

Los Angeles Police Department
Officer Harassment & Abuse of Power
RE: Pretextual Stop, Harassment, Blatant Bullying

TWO BULLIES WITH BADGES HARASSED ME FOR 20 MINUTES BECAUSE OF AN ALLEGED JAYWALK

At the outset, I want to make clear that I respect “respectful” Police Officers who carry out their duties & responsibilities with professionalism. In the case at hand, in addition to antagonizing and harassing me for almost 20 minutes with words and actions **precisely designed to elicit a negative reaction** - these officers stopped me for an alleged jaywalk and asked me criminal investigatory **[custodial interrogation]** questions such as the following:

- 1.) What are you doing in this area?
- 2.) Do you have tattoos?
- 3.) Do you have a job?
- 4.) Are you a student?
- 5.) Have you ever been arrested?
- 6.) Are you in the process of committing a crime?
- 7.) “We need to document this, because we need to make it seem like we’re doing something.”

These particular officers are out harassing law-abiding citizens in order to create an appearance of “doing something” to meet some “quota.”

RELEVANT FACTS: As the title above indicates, I was harassed, “falsely imprisoned” and otherwise treated like a criminal for no legitimate purpose and “**with no reasonable suspicion**” that criminal activity was afoot pursuant to **Terry v. Ohio**. Here, two officers Uehara #36619 and Chan #30503 seized me after alleging I jaywalked by cutting across the street outside the scope of the crosswalk on Wilshire and Rampart.

They stared me down from the car and made a U-Turn. I smiled and knew they would stop. They stopped and said they needed to see my ID for a jaywalk. I was fully compliant by providing the ID and respectfully asked the officers, “Can I leave with a verbal warning as I didn’t impact or endanger traffic or myself.” One of the officers stated, “Is it alright if we cite you with a written warning?” I inquired that a verbal warning would be my preference. The officer retorted, “We need to make it look like we are doing something out here.” Shocked by that assertion, I followed up with the following statement, “Sir, I don’t want to sound rude, but aren’t there other criminal things that could be cited.”

INCREASINGLY AGGRESSIVE POLICING FOR NO LEGITIMATE REASON

At that point, both officers responded, “Who the hell are you, are you trying to tell us, how to do our job.” I immediately responded no, and that I have experience working with law enforcement and they usually provided verbal warning in connection with jaywalks and other minor traffic related infractions. The officers stated, “We can write you up if you want, tough guy!” and got in proximity within a foot of my face in a loud and menacing tone. Fearful for my safety, I immediately put both hands in my pockets, loud down and away so as not to create an even more non-threatening demeanor to two officers. I asked, “where are your bodycams at?” They stated, we are not required to wear them and advised me to “shut my mouth” or they would cite me. Clearly antagonizing in a loud and disrespectful tone, I looked away, bit my lip and did not respond. I requested the written warning and my ID so that I

could leave. For another 5-10 minutes both officers asked me the above "Investigation" Related questions even though I was clearly not committing a crime, no sagging pants, no marijuana odor and a respectful tone. They asked the same questions repeatedly and literally laughed in my face to elicit some type of negative response. I find this behavior appalling and beneath the dignity of a well-trained officer. The landmark case of **Terry** indicated, "A stop must be temporary and no longer than necessary than to effectuate its purpose." Here, these officers, threatened, bullied, harassed and falsely imprisoned without a basis of a malum in se offense taking place. I should have either been cited, warned and allowed to go. Not forced to respond to questions about my employment status, criminal history, tattoos, etc. This is a horrible practice. In addition, the officers are out harassing law-abiding citizens in order to create an appearance to meet some "quota."

At this point, a friend who was waiting around the corner, parked and came upon the scene and requested to see the bodycams on these officers as she observed the threatening body language and tone of these officers.

CONCLUSION: In conclusion, I have no doubt these officers were antagonizing me, threatening and disrespecting because of my physical appearance but were surprised that I spoke clearly and respectfully. I didn't escalate, respond in kind or give these two bullies another basis to effect some other baseless offense such as obstructing an officer or disorder conduct. I have seen abusive officers like this before and quickly identified their purpose. Bully and bother the black man to get him to respond negatively. These officers invaded my personal space in a loud aggressive manner that really scared me. This is UNACCEPTABLE.

Even the card with the badge numbers has the following language on it "Violator jaywalking and violator refused to wait for the Sgt." Even their language is judgmental and disrespectful – I presume that calling me my first or last name would afford me too much respect. SMH. This is laughable and a disgrace. I could have let this go, but I have to wonder – How many other people are subjected to these custodial interrogations "reasonably likely to elicit an incriminating response." See Rhode Island v. Innis

I have a BS in criminology and a JD in law and as I mentioned at the outset, I respect police and their difficult job. This was not respectful community-based policing. It was abuse of power. Bullying people with the clear intent of escalating a non-serious situation. Disrespect and Discrimination.

Best,

Eugene, J.D., M.Ed.

CC: LA City Council
California Department of Justice
ACLU

DATE 7/14/19 TIME 1300 INC. NO. 19071400274

OBSO VIOLATOR JAYWALKING IN
VIOLATION OF 21955(A) VC. ISSUED
WARNING CITE # W565748.
REQ SGT CHAVEZ AT SCENE.
VIOLATOR REFUSED TO WAIT
FOR SGT TO ARRIVE.

If you wish to comment on the level of service you received, please
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LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
RAMPART AREA
RAMPART PATROL DIVISION

OFC UEMARA 36619
OFC CHAN 30503

2223
BY: _____

1401 W 6TH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

JOIN THE LAPD (866)444-LAPD RECRUITMENT HOTLINE

Eugene ~~██████~~
PO Box 641381
Los Angeles, CA

9001234801 0042

LA City Council
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012