



CITY OF ORLANDO

OFFICE OF
DAISY W. LYNUM
CITY COMMISSIONER

TO: Chief Michael McCoy, OPD
Mayor Buddy Dyer
Commissioner Phil Diamond
Commissioner Betty T. Wyman
Commissioner Robert Stuart
Commissioner Patty Sheehan
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings

FROM: Commissioner Daisy W. Lynam *DWL*

DATE: April 10, 2007

SUBJECT: Reports of Black Juveniles Battered by OPD

RECEIVED
APR 12 2007
CHIEF'S OFFICE

The purpose of this correspondence is to share with you and my colleagues on the city council two reports that I received this weekend that shocked me and apparently the witnesses to these incidents. Two citizens advised me that on or about Saturday night or early Sunday morning, a Black male juvenile was arrested in the Bentley and Lee Streets area of Parramore by the Orlando Police.

According to the reporter, a Black juvenile was being arrested by an OPD officer for a misdemeanor, the catchall resisting arrest without violence charge, and, after he was handcuffed, another police officer loosed his police dog on the handcuffed juvenile. The dog attacked the youth twice, biting him about his head on the last charging attack. Allegedly, the juvenile was not resisting because he was restrained.

A second reporter advised me that an OPD officer at or near 4677 or 4766 Piedmont Street in West Orlando off of Ivey Lane battered a juvenile several weeks ago. Reportedly, the juvenile's back was to the officer who pushed him on his back. Again, reportedly, the juvenile was not resisting and the incident was documented on video.

Chief McCoy, I advised the reporter to have the alleged victim and the parents/family take their concerns to OPD Internal Affairs Department to file official complaints so that a full investigation is conducted of each incident. I further suggested that they might want to hire legal counsel because of the possibility of criminal charges and litigation. By way of this correspondence to you, I am forwarding these complaints to Pastor Randolph Bracy, the new Orange County Branch President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

I am again recommending that we move forward as soon as funding will allow with the installation of audio-visual equipment in patrol cars to ensure the safety of our citizens and police officers. The cameras and audio equipment will also help tell the story of each arrest and/or incident involving citizens and officers. It seems that the only record of one of these incidents is the cell phone video recording by an eyewitness. Although I support citizen's recording law enforcement encounters and arrest incidents, I believe our equipment and improved training of our officers will significantly reduce these incidents and complaints. As you know, the Orlando Police Department has had a great reputation since 1983 for its college graduates, professionalism and tactical skill. I want us to continue to be recognized and known for excellence, not abuses of citizens' civil rights and civil liberties.

Chief, I appreciate your attention to the above reports and concerns of the citizens that trust me to pass these alleged incidents on to the appropriate authorities. Thanks for your attention, review and response to the above matter. I look forward to hearing from you.