



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE**  
**INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT**  
ONE UNION AVENUE | NEW HAVEN, CONN. | 06519

(203) 946-6333

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**CASE CLOSURE SUMMARIES: August 2024**

**IA Case Number: 23C-044**  
**Date Received: July 24, 2023**  
**Complainant: Adeva Minder**  
**Incident District: 7**  
**Officer(s): Natalie Crosby**  
**Date Closed: August 7, 2024**  
**Disposition: Exonerated**

On June 2, 2024, New Haven Police officers were dispatched to a domestic dispute involving the complainant Ms. Minder. Ms. Minder stated her child's father, and his new girlfriend went to her home and caused a "disturbance." She also claimed that her child's father punched her in the face and broke her cell phone. Ofc. Crosby spoke with Ms. Minder who's account of the incident did not seem to corroborate with the evidence observed. There was no visible injury observed to Ms. Minder's face and the phone did not appear to have been broken by being thrown. Ofc. Crosby also spoke with the other parties and was informed that the other female was not Ms. Minder's child's father's girlfriend but his landlord, who he brought as a witness since he's had issues with her in the past. He stated he dropped off their child in common and Ms. Minder became upset because she thought she was his girlfriend and that is why she began an argument with him. His landlord stepped between Ms. Minder and him so that it would not escalate, and he went back to his car. Ms. Minder stated she was going to call the police, so they waited in the vehicle for their arrival. The landlord informed Ofc. Crosby that there was no physical interaction between Ms. Minder and her child's father. As they were in the vehicle Ms. Minder's friend, Jennifer Piercey, arrived and took out what they believed to be a firearm. They stated, Ms. Piercey threatened to shoot them while waiving what they believed to be a firearm at them. Ms. Piercey also began banging on the vehicle's window with what they believed to be a firearm. Upon speaking with Ms. Piercey, she stated she did have a firearm, but it was at her home. She showed Ofc. Crosby a black firearm holster that was holding her cell phone and admitted to banging on the window with it. Ms. Minder informed Ofc. Crosby that her "Ring" doorbell camera, which would have captured the incident was not working. Ofc. Crosby was able to determine that was not true by pressing the doorbell and functioned as it should. Ms. Piercey was arrested for this incident. Ofc. Crosby was unable to establish probable cause for any other arrest due to conflicting accounts and lack of corroborating evidence. On July 21, 2023, Ms. Minder completed a Civilian Complaint Form stating Ofc. Crosby did not make an arrest concerning the domestic, she was not given a protective order and left in fear he would return. Ms. Minder claimed she had bruises at the time. Ms. Minder did not respond to the investigator's request for a voluntary interview. The investigation which included a review of the reports and body worn camera footage, and an interview with Ofc. Crosby corroborated what was documented in the original incident report and showed Ofc. Crosby was unable to develop probable cause to arrest Ms. Minder's child's father. There was no violation of law or general orders found. This investigation was closed as **exonerated**.

**IA Case Number: 23C-056**  
**Date Received: October 7, 2023**  
**Complainant: Pierre Gozzing**  
**Incident District: 8**  
**Officer(s): Heriberto Rodriguez; Baltazar Rivera**  
**Date Closed: July 24, 2024**  
**Disposition: Exonerated**

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On October 7, 2023, the Office of Internal Affairs received a Civilian Compliant Form from Mr. Gozzing. He stated, on October 6, 2023, he was grabbed by Officers Rodriguez and Rivera while at the store located at 269 Grand Ave. He added that the officers escorted him outside of the store and demanded his identification. Mr. Gozzing refused to give the officers his identification and asked repeatedly what crime was he suspected of committing. He stated that both officers were aggressive and rude during this interaction. Ofc. Rodriguez informed Mr. Gozzing that they saw him earlier in the day on a motorcycle. Mr. Gozzing informed him he did not ride a motorcycle but the officers continued to ask for his identification. Mr. Gozzing asked for a supervisor and continued to refuse to give officer his identification. Ofc. Rodriguez "forced" him against the wall and handcuffed him which caused him pain due to a previous injury. Mr. Gozzing stated Sergeant Sanchez arrived on scene and spoke with the officers. A review of Officer Rivera's report showed, on October 2, 2023 at approximately 9:45PM, Officers Rivera and Rodriguez observed an unknown white male riding a dirt bike on River Street near Ferry Street. He stated, "The operator wore all-black clothing with a face mask and distinctive bedazzled silver black shoes that sparkled." Officers Rivera and Rodriguez later observe a white male with the same description, including the shoes, walking in the area of Poplar Street and then enter the store. They decided to try to identify him. Mr. Gozzing refused to provide them with his identification card, was uncooperative and irate, and began recording the interaction with his cell phone. Mr. Gozzing was then placed in handcuffs for his failure to cooperate and identify himself. Mr. Gozzing eventually showed Sergeant Sanchez a picture of his identification card, on his phone. Mr. Gozzing was released after a records check was completed. The investigation with included a review of all reports and body worn camera footage, as well as interviews with all parties determined that there was enough reasonable articulable suspicion to perform a detention on Gozzing. The fact that the terry Stop was conducted based off the clothing description and the description of the unique sneakers created a nexus between the operator of the dirt bike and Gozzing. Both officers described the sneakers as being completely unique and they had never seen these types of individual sneakers work by anyone else in the Fair Haven area during their entire time assigned to the area. This met the threshold for Articulate Individualized Suspicion which is reasonable articulable suspicion for an individual based upon a feature, item or article unique to that particular individual. There was no violation of law or general orders found. This investigation was closed as **exonerated**.

