

2/24/21 - 2 messages
BASE

Mark Hanschmidt

From: Mark Hanschmidt
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 12:12 PM
To: practicewithdelight@gmail.com
Cc: Michael Hillman, Mayor
Subject: Complaint / Warning W703659

Mr. Stepanek,

My name is Mark Hanschmidt and I'm the acting Chief of Police for Idaho Springs. I just learned of the two text messages you and your wife sent to Mayor Hillman regarding the traffic stop from February 24, 2021.

I see from the texts you believed Officer Hanning was harassing you during the traffic stop. Officer Hanning and Officer Ellie Summers both were wearing body worn cameras that were able to capture the complete stop. I had the opportunity to watch both recordings from that stop.

Officer Hanning conducted a traffic stop on February 24, 2021 at about 0030 hours. The stop was conducted in the Safeway parking lot, for failing to come to a complete stop at two separate stop signs. Officer Hanning made a passenger approach to your vehicle which is an Officer Safety technique. He introduced himself and Ms. Stepanek immediately started confronting Officer Hanning. Officer Hanning called for a cover car which is standard in this situation. Officer Hanning wanting to reduce the confrontation and asked Mr. Stepanek to step to the rear of the vehicle in an attempt to calm the situation down. Just about the same time, Ms. Stepanek also got out of the vehicle disregarding the direction given by Officer Hanning. About that time, Officer Summers arrived and started talking to Ms. Stepanek at the passenger side door of the vehicle. Mr. Stepanek and Officer Hanning talked at the rear of his vehicle about the traffic stop. Officer Hanning told Mr. Stepanek he was going to give him a written warning for the stop sign violations. Officer Summers and Ms. Stepanek continued speaking until the conclusion of the stop. Ms. Stepanek was speaking very loud, making racial comments and inappropriate statements of how she wanted to shoot Officer Hanning. Officer Hanning did not react to any of her comments.

After my review of the body worn cameras from the traffic stop, I observed both Officers were very professional and treated you and Ms. Stepanek with respect. I do appreciate you bring this incident to the Mayor's attention.

If you would like a copy of the written warning and the body worn camera footage, please contact the police department at 303-567-4291 or email pdrecords@idahospringsco.com and request the open records forms.

Please feel free to contact me at 303-567-4291 or email me at mhanschmidt@idahospringsco.com if you have other questions.

Regards,
Mark Hanschmidt



- WEDDOW HANNING'S FILE.
- NO RESPONSE FROM CONCERNED PARTY (MR. STEPANEK).

NS