

From: [Gene Brazel](#)
To: [Council Members](#)
Cc: [Jeffrey Beazizo](#); [Greg A. Rubstello](#)
Subject: FW: Complaint follow-up
Date: Monday, January 30, 2023 5:14:50 PM

Good evening Council. Please don't feel inclined to respond to the email below from Tosha Edwards. We are well aware of this complaint and have spent significant time on it. Chief and I will be discussing next steps with our City Attorney. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the Chief directly. Thanks so much.



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From: Tosha Edwards <toshaedwards08@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 4:13 PM
To: Steve Ewing <sewing@lakestevenswa.gov>; Gene Brazel <gbrazel@lakestevenswa.gov>; Brett Gailey <bgailey@lakestevenswa.gov>; Mary Dickinson <mdickinson@lakestevenswa.gov>; Anji Jorstad <ajorstad@lakestevenswa.gov>; Ryan Donoghue <rdonoghue@lakestevenswa.gov>; Kim Daughtry <kdaughtry@lakestevenswa.gov>; Gary Petershagen <gpetershagen@lakestevenswa.gov>
Subject: Complaint follow-up

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Good evening,

I had a meeting with Chief Beazizo last friday to discuss the experience that my family had with a LSPD officer when my son was the victim of an assault. To say I was disappointed is an understatement. Again, I have to tell you how disheartening this experience has been. As I explained in my previous email, I have been met with nothing but defensiveness and refusal to acknowledge the issues I am trying to resolve since the first email complaint. I sent it on October 10th. These are issues that, while may seem like a small problem in relation to some of the bigger events LSPD have been dealing with, they must be addressed and taken seriously.

The blanket statement that was sent out by LSPD regarding the murder of Tyre Nichols was not only incredibly untrue considering the horrible experiences I have had so far, but it is disgusting for LSPD to use a tragedy like this to make fake promises to their community members when their actions show otherwise. "We hold ourselves to a higher standard and acknowledge we can do more in

furtherance of our mission. We remain committed to working together in partnership with community members, advocacy groups, faith based organizations, elected officials and other stakeholders to ensure a future that ensures dignity, safety, security, and justice for all." Really? Because I have felt none of that as a parent of a bi-racial kid living in Lake Stevens who was attacked for what he "looked like". So far I have met with DC Young, Corporal Thomas, and Chief Beazizo, and not one of them gave me any sort of feelings they express in this commitment. So who does this commitment apply to? Apparently not the family of a Latino boy who was attacked by a drunk guy for "looking suspicious".

I met with DC Young twice. Once over zoom because I was ill, and the second time in person. Both times he justified the officers actions and both times he attempted to intimidate me. I would like to know what right he has to bring up a previous LSSD incident with my same son, as if to make it look like my son is a bad kid, or that he knows something about me that I didn't expect. That incident had nothing to do with this one, I never reported that incident to the PD, and never asked for follow-up. Pure intimidation tactic and totally unnecessary. Then, when we were talking about the body camera during our second meeting to go over it, DC Young suggested that we "Make the body cam public" because, according to him, no one else would agree with me. Then he followed up with "I assume you already did considering your disdain for our department". First, my disdain for the department? Are you kidding me? Why would he assume I have disdain for the department other than to make me look like I am a "cop hater" in order for it to seem like I just wanted something to complain about. No, I just want to be able to trust my local law enforcement. And second, what would be his point to suggest that other than to put my family through hell with the media, try to make me look like I just want attention, or to discredit my claims and expose my son and my family to harassments? I am not here for attention. I want our police officers to do the right thing, and I want superior officers to do the right thing when their officers are not. Second, I come from a military and law enforcement family. One where they were ethical and did the right thing, even when no one was looking. I find it highly offensive and way out of line for him to make such an accusation towards me. Is this what the city envisions for their police department?

Chief Beazizo, while more approachable than DC Young, has also made it very clear that since Officer Schedler showed up to the call, took the report, and referred charges, he did everything correctly, and there is nothing that should be addressed. My complaint is unfounded. The investigation is being closed. Do I have an unrealistic expectation of police treating citizens, especially victims of crimes, with respect and compassion, and that they do their due diligence to collect all the necessary evidence for the best chance of a conviction? At the very least, I would think that the department would acknowledge my concerns, as they are confirmed in the video to have happened... Officer Thomas also stated that the main goal is to get in, and get the report, and since Schedler did that, everything was done per policy. They forget that the reason he did all of those things is because I was persistent over and over saying that I wanted this man charged for assault. It went as far as Officer Schedler literally asking me "What do you want me to do?" in which I replied "I dont know... Do whatever the law says to do when a drunk adult assaults a minor". Had I gone along with what Schedler wanted to do, there wouldn't have been any charges. It was very clear that according to officer Schedler, we were wasting his time with a little, insignificant assault 4 charge.

After I made my complaint to DC young about officer Schedler, I was told an "inquiry" was launched

and I would be contacted when it was over. DC Young contacted the parents of my son's girlfriend. Since this call was related to the officer's behavior, I was surprised to hear that DC Young seemed to focus on my son's medical condition during his call. My son has a cervical spine fusion and any kind of whiplash movements could paralyze him from the neck down, which I wrote in my statement so that the prosecutor could know that this could have turned out much worse than it did. DC Young took it upon himself to not only speak to an unauthorized adult about my son's private medical condition, he also made comments like "If he is that fragile, should he even be outside?". The only reason any of this information would be relevant was if DC Young was looking for something to say I lied or exaggerated to try and discredit me. I would like this investigation to be looked into to ensure that DC Young followed policy. I would also like to know what my son's medical condition has to do with Officer Schedler's behavior that day when Schedler didn't even know about it until after I had written my statement and he was nearly leaving... This seems like a huge overreach of authority to me.

