

Donald J. Lee, Jr.

Chief of Police



Key West

POLICE DEPARTMENT

July 30, 2010

Chairperson Susan Srch,
Citizen Review Board
Post Office Box 1946
Key West, FL 33041

RE: Mr. Shahdaroba Rodd
CRB#09-009, 10-001

Dear Chairperson Srch:

This letter is in response to the Citizen's Review Board's (CRB) findings and questions regarding this case. Inspector Smith and I conducted an inquiry into Mr. Rodd's allegations when we received the complaint from the CRB. As I stated in my letter dated December 31, 2009 to Stephen Muffler, we found the allegations listed of untruthfulness, false arrest, conspiracy and harassment had no basis to warrant an internal affairs investigation. I appreciate and respect the CRB's finding and recommendations in this matter but I respectfully disagree that Officer Sanchez falsely arrested or harassed Mr. Rodd. I continue to believe that there is no basis to these allegations.

As a result of the inquiry, I found that Officer Sanchez was deficient in his report writing in a several areas. Officer Sanchez has been counseled for his deficiencies. Ofc. Sanchez has also received remedial training on the departments DUI policy and the associated laws. All patrol officers have received training specifically as it relates to bicyclist not being required to submit to breath test.

In regards to your finding of deficient service by Ofc. Leahy, I respectfully disagree. Ofc. Leahy's primary responsibility at any scene is for his and the public's safety. Mr. Rodd was not being cooperative during the traffic stop demonstrated by him walking away during the investigation. As I recall, Ofc. Leahy made at least two attempts to ascertain the identity and locate the witness (taxi cab). I feel that under the circumstances these efforts were appropriate and reasonable.

I do not believe that inconsistent or conflicting police reports are a systemic problem in the department considering the thousands of police reports that are written annually. Unfortunately, errors will occur but in an effort to prevent them, I have directed our officers and supervisors to be more diligent when reviewing their reports and passing along information to fellow officers.

Thank you for your time and consideration in continually seeking to improve the department's professionalism.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Lee, Jr.



RESPECT - INTEGRITY - FAIRNESS

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