

ity Police Commission: Addenda to Minutes of 9/12/2022

Presentation of Richard Ley

I'm here tonight to speak about an incident that occurred on the 11th of July and was reported on the 12th of July because of an injury from an assault that took place that injured my left eye.

My sister-in-law has a squatter living in her house and she wanted to do an inspection of the property and at the same time wanted the city to do an inspection.

We got to the property about 5 minutes before the inspection was supposed to begin and the man that assaulted me came flying down the street on the motorcycle. I took some footage of a paper plate in the video because it is an unregistered motorcycle.

I don't know if he recognized us sitting in the car. It's possible he did because my sister-in-law is a black woman.

This young man ran into the house and came running out and covered up a motorcycle that was parked on the other side of the gray car that appears in the video.

He was in a big hurry to get that done and when he finished it he ran back in the house. My first suspicion....it was possibly stolen.

Mike and another rep from the inspection department from City Hall showed up and we had a discussion prior to going down onto Carmen's property.

First I want you to be aware that in spite of the fact she owns the property and there is a squatter there she is required to give a 48 hour notice prior to going down there to do an inspection.

We spoke to Mike and I said because there is some tension it would be best if Carmen and I said nothing but just filmed and witnessed what took place.

Mike agreed that was a good idea and we entered the property..

As you can see from the film I have submitted to the police department I slowly took video of everything that I could just for a record in case questions arose at a later date.

Everyone else kept walking and ended up speaking with Jordan Atwood, the squatter on the property. In the video you can see another young man on the right of everyone.

As I approached videotaping that young man went into the house, reappeared out the side door and knelt on the ground in the area I was approaching. I'm really not sure if he was trying to record or not.

I kept walking towards everyone with my phone up to my eye trying to videotape what was taking place when I noticed there were several marijuana plants growing behind the young man kneeling there.

He was kneeling and I kept walking because I wanted to get around him and try to videotape the marijuana plants before we ended up going into the house and videotaping the interior.

There was plenty of room to get around him on both sides but as I was walking he sprung up and took two steps towards me jamming his camera into my camera, recording as I was holding up to my eye.

He caused my camera to jam into my eye and caused damage to my left eye.

My eye doctor was on vacation so I could not see him immediately but I got an appointment as quickly as I could. I went in to see him because I was very sore from the impact and I developed two big dark spots in my eye with a long fuzzy thread trailing them.

On the 12th of July I went to the police station and I submitted a verbal statement regarding the injury and I showed officer Tavares a copy of the video where the young man assaulted me. I took the paperwork home to fill out and submitted it to another officer when I returned to the Police Station because officer Tavares was not on duty.

I am still having problems with the spots in my eye and soreness in my eye as a result of being attacked by this young man.

On July 11th during that visit, after I was attacked, Michael called the police to come down and officer Tavares came down.

I continued to walk around and film things in spite of the pain in my eye figuring I bumped pretty hard and it was nothing to worry about even though it was quite painful.

I mentioned the marijuana plants growing in the yard and I filmed all of them and there was also a giant hole dug in the yard that was witnessed by officer Tavares..

I mentioned to him that I didn't believe Carmen wanted marijuana growing on her property since she was raising two young grandsons who used to frequent the property.

Officer Tavares took a statement from Carmen that day and said he would have someone come down and see if they were legal and if it was legal to grow them without her consent.

I have been in the police station numerous times regarding this incident...

I spoke to the sergeant about the marijuana and about the gentleman living there and his gun convictions wondering if a background check had been done on this individual.

I have spoken to officer Tavares and still nothing on the marijuana plants, not even a visit... And speaking to him he told me no one really knows what the laws are regarding the plants... At that time I asked him if anyone had been contacted to go down there and see what was going on and he told me no.

I also asked him if he found out who the young man was that assaulted me and he said no.

He said the chief did not believe that the young man assaulted me.

Again showed the video to officer Tavares and I said there's no question he jumped up, attacked me and bumped his camera into camera causing the injury to my eye. He just said the chief made a decision.

At that point I asked him officer Tavares if I did the same thing to you that you witnessed on that video what would you do.. His response was I would knock you on your ass.

I then requested a meeting with the mayor because I had no idea what else I could do about the injury I sustained.

Mike from building inspections and Carmen and the mayor all watched the video. I asked Mike if he had witnessed the attack and he said no. I said the police officer told me that you said there was no attack... He said I told him I did not witness an attack.

After showing the video to Mike and the mayor they both agreed that yes the gentleman approached me and banged his cell phone into my cell phone and caused the damage to my eye that I still suffer with.

I also explained to the Mayor that after the incident that took place on the 11th we learned that the young man squatting on Carmen's property held a child at gunpoint and had several other gun charges against him in 2020.

I explained to the mayor that I had relayed this information to officer Tavares and asked if they could find out if Atwood is on probation and if he is allowed to have all of this pot growing there and any other restrictions he may be subject to because of his criminal behavior.

