

October 12, 2017

Re: Incident involving Officer Dutton of Brooklet Police Dept. and Mr. [REDACTED]

I witnessed a traffic stop involving Officer Dutton and [REDACTED] at approximately 6:00 - 6:05 p.m. As I drove into the parking lot of Brooklet Methodist Preschool to pick my daughter up from work, I saw that [REDACTED] was being pulled over, his car was stopped about midway into the parking lot with the officer behind him. As I drove by, [REDACTED] asked me to get his daughter for him and bring her out. I said that I would. I drove around the drive to the portico. I realized that there were no more cars in the parking lot and the lights were out, and that his daughter was not there. I walked behind my car toward the walkway from the drive to the parking lot to let him know that she was not there. I heard the police officer yelling at [REDACTED] that he was doing "38 in a 25", then he asked if his daughter was "injured or dying". He then turned toward me and put his hand up and screamed, "stop", that I couldn't be there because this was a traffic stop and I needed to leave. I stopped as I was told to do. I then tried to tell him that I just needed to let him know that his daughter wasn't there. He continued screaming at me that I couldn't be there. I continued to try and tell him that [REDACTED] was there to pick up his daughter but that she was not there. Obviously, he did not know that she was not there since he was coming to pick her up. I know first-hand that this is very frightening for a parent to hear. I walked back to my car and asked my daughter if she knew whether [REDACTED] daughter had been there that day and, if so, if she knew who picked her up. She said she had seen her mom there and thought she had picked her up. I felt that Mr. [REDACTED] needed to know this to put his mind at ease since he thought she was at the church. I turned and slowly began walking back toward the walkway to the parking lot. The officer had already gone to his car (I assume to check license and insurance). [REDACTED] stepped out of his vehicle and I held up my hands to say I just wanted to let him know that it apparently mom had picked her up (it turns out that her mom had not picked her up, she had just gone to her room to see her. At the time of the incident, his daughter was actually with someone else being cared for until he arrived. The Pastor of the church came out and told him just moments later). The officer got out of his vehicle and rushed back toward Mr. [REDACTED] and was yelling at him asking if he wanted to get arrested. [REDACTED] said 'no' and told him I was just trying to let him know about his daughter. I also tried to tell him that I just wanted to let him know that his daughter was ok. The officer asked him again if he wanted to get arrested and [REDACTED] again said 'no'. The officer yelled for him to get back in the vehicle. I remember thinking "What's going on?", [REDACTED] seemed to have this same thought and then turned and got back in his vehicle. I stood there for a moment and then returned to my vehicle, I waited a moment then drove away.

I NEVER witnessed [REDACTED] being disrespectful, belligerent, raising his voice, non-compliant, etc. in any way. I did witness the Officer being verbally aggressive and he appeared to be a 'hot-head' (that is the only name that I can think of that describes the impression he gave). It is sad when my younger daughter's first words when I get back in the car were "that's why people hate police officers". I have heard many people complain about Brooklet police officers, calling them "intimidating, bullies, egotistical, etc.". I have always chalked it up to 'they were just mad because they got a ticket'. The only previous contact I have had with any Brooklet Police Officers was with Officer 'Tracey' who is no longer with the force, I was impressed with her involvement in the community. Everyone I have ever spoken to really liked her. Also, I have seen the Chief at the Methodist Church Preschool on several occasions to visit his wife and once at a Benefit Dinner. I hate that I witnessed this unfortunate incident

that has caused me to think that the previous accounts I had heard may not have been exaggerations after all. I respect the police as a whole and am thankful for them. While there are bad police (as with any profession or group), I believe the bad ones are the minority. I believe that the vast majority of police are good, just as I believe that the vast majority of the community have respect and a healthy fear of the police. And that is as it should be. I do not want to jump to the conclusion that this is a bad police officer, but I am very disappointed in the impression I got from him. He came across as a hot-head that didn't care and thinks because he wears a badge that it is ok to bully people. I know it is a dangerous job and I pray that he, and all police officers, are protected and safe. I would just hope that if anything like this were to ever happen again that he will just listen and not give anyone else the impression that I and my daughters got. I believe that the Police deserve our respect. At some point, however, I believe that each Police Officer has a responsibility to maintain that respect. This is for the good of everyone.