

From: [Judith Valente](#)
To: [Woodruff, Aaron](#)
Subject: getting back to you on our case
Date: Friday, March 30, 2018 5:42:46 PM

Dear Chief Woodruff,

My husband left the decision to me of whether to file a formal complaint at this time against your officer.

In the spirit of the Easter holiday, and due to my respect for you as a law enforcement officer, I am not filing a formal complaint at this time. I reserve the right to do so in the future.

I am taking you at your word that you will use this as a training lesson for the officer. I also respectfully request that Officer Shepard, and perhaps Officer McCoy as well, be required to attend sensitivity training for dealing with females and minorities during traffic stops and other situations.

Officers need to understand what women feel when three squad cars converge on a routine traffic stop, three officers are hovering over a woman, and one puts his hand on her. We are now in a Me Too era in which women are tired of the bullying, harassment and assaults by men, particularly men in power positions. I already described to you how traumatic the incident was for me, causing even a sleepless night.

Officers need to understand too the long history of racism and unfair treatment that leads African American citizens and Hispanic residents to view law enforcement and other authority figures quite differently than perhaps the white population. Greater sensitivity and respect are required in these cases as well.

I also hope you also will discuss with Officer Shepard that the ISU police department is not the military. The citizens of McLean County are not enemy combatants. They should not be treated with an implicit bias of guilt.

There is no doubt in my mind that your officer did not express himself clearly, withheld information that would have helped me understand what was happening, then over-reacted to our situation. We had a very cordial exchange until he decided to put his hand on me.

I hope you will write back to us detailing the action you have taken in this matter.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us yesterday to review the videos and answer our questions. I also appreciate what I learned as a citizen from this experience and will put that to use in the future.

Sincerely,
Judith Valente