

Police Complaint

Parties

1. This complaint is made by Samantha Smith of the City of Kitchener.
2. This complaint is made against an unidentified member of the Waterloo Regional Police Service.

Overview of the complaint

3. At approximately 9:30pm, on April 15, 2009, I was at the Short Stop variety store at the corner of Franklin Street South and Kingsway Drive. I left the store and I noticed my cousin, Freddy Smith, and his girlfriend, Natasha Brown, were talking with a number of police officers. Police arrested Mr. Smith and then arrested Ms. Brown. In the course of these arrests, police used, what I felt was excessive force. I attempted to video document the police activities using my cell phone. I did not obstruct or interfere with the police in any way. While I was documenting the police actions, an officer grabbed my right arm, pushed me, and shook my arm with considerable force. I believe this officer deliberately acted to prevent me from videoing police activities and was trying to knock my phone out of my hand. As a result of this assault, my phone was shaken from my grasp, and smashed on the ground (see attached picture). I asked that police officer a number of times to identify himself, and he refused. Another police officer provided me with a badge number 1090 and the occurrence number 70864.

Complaint

4. An officer unlawfully assaulted me when he had no right to do so.
5. An officer unlawfully assaulted me with the intent to prevent me from documenting the activities of Waterloo Regional Police Officers. I was fully within my rights to video document the actions of police.
6. An officer unlawfully damaged my property.
7. An officer failed to identify himself – possibly to avoid being subject to a police complaint or civil liability.

Resolution

8. 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)

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

Samantha Smith

Date