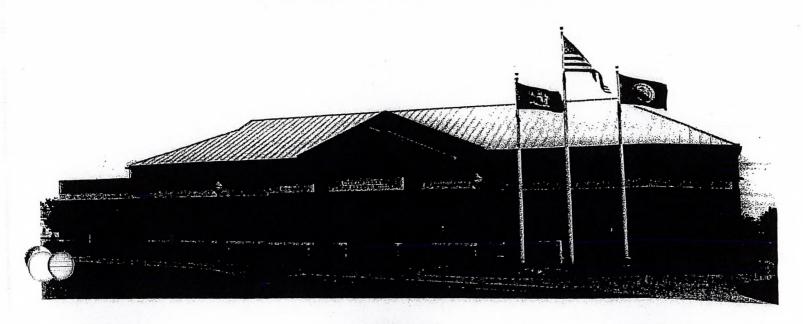
GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Citizens Complaint Form









Chief J. Trickler

Public Safety Building 255 Exchange Street Geneva, New York 14456 315.789.1111

Summary of Complaint Process

- The complaint can be downloaded from the City of Geneva website: www.geneva.ny.us or picked up at Geneva Police Department, 255 Exchange Street, Geneva, New York.
- After completion of the form it should be notarized by a Notary of your choice or signed in front of Sergeant or Lieutenant of the Geneva Police Department.
- After your complaint has been filed, it is assigned and investigated and given a Case Number. All
 available witnesses will be contacted, and any physical or other relevant evidence including records,
 reports, recordings and computer data will be collected and reviewed. You will be personally contacted
 by a Lieutenant or another person designated by the Chief of Police.
- Once the investigation is completed, the investigation and its report will be forwarded to the Chief of
 Police for final disposition of the case. When a complaint is sustained, the Chief shall determine and
 administer appropriate corrective and/or disciplinary action.
- Department policy requires that the complaint investigation to be completed within 45-60 days; however, the Chief of Police can waive the time frame depending on the complexity and sensitivity of the investigation.
- After the investigation has been completed and the Chief of Police has made a final decision on the case, you will be notified of the results by mail.

Most Often Asked Questions

- HOW DO I FILE A COMPLAINT? We would prefer to talk with you about your complaint in person; however complaints will be accepted by mail or in person. If they are submitted by mail, please ensure they have been notarized.
- WHAT IS A COMPLAINT?
 A complaint is a belief that a member of the Geneva Police
 Department has violated a Department Rule or Procedure, a federal or state law, an ordinance of the
 City of Geneva, or dissatisfaction with a policy or procedure of the Geneva Police Department.
- WHAT DOES THIS PROCESS NOT HANDLE? This process does not litigate or decide the outcome of any
 parking, traffic, criminal or non-criminal offense. These questions should be directed to the court of
 jurisdiction or your own legal counsel.
- WHO CAN MAKE A COMPLAINT? Anyone can file a complaint if they truly and honestly believe a police employee has acted improperly.
- WHO INVESTIGATES A CITIZEN COMPLAINT? Complaints of alleged misconduct are investigated by the Internal Affairs Lieutenant and his staff as needed. The investigation is then reviewed by the Chief of Police and Personnel Office if needed.
- WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE EMPLOYEE? That will depend on the results of the investigation. If the employee is found to be at fault the complaint will be SUSTAINED and the appropriate corrective

and/or disciplinary action will be taken. If they acted properly, they will be EXONERATED. If the facts show that the complaint is false, the complaint will be unfounded. In those cases where the department is unable to determine the validity of the complaint and cannot arrive at any other conclusion, the complaint will be NOT SUSTAINED. If the investigation concludes that the involved employee's conduct was not misconduct but rather an issue of department service or procedure, your complaint will be satisfied as such. In cases of department service or procedure, Geneva Police Department will attempt to clarify or correct the issue.

