



**COLORADO
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

July 16, 2002



Dear [Redacted]

The investigation into allegations made in your April 28, 2002 correspondence has been completed. My findings are as follows:

Reports from the trooper regarding facts of the contact were similar in nature to your account. However, the events of the search of your person and the conversation which occurred at the jail are very different. In order to determine which statement was most credible, interviews were conducted with others who witnessed portions of the process where the allegations occurred.

You made several statements during your interview with Sgt. [Redacted] about the search process. You advised Sgt. [Redacted] that Trooper Laing did not cup or grope your breast during the search. To the contrary, your written statement states, "the officer cupped my breasts and groped my groin area". You also described the position you were asked to take and demonstrated the search process used by Trooper Laing. However, the procedure you described and demonstrated was not observed by the other officer at the scene of the arrest. Based on the observation from the witness, I believe the search Trooper Laing conducted after your arrest was in accordance with and consistent with his training. I will agree the process could have made you uncomfortable, but you must understand this is a process required by our department to protect the officer and detention center personnel.

There was no dispute with the topic of the conversation which occurred at the jail. The personal questions you related to Sergeant [Redacted] during his investigative interview (are you from the area; do you have kids; have you been to Vegas) do not provide any indication of sexual involvement. Your perception of this conversation is subjective and not supported by an objective review of the questions.

Your allegations involving sexual preference comments from Trooper Laing were also evaluated based on statements from others in the jail. The question is, who initiated the inappropriate conversation? You contend it was Trooper Laing. Although, Trooper Laing and jail personnel witnesses stated you actually initiated the

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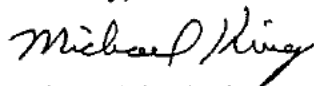
Division of
Fire Safety



conversation. Reports indicate Trooper Laing responded to your comments. Based on the topic of conversation and regardless of who initiated the conversation, any response by Trooper Laing was inappropriate and an error in judgement. The proper action for the trooper would have been to terminate conversation immediately. I will address this lapse of judgement of Trooper Laing administratively.

Based on the facts discovered during the investigation, and after considering the statements and observations of all witnesses, it is my decision the allegations of an improper search are unsubstantiated. Further, I find any conversation, by Trooper Laing beyond basic questions and answers for the report was inappropriate and in error. If you would like to discuss the investigation or my findings, please contact me at 858-2240.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael King".

Major Michael King
District Commander
District 4, Fruita