
POLICE CONDUCT OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Case Summary Data #8

September, 2016

OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLAINT

Complainant reported she witnessed an officer walking behind three (3) African American teenage boys while directing them away from Target and asking them to leave. Complainant alleges she overheard the officer loudly yell, "I don't want to see you f**kers here again" and "Racist? I'll show you racist."

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

1. OPCR Ord. § 172.20(2) – Inappropriate Language or Attitude
2. MPD P&P § 5-105(15) – Professional Code of Conduct: Employees shall be decorous in their language and conduct. They shall refrain from actions or words that bring discredit to the Department. They shall also not use words or terms which hold any person, group or organization up to contempt. The use of such unacceptable terms is strictly forbidden.

COMPLAINT PROCESSING

The complaint was received by way of the online system. Shortly after receipt of the complaint, the matter was put before the joint supervisors, who assigned it to coaching.

EVIDENCE

1. Complaint
2. VisiNet

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

Complaint: Complainant alleges that she was walking along a Target parking lot when she “witnessed a police officer walking behind three African American teenage boys,” who appeared to be non-threatening and walking away. Complainant contends that the officer the officer say to the boys “I don’t want to see you f**kers here again,” and also “Racist? I’ll show you racist.” Complainant believes the statements showed indicia of racial discrimination, antagonism, and only helped to validate the perception of racial bias in the Minneapolis Police Department.

VisiNet: The activity log report showed that the officer was in the area during the incident.

COACHING

The Officer’s supervisor initially contacted Complainant for further information. According to the supervisor, Complainant told the supervisor that she heard the officer “swear at a group of black teenage males while they were being escorted out of a store.” Further, the supervisor contends that the officer uttered “racist—[sic] I’ll show you racist” to the teenage boys. Lastly, the supervisor asserts that Complainant was 15 ft. away, identified the officer as having possibly “blond hair,” and that she took a photo of his squad number. According to the supervisor, the officer has black hair.

When speaking to the officer regarding the incident, the supervisor alleges that the officer failed to recall the incident, though he did admit to working in that general area off-duty part-time.

In the coaching document, the supervisor contends that there was no surveillance footage. Lastly, the supervisor coached the officer but found no policy violation.