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**IA Case Number: 24C-033**  
**Date Received: April 10, 2024**  
**Complainant: Anthony Burnett**  
**Incident District: 7**  
**Officer(s): J. Baliga, D. Cole, Jean-Gilles**  
**Date Closed: July 15, 2024**  
**Disposition: Exonerated**

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On April 10, 2024, New Haven Police officers responded to a domestic dispute involving Mr. Burnett. Upon arrival they spoke with Mr. Burnett's roommate who stated he got into a verbal dispute with Mr. Burnett with the oil he was using began to burn. Mr. Burnett stated he had cooked fish earlier in the day and was later woken up by his roommate yelling. His roommate was complaining about the smoke alarm that was sounding as a result of the burning oil. Neither party reported any violence or threat of violence. There was a active restraining order against Mr. Burnett's roommate however it was determined non of the stipulation were violated. The incident was documented and no arrest was made. On April 10, 2024, the Office of Internal Affairs received a Civilian Complaint Form from Mr. Burnett simply stating "Please give me a call!" When contacted by an Internal Affairs investigator he stated he had an active retraining order against his roommate and officers did not arrest him. The investigation which included review of the reports, BWC footage and interviews determined that the officer actions did not violate any laws or General Orders. This complaint was determined to be **unfounded**.

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**IA Case Number: 24C-034**  
**Date Received: April 15, 2024**  
**Complainant: Atianna Arder**  
**Incident District: 3**  
**Officer(s): S. McMorris, R. Gonzalez, Sgt. B. Canning**  
**Date Closed: July 16, 2024**  
**Disposition: Exonerated**

On April 15, 2024, the Officer of Internal Affairs received a Civilian Complaint Form from Ms. Arder. Ms. Arder stated she was brought to detention regarding a warrant on April 14, 2024 and Officer McMorris began asking her questions. She stated she knew her Miranda rights and refused to answer any questions. She claimed it was an abuse of his "power of authority" because he continued to ask questions. She also claimed excessive force when Officers McMorris and Gonzalez took her shirt from her when she "acted out" and was handcuffed. She claimed when they did this they crushed her fingers and her skin was cut and bruised. The investigation which included a review of reports, body work camera footage, Milestone Camera footage and interviews, showed that the questions they were asking Ms. Arder were routine booking questions which do not fall under the protection of Miranda. Ms. Arder is very uncooperative with officers. Pertaining to the officers removing the shirt from Ms. Arder: Officers observed Ms. Arder blocked one of the cell cameras and was trying to tie her t-shirt around her neck apparently trying to hang herself. Officers tugged at the shirt and eventually cut it to remove it from her cell to deter her from using it to hurt herself. There was no violation of law or general orders found. This investigation was closed as **exonerated**.

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**IA Case Number: 24C-055**  
**Date Received: June 28, 2024**  
**Complainant: Kiara Rodriguez**  
**Incident District: 10**  
**Officer(s): P. Prusinski**  
**Date Closed: July 23, 2024**  
**Disposition: Unfounded**

On June 28, 2024, the Office of Internal Affairs received a civilian complaint from Ms. Rodriguez. Ms. Rodriguez stated she was pulled over by K9 Officer Prusinski for front window tints. She stated during the stop she was asked to step out of her vehicle, she was searched and the K9 searched her vehicle without her permission. She mentioned this was the second time Ofc. Prusinski has stopped her. The investigation, which included review of reports, body worn camera footage and interviews showed that the motor vehicle stop was legitimate. As such the search of her person and the “open air K9 sniff” are permissible by law. When the K9 officer “hit” it gave officers probable cause to search the vehicle more closely. This investigation was closed as unfounded.

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