide you with union updates so please accept this written update in lieu of my appearance.

The union has filed several grievances with the department that are in the various steps and we are working with the department to resolve those issues.

The union met with Commissioner Sargent to finalize the PT policy in late July. We have not heard any updates regarding that policy. It was announced in a recent staff meeting we would be doing the old PT policy in October. The membership was disappointed with this decision as the department and union both previously agreed this policy didn't work for either group. The union returned the policy after meeting with Commissioner Flory in springtime and coming up with a policy that the union supported and sent to the city. The membership was excited for the new policy, the new course, and the new benefits.

The union is still working with the department on a part time employee agreement.

Staffing and burnout are still major concerns. No shift has more than 3 able bodied officers assigned (budgeted for 6 per shift, some shifts have assigned members who are out injured or light duty). Vision officers are still assigned to patrol due to staffing. Shifts are routinely being run with 2 officers. If someone gets an arrest or is tied up on an incident, it's not uncommon for an officer to be solo. There have been several instances where there is only one officer scheduled for the shift. Officers are taking an unhealthy amount of overtime to make sure each other are safe (routinely 12-20 hours per week and sometimes more) however that is coming at a sacrifice for their own time off. Each day, there are typically 1-2 officers per shift working overtime on their days off just for patrol to remain operational. Even with this, there are still times when there is only 1 or two officers on duty. The overnight and weekend hours are where the short staffing is the most concerning. After 12am or 2am, there are no other agencies in Rutland County with police on duty to help. On weekends, there is no admin staff to assist with calls. If there are two officers on duty, that's it. There is no one else coming to assist if needed. For example, last Saturday we had 3 officers working. One officer gets a DUI arrest after a crash. Two officers are left. I respond solo to a multi person bar fight because the other officer is already on a call. While on scene, I'm advised of another bar fight with multiple people injured and one subject unconscious due to injury. I have to leave the first assault and tell them I might be back and go to the other incident. Once there, there's 10 or so drunk and disorderly people and two injured parties-one