The Chief placed a call to me on September 2nd as I was traveling to out of town for Labor Day go visit friends.

When I pulled over I placed a call back to the Chief and left a message explaining to him I was traveling and I would call him when I got back.

I placed a call to the chief on the 7th of September at 11:13 AM and I received a return phone call that same day at 4:44 in the afternoon.

I started having a discussion about the video and his first response was this is about an eviction.. I explained to the chief this had nothing to do with the eviction and he said nothing happened that he saw on the video.. I asked how he could miss it when everyone else saw it.. He told me that Mike didn't see it nor did anyone else agree that this man came at me.

I told him I couldn't believe that he couldn't watch that video and determine that. I went on to ask him about the marijuana that was planted in the yard.

I told him that I was having an impossible time finding out exactly what the laws were and how it pertained to that pot that was growing on the property.

He asked me how many plants were growing and I said You tell me since you spoke to the people involved.

I guess that triggered him because he became very angry after that..

At that point he told me that two two mature plants and four immature plants were legal.

I asked him who I would call to enforce the law since I had no idea and neither did officer Tavares..I also explained that I had been waiting almost 30 days for some sort of answer and never got anything back.

He told me the police enforced the marijuana laws.

At that point he got all ticked off, said he was done and ended the conversation.

I returned a call back. The Chief didn't answer so I left a message stating I had questions involving other things that I would like to have addressed.

One of them was the theft from Carmen's bank account that has been ongoing for quite some time now and she has not been able to speak to the officer that was handling the case in spite of her many attempts walking up to the police station to try to speak to him... She has also been promised numerous times that the police officer would be calling her back.

I also wanted to explain to the chief that we had to give a 48 hour notice to enter the property and that I would be glad to go back down and count the plants for him except the person that is there has a record of being armed and dangerous as well as holding a child hostage.

He also continued to possess firearms in spite of the fact he was not supposed to have them by law.

I still have not received a call back from the Chief regarding the other issues.

So I'm here tonight to show everyone the video that has been submitted to the police department so they can see it in slow motion as well as regular speed if they choose to do so.

The police department has been given a video at regular speed and I have a thumb drive with the slowed down version which completely shows the steps the young man took when he sprung up and jammed his phone into my face that you can copy if you choose to do so.

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I'm also submitting the state statute that pertains to assault in the state of Vermont.

I think it's disgraceful that a 74-year-old man should be attacked by a young man that jammed his camera into my face and caused damage to my eye and not have the police respond accordingly.

The law is very clear and it's definitely applicable to this young man that assaulted me.

I understand our policemen have a tough job to do and I respect them for that.

However policemen are there to support the rule of law and charge people according to our state statutes.

I understand emotions enter into everything but it is a law officers duty to enforce the law based on state statutes and not on feelings.

I suffered an eye injury as a result of the attack from this young man and I'm asking that something please be done about it.

If you have any questions I'm open to answering them.

If you need any additional information I will try to provide it for you.

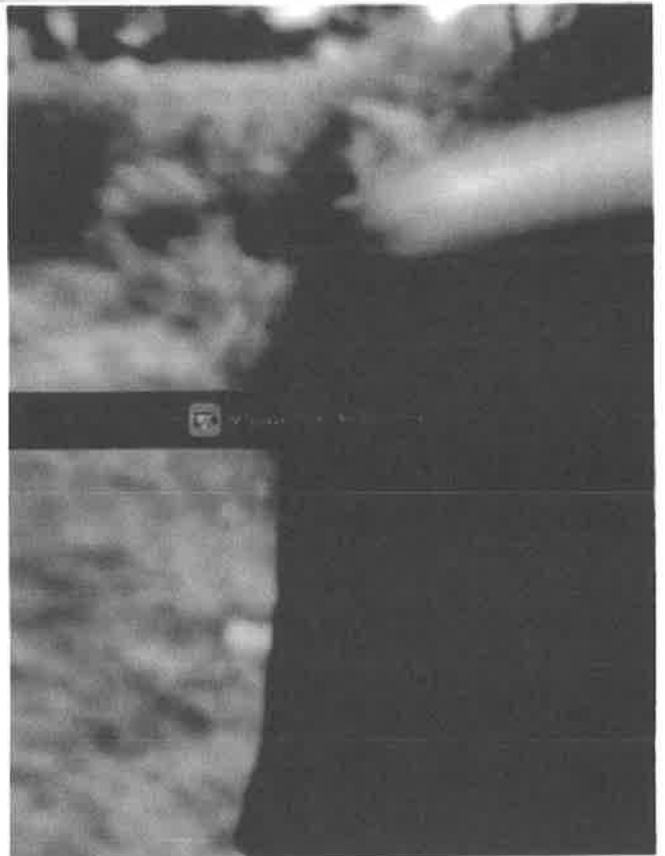
Thank you..



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