- WHAT IF MY COMPLAINT INVOLVES CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR? The Ontario County District
 Attorney's Office may be consulted on any complaint that alleges criminal investigation while the
 internal investigation is pending.
- WILL I BE TOLD THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION? YES At the conclusion of the investigation
 and review by the Chief of Police, you will be notified of the results by mail. Due to contractual and
 legal restrictions, you will be only be given the finding of the investigation of whether your complaint
 was SUSTAINED, UNFOUNDED, EXONERATED, NOT SUSTAINED, OR IS ONE OF DEPARTMENT SERVICE
 OR PROCEDURE. The department is prohibited from revealing specific personnel actions taken against
 the employee.
- CAN I GET IN TROUBLE FOR MAKING A COMPLAINT? NO Every citizen has the right to file a complaint, if it is done in good faith, with an honest belief that an employee of the acted improperly. If a false statement is made you may be charged under the NYS Penal Law Section 210.45.
- ABOUT THE COMPLAINT FORM. The attached form should be used to file your complaint. You can attach as many additional pages as necessary, along with any supporting evidence you may have. After you complete the form have it notarized or sworn to by a Sergeant or Lieutenant of the Geneva Police Department. After it being notarized you may also mail it to the following address:

City of Geneva Police Department
Office of Chief of Police
PSB, 255 Exchange Street
Geneva, New York 14456

GPD #50 - 10/03

GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Complaint Action Form

's form is to be completed in full and signed by the complaining citizen and a notary republic, if not signed by a sergeant or Lieutenant of the Geneva Police Department. **WARNING: False Statements made herein** are

punishable as York. Please t		tion 210.45 of the Penal Law of the State of New
COMPLAINAN	,	
	Name: Address Occupat Work A Email A	
ACCUSED OFF	ICER(S)	
	Name: Timmithy Peters Name:	Badge Number Badge Number
INCIDENT		
	Time/Date: Nature of (
WITNESS(ES)		
	Name: Address: Address:	
11 (ou making this complaint of your own free will:	Yes No
Were you arrested as a result of this incident: Yes No Date:		

G.O. 300 - Internal Affairs - Attachment A

** if necessary, additional sheets may be attached hereto and made a part hereof.

I understand that this statement of complaint will be submitted to the Geneva Police Department and may be the basis for an investigation. Further, I declare the facts contained herein are accurate and true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Further, I declare that my statement has been made by me voluntarily without persuasion, coercion or promise of any kind. False statements made herein are punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor pursuant to Section 210.45 of the Penal Law. Accordingly and with notice of the foregoing I hereby affirm that the

foregoing statements are true.	
Signature of Complainant: Date \(\frac{10-5-17}{}{} = \frac{1}{10} = \frac{10-5-17}{} =	
(must be signed in presence of Supervisor, <i>if not notarized</i>) Time /2:47 / M	
Supervisor Receiving Complaint:	
ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY Reviewed By:	NO FURTHER ACTION INVESTIGATION ASSIGNED TO:
Date Reviewed: GPD Log No.:	
CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOTARY State of New York COUNTY OF This document was acknowledged before me on[r	
[Notary Seal, if any]:	
(Signature of Notarial Officer)	
Notary Public for the State of New York	
My commission expires:	_



To: Chief Jeffrey Trickler

From: Lt. Michael J. Passalacqua

Date: 11.27.2017

Subject: Internal Investigation – Procedural

Introductory Paragraph

On 10.5.17 this Lieutenant was assigned a Complaint Action form by Chief

Ieffrey Trickler regarding a Traffic Stop involving Officer Tim Peters and

alleges that he was stopped and when Officer

Peters approached, he was never informed as to why he was stopped and after
requesting his license several times and

continuing to ask the
reason for the stop, Officer Peters said to him, "Give me your fucking ID". This
behavior potentially violated General Order 305 III(25) Courtesy

Findings Section for the Specific Violations

• The allegation is as follows: Officer Tim Peters, a Uniformed Officer with the Geneva Police Department while operating a marked patrol vehicle did initiate a traffic stop on North Street or being the operator of that vehicle. Officer Peters approached the vehicle and asked for his documents including his license and registration. After not producing the documents requested asked to be told why he was being stopped. Officer Peters did then state to "give me your fucking license"

The Facts of the Investigation Support the Findings of:

• <u>Sustained</u> – The act complained of did occur and constituted a violation of police, procedure, rules, regulation, or statute.



Geneva Police Department
JEFFREY E. TRICKLER
Chief of Police

255 Exchange St. - Geneva, New York 14456 (315) 789-1111 - Fax (315) 789-1814 - www.geneva.ny.us



Evidence to Support the Specific Allegations

•	Officer Tim Peters in his response letter (attached) to this Lieutenant did state that he had asked for the documents from on at least 8 occasions to which he did not provide them. Officer Peters also indicates that he did inform for the reason of the stop which was violation of Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1201(A). In his response letter, Officer Peters states "On the last request, due to frustration with the driver, I did say "give me your fucking license"	
•	Sergeant Jeff Keyser in his response letter (attached) to this Lieutenant does state that Officer Peters did come to him and tell him he had just written traffic tickets and that he did swear at him after he had asked for his license several times and he refused to give it to him. Officer Peters also stated to Sergeant Keyser that he knew he should not have sworn at and that he let his frustration get to him.	
•	was interviewed and states that he did not feel as though he needed to provide his documents until he was told the reason for the stop. states Officer Peters became upset with him and said, "Give me your fucking ID"	
Evidence to Refute the Specific Allegations		
•	Detective Brain Choffin in his response letter (attached) as he was on scene for a portion of the traffic stop states he did hear peing disrespectful towards Officer Peters and was using obscene language and being belligerent. Detective Choffin States he spoke with and was able to calm him down after being upset a couple different times during the traffic stop. Detective Steve Vine in his response letter (attached) states he did hear officer PO Tim Peters repeatedly requesting for insurance and registration for the vehicle to which was not cooperating. Detective Vine does not mention hearing Officer Tim Peters use profanity towarda	
Offic te argui	Identification & Explanation of Allegations and Recommended Findings allegation at hand would be a violation of General Order 305 IIIA(25) Courtesy which states "Officers and employees shall be courteous to the public. ers/employees shall be tactful in the performance of their duties, shall control their empers, and exercise the utmost patience and discretion, and shall not engage in mentative discussions even in the face of extreme provocation. In the performance eir duties, officers/employees shall not use coarse, profane or insolent language or	

gestures, and shall not express and prejudice concerning race, religion, politics, national origin, lifestyle or similar personal characteristics.

Complainant and Involved Witnesses:

(not able to contact witness after several

attempts)

Officers and Involved Personnel:

Officer Tim Peters, Sergeant Jeff Keyser, Detective Brain Choffin, Detective Steve Vine

Independent Witnesses:

None

Recommended Finding:

At the time of this report based upon the information available to me I offer the following:
 Violation of General Order 305 IIIA(25)- Sustained

Attachments

- 1. CR 2017-24366 Incident
- 2. Lt. Michael J. Passalacqua Notes of Investigation
- 3. Letter to PO Tim Peters
- 4. Letter to Sgt. Jeff Keyser
- 5. Letter to Detective Brian Choffin
- 6. Letter to Detective Steve Vine
- 7. Response Letter from PO Tim Peters
- 8. Response Letter from Sgt. Jeff Keyser
- 9. Response Letter from Detective Brian Choffin
- 10. Response Letter from Detective Steve Vine
- 11. Complaint Action form filed by

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt. Michael J. Passalacqua

GENERAL INFORMATION

Supervisor: MPAS PASSALACQUA

Dispatcher: MPAS PASSALACQUA

Responding Officer: MPAS PASSALACQUA

Date/Time: 11/22/17 11:10 Reported Signal: PERSONNEL COMPLAINT/COMMENDATION 101

Actual Signal: PERSONNEL COMPLAINT/COMMENDATION 101

Received By: WALK-IN

Received: 11:10:02

Vehicle Description:

Plate No.:

State: NY

Disposition: H Action Taken: Disp. Date: 11/22/17 11:12

Report Taken: NO

Reference No. 2:

LOCATION

Location Name: PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Address: 255 EXCHANGE STREET

Alt. Address:

Apt. No.: Phone No.: (315) 789-1111 City: GENEVA

Zone: BEAT

Direction: Intersection:

CALLED INCODMATION

Unit/Officer

ASSOCIATED PERSONS

Name

Alias

DOB

Dispatched

Address

Arrived

Phone

Cleared

Sex Inv.

NOTES

CALLER DROPPED OFF COMPLAINT ACTION FORM OM 10/5/17. ASSIGNED TO 803 ON 10/5/17

A CR WAS NOT CREATED UPON RECEIVING COMPLAINT WHICH IS WHY THE CR IS DATED 11/22/17.

CAF - Internal

Received on 10/6/11 - No Phone # on complaint - E-mail sout on 10/6/17 @ 11:15 AM for w to worked me. - No response to email by 18/9 for plan # - Callel Co's fither - Callel Multiple times - No consumer - no voicional - 10/13/17 - Lo answed - Statel he will going out at town MYL - Meding Sot up for 10/18/17 @ 12:00pm - No Show for met of on 10/18/17 - Trick calling small times - No answer - no the voicimail - Co should up Monthy 15/23/17 after good to - Introvend - eo cas to how estudes and me - LI does not have own phone - 11/13/17 - True to call

- phone met on

- 11/17/17 - True to call

- phone met on

- phone
- phone met on

- phone



Police Officer Timothy Peters Geneva Police Department Subject: Complaint Action Form -Date: 10.25.17 Officer Peters: I am in receipt of a complaint action form dated 10.5.17, against you and the Geneva Police Department. I have been entrusted by the Chief of Police in investigating this matter. Please respond to me in writing NLT 10.30.17 based upon the following questions alleges in his complaint. during a traffic stop did you state "when an officer tells you to hand over your ID, you 1. On must? 2. Did you ask for ID more than one time? 3. Did ask you the reason for the stop prior to giving you his ID? 4. Did you say to "Give me your fucking ID? Respectfully, Lt. Michael J. Passalacqua



Sergeant Jeffrey Keyser

Geneva Police Department

Subject: Complaint Action Form
Date: 11.17.17

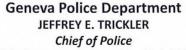
Sergeant Jeffrey Keyser:

I am in receipt of a complaint action form dated 10.5.17 against the Geneva Police Department. I have been entrusted by the Chief of Police in investigating this matter. Please respond to me in writing NLT 11.28.17 detailing any and all involvement and conversation you had with Officer Timothy Peters regarding this traffic stop on

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Michael J. Passalacqua









Detective Brian Choffin

Geneva Police Department

Subject: Complaint Action Form.

Date: 11.17.17

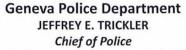
Detective Brian Choffin:

I am in receipt of a complaint action form dated 10.5.17 against the Geneva Police Department. I have been entrusted by the Chief of Police in investigating this matter. Please respond to me in writing NLT 11.28.17 detailing any and all involvement and conversation you had with traffic stop which took place on

Respectfully,



Lieutenant Michael J. Passalacqua







Detective Steve Vine

Geneva Police Department

Subject: Complaint Action Form
Date: 11.17.17

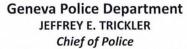
Detective Steve Vine:

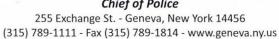
I am in receipt of a complaint action form dated 10.5.17 against the Geneva Police Department. I have been entrusted by the Chief of Police in investigating this matter. Please respond to me in writing NLT 11.28.17 detailing any and all involvement and conversation you had with turing the traffic stop which took place on

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Michael J. Passalacqua









Lieutenant Michael Passalacqua

Geneva Police Department

Subject