

October 12, 2017, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Meeting with Chief Meyer of Brooklet Police Dept

I met with Chief Meyer to discuss the incident I witnessed between Officer Dutton and [REDACTED]

I had [REDACTED] with me as a witness.

I told Chief Meyer what I witnessed. He listened. He told me about a 'police officer's reality' in a "rapidly changing" environment. He then told me the account that the officer had given him. He told me that the officer had told him that [REDACTED] had told him 'No' he would not get back in the vehicle. I told him that was not true, [REDACTED] never refused to get back into the vehicle. He also told me that it was the officer's word against [REDACTED]s. He stated that some of it was on body-cam but not all of it because the original officer (Dutton) did not have his body-cam on him. I said that was why I was there to give my statement of what I witnessed, before the second officer arrived with his body-cam. He mentioned a Supreme Court ruling which, he stated, favors the police officer 'Totality of ... rapidly changing conditions/environment, reasonableness of the officer'. Chief said all of his personal experiences with [REDACTED] had been good. He said that he has had no other complaints about this officer. He also indicated that the officer was new to the force.

During our conversation, the Chief told me of several instances that he had been involved in. One such incident involved a "local small business owner of a sandwich shop" who went through a barricade at the Peanut Festival and they arrested him. He explained that no one was above the law and he had previously been a frequent customer of the sandwich shop. He stated that he also arrested the man's brother for "making threats" on Facebook. I am not sure it is appropriate for him to be sharing this information with me about other citizens. We live in a very small community with only one "small business sandwich shop". He went on to tell me about an "upstanding citizen" that is a special-ed teacher in the area and he had issued her a warning for speeding. She apparently complained to city officials and the Chief then turned the warning into a ticket. He said she was someone that thought she was "more equal than others". I wondered why he would be sharing these incidents with me and then thought that it could be to intimidate me by letting me know what happens to people that speak out against the local police. He also told me that people think nothing happens in Brooklet, he compared it to a 'sleepy little town of Mayberry'; then told me about a shootout in 1989. Not sure of why. The warrant for [REDACTED] arrest was after he made a complaint.

He also asked me during our meeting if [REDACTED] had been driving his Honda Element, I said 'yes, he was'. He went onto say that Police Officers "stereotype" people and the police officer may have had a heightened alert (I'm not sure these are the exact words he used but it was something this effect; he did speak of 'white, yellow, orange, red conditions during our conversation); he said that is a type of car (Honda Element) that "terrorists drive". I told him that (stereotyping) on

such information is not good. He said it was necessary in making decisions. I also told him that a hot-headed or paranoid police officer could also be a very dangerous police officer.

Upon leaving the Police Dept. a female police officer (with red hair) was coming in (it was 3:38 p.m., I looked at my phone to check the time as I was leaving). He joked with the officer that I was there to complain about her and we all laughed. I said I'm sure that's a surprise since we had never met before. I thanked him for his time and said I hope the next time we meet it is under better circumstances. I went to pick my daughter up from work at 6:00 p.m. The roads were blocked for an event in the Methodist Church parking lot. I saw the same female Police Officer speaking to another (tall gentleman) Police Officer. I noticed the gentleman watching me as I walked by them and overheard her saying something "about four o'clock". I got the impression she was talking about me.

I am writing all of this because I feel like, because I am witness to a complaint regarding a Brooklet Police Officer, the Police Dept. has a 'special watch' on me. They know my car and I am afraid they may have a vendetta against me. I hope nothing comes of this but want to have an account of all of this in case they do attempt to intimidate me or my family. If I did anything wrong, I sincerely apologize. Everyone, including Police officers, should be held accountable. I am not trying to get anyone in trouble but I feel the officer should take responsibility for his role in this situation. Police should not be allowed to bully or intimidate their community and the community should not have to be afraid of those sworn to protect and serve. The Chief told me that the Police must be the 'intimidators'. I believe this was meant to say that they cannot be intimidated by the public, and I agree with that. Most people are intimidated by the authority of the Police and have a healthy fear and respect for Law Enforcement; they (the Police) do not have to go out of their way to intimidate people. The Police should not assume that everyone is their enemy. That can be very dangerous.

The Chief said during our meeting that we may have to walk away and 'agree to disagree' and I agreed. He said he appreciated that we were able to sit down and each give our side of the story and said that I was the type of person that the Police enjoy dealing with, that I was pleasant, calm, and respectful. I believe that we should submit to the authority of our Law Enforcement. The Police should also be respectful of their community. I believe we should all refer to James 1:19, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry"; in doing so, many such incidents could be avoided.