

7 Incidents,
7 Years

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Overview

- I was detained by Sioux Falls police 7 times in about 7 years
- Charged 2 out of 7 times
- City attorney dropped both charges without hearing
- Civil rights violated every time
- Questioned, intimidated, lied to, falsely charged, set up for attack, ...
- Government mostly ignored my reports of constitutional deprivations

Incident 1 - Running

- Running with flashlights at night for exercise
- “Suspiciously close to a building”
- Detained, hassled, questioned, released
- Lodged official complaint, received apology
- Disposition record later said complaint “unjustified”
- Police apology means little when complaints are called unjustified

Incident 2 - Running

- While running for exercise ...
- A truck had eluded police in the area
- Supposedly he (me) got out, grabbed two flashlights, ran back to police
- Detained, hassled, questioned, bullied, released
- City attorney defended police action
- Received another police apology, complaint “unjustified”

Incident 3 Background

- About 30 years ago in Rochester, NY
- I trimmed bushes along busy city street using my machete, a great bushwhacker
- One cop drove by slowly, parked, left
- Conclusion: machetes are legal, police can benignly investigate

Incident 3 - Bushwhacking

- Contacted neighbor, trimmed trees with machete
- No pedestrians, no cars
- Detained by 4 hyper-aggressive cops, terrified, surrounded, set up for physical violence
- Got right up to me and started grabbing my arm
- Said they did not suspect me of a crime
- Multiple government officials ignored my complaints
- I was later contacted, no one held accountable

Incident 4 - Shoveling Dirt

- Shoveled dirt off a public sidewalk
- Possessive neighbor called police
- Questioned, hassled, continued shoveling
- I prompted city to call neighbors
- Illegal to call police about me clearing public sidewalk

Incident 5 - Headlight

- Working headlights are not required during the day
- Cited for a broken headlight
- Tried to charge officer with perjury
- City attorney recommended: let ticket expire, warrant, get hearing, talk to judge
- Threatening a witness with arrest is illegal
- Attorney cancelled citation, no hearing

Incident 6 - Shoveling Silt

- Shoveled silt off the bike trail
- Detained by 4 cops for intimidation
- Contrived citation for disobeying barricades
- City attorney dropped citation
- Filed a civil rights lawsuit against city government
- City protected police from accountability, protected mayor's reputation
- I was prevented from collecting evidence then lost my case. See Zokaite vs Sioux Falls appeals case 0:20-cv-03338

Incident 7 - Walking

- Walked around jail waiting for someone
- Detained, questioned
- Officer lied about me checking car doors
- Happened January 31, 2022
- Chief Thum and I will be talking soon – kudos to Jon!

Cycles Of Protest

- Periodic seasons of protest against police violating rights, especially minority rights
- i.e. George Floyd protests
- Followed by studies, recommendations, inaction
- i.e. "Bipartisan police overhaul talks are officially dead on Capitol Hill" Sept. 22, 2021 [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)
- Perhaps politicians want police to violate rights as a way to maintain the social order
- Looks too much like home

Our Constitution

- No one shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law
- Police must have evidence for suspicion of crime to detain anyone
- See Terry vs Ohio
- Regularly violated

Questions For Politicians

- Why do you allow police to lie to suspects?
- Why do you allow detaining innocent people?
- Why do you allow terrifying innocent people?
- Why do you allow handcuff-induced injury?
- Why do you allow contrived citations?
- Why do you protect police perjury?
- Government for the people – not

Needed Reforms

- Be as nice as possible to everyone
- Change overall government framework
- Respect innocence
- Greatly expand police training
- Respect constitutional rights
- Reduce crime & fear of crime
- Heal addiction to reduce crime

Enjoy Nature