During my interaction with Chief Beazizo, he brought up the history of my public records requests and what records I had received. He was able to tell me what requests got denied as well. He seemed like he wanted me to know that he knew what I had asked for and what I had actually been able to get. I felt like he wanted me to know that he was the "end of the line" and nothing gets past him. Even when my associate who was with me asked him who we can speak to above him he said "no one" as if there was no oversight for the department and the "buck" stops there.

I am absolutely not satisfied with the result of this investigation. I would like to request outside intervention to look into my complaints. I would like the behavior of the first officer to be addressed, the awful way I was treated by DC Young, the policy following that ensued after my complaint was made as I believe there were missteps throughout the process, and the dismissiveness and "holier than thou" attitude I received from Chief Beazizo. It seems that since they have found nothing (in their review) that has broken policy and there is no need for "discipline", this incident has been handled appropriately. While I would argue the opposite, even though I have only asked for acknowledgement, that doesn't mean the unprofessionalism and dismissiveness shouldn't at least be addressed. They won't even acknowledge it at all. This is extremely concerning. My impression was that I was looked at like some dummy off the street and they could tell me whatever they wanted to because I wouldn't know any better. That might be what they have been used to, but I am not that person. I expect professionalism, honesty and integrity from LE and from what I have experienced, that isn't what this department actually stands for.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with a department taking constructive criticism and doing better. LSPD has refused to do that. I am extremely disappointed that when the LSPD is presented with an opportunity to take a concerned citizen's report, acknowledge it, and do better, they choose to deny ANY wrongdoing or, regardless of whether it breaks policy. It is concerning when an officer is behaving in ways that reflect badly upon the department, instead of the department taking responsibility, its response is to deny, deflect, avoid any accountability, and try to make the complainant look like they did something wrong. That has been how we felt since the officer first responded to the incident. We were treated not like victims of a crime, but as criminals.

Chief Beazizo claimed he had watched the video and went over all of the points I had issues with. He

claims he didn't see anything that could or should have been done differently. I am appalled that he would deny the actions shown being committed on bodycam are unprofessional, including "joking" about the minor victims grammar. Chief Beazizo's reason is that because the other adults there were laughing and joking, it made it okay for Schedler to do it. As I said to DC Young previously, laughter is often a defense mechanism when people are uncomfortable. You would think that someone who touts as much training they have had as he did (he was sure to let me know), they would know this. Just because someone else is doing something doesn't mean it is appropriate behavior for a Police Officer. Is this what you would call appropriate? I was shocked that Chief Beazizo thought this was a legitimate excuse. This behavior, according to Beazizo and Young, is "per policy and following codes of conduct".

Chief Beazizo and DC Young also denied that Officer Schedler broke any policy by lying about talking to two households that witnessed admission of guilt by the suspect. Officer Schedler can be seen in the video only speaking to one pair of witnesses. When he was asked by me later which person he had spoken to, and the other adult Hillary was trying to explain it wasn't who he had already spoken to, he brushed us off saying he had spoken to them. He didn't even listen to what we were trying to explain. The body camera shows he did not speak to the person we were referring to. The dismissal of the severity of the incident by officer Schedler was apparent throughout the entire encounter. While it may not have been a big deal to him, it was to me, and to my son who was terrified.... This same son has continuously been bullied and harassed by people at school for his disability and his ethnicity, to the point where he had to be withdrawn by recommendation of his therapist. How do you think he felt being bullied by someone who was supposed to be there to help him? I think you can tell how he felt by his response to officer Schedler in the body cam video. How are people committing these crimes going to be held accountable if the officers in control of gathering evidence refuse to do so? Given the current race issues being experienced across our nation regarding police, you would think the last thing an officer would do is tell a 16 year old Latino boy that his assault was understandable because he "looked suspicious". Absolutely disgusting. But this was okay according to Young and Beazizo and didn't break any policy.

All I wanted was for my concerns to be acknowledged and to be assured that it would be addressed. Instead, I was met with more dismissal. It seems like our police department is conforming to the stereotypical "Brotherhood of the Badge" by not accepting responsibility and upholding high standards of conduct by their officers, as their mission statement and code of conduct imply. I asked Chief Beazizo why this officer that was under investigation was promoted, or as he suggested, reassigned to a higher position with better pay and more responsibility. He said there is nothing preventing an officer from getting a promotion while they are under investigation. If this is the case, it needs to change. Shortly after my complaint, this same officer had another complaint filed when he gave a minor's address to a person who then used it to harass the minor's family. This complaint was found to be justified and is in the officers file. After supposedly watching the video, and seeing this behavior himself, Chief Beazizo doubled down on his defense of Officer Schedler and confirmed that he sees him as a future leader in the department. If these are the kinds of officers that are being set up to be the future of the department, I have a huge issue with that and you should too. If the department refuses to hold officers accountable and limit bad/unprofessional officers' opportunity for advancement, calling them "the future of the department", it will only be a matter of time before an officer like this lands the city in a legal quagmire.

Again, I am writing to you to request an external review of my complaint about the department, the evidence regarding my complaint, and the follow-up I received from DC Young and Chief Beazizo. The intimidation tactics that were used on me are inexcusable and also need to be addressed. After my interaction with Chief Beazizo, I have very little faith that he will take that complaint seriously either. I have given them every opportunity over and over again to do the right thing. I would like to sit down and go over my concerns, and figure out how to move forward with the department acknowledging the missteps and doing what they need to do to make sure it doesn't happen again.

I look forward to hearing back and having my concerns actually taken seriously.

Regards,
Tosha Edwards
425-953-0826