

Police Complaint

Parties

1. This complaint is made by Michael Sanchez of the City of Kitchener.
2. This complaint is made against Constable Jones, member of the Waterloo Regional Police Service.

Overview of the complaint

3. At approximately 9:45pm, on April 25, 2009, I was attending Conestoga Mall with two friends. My one friend, Nick Jacko, had an altercation with a man on the bus and my friend was pushed off the bus. My friend tried to get back on the bus. I tried to calm him down and we left the scene. Shortly after, at least two police officers arrived and instructed us all to get on the ground and place our hands on our head. The police had their guns drawn. I had done nothing wrong and I did what I was told to do and cooperated completely. Cst Jones handcuffed me.
4. Without warning and for no reason, Cst Jones drove his knee into the back of my neck and head using considerable and excessive force. My friend, Shannon King, witnessed this and Cst Jones noticed her watching. Cst Jones told her to, "turn your head, look the other way." I told Cst Jones that I was cooperating and asked why he was using so much force. Cst Jones told me to "shut up, shut the fuck up!" Cst Jones forced my head to grind against the pavement and I sustained injuries to my chin, the right side of my face and my right ear (see attached photographs). Nick Jacko was arrested and charged for what occurred at the bus. I had nothing to do with that.
5. After a short while, Cst Jones left me in the control of another police officer. I explained to that officer that my arm was seriously injured. I had been hit by a car approximately 4 days before this event and the force used by Cst Jones when arresting me had aggravated an injury I had previously sustained. This officer seemed very reasonable. When I believed that I was to be moved, I pleaded with this officer to not lift me up by my arms. He lifted me up in a way that did not further injure me. I was bleeding a lot. I was placed in a police vehicle for approximately 10 minutes until an ambulance arrived and I was taken to Grand River Hospital. I was not charged with any offence.

Complaint

6. Cst Jones used excessive force in arresting me. Cst Jones used an unnecessary and unreasonable amount of force, and there was no reason for him to do so. I did not resist arrest and I cooperated completely with the police. When police arrived on the scene I did exactly what they asked me to do. I sustained head injuries which were caused by Cst. Jones and he further injured my arm. Cst Jones ordered Shannon King to look away as she was witnessing his use of excessive force.

Resolution

7. I would like a full investigation, a written report, disciplinary action taken against officer involved, and an admission that actions of the officer were improper and unauthorized.

Police Services Act s. 58(1)

8. The complainant submits that this complaint is about the conduct of a police officer(s).

Michael Sanchez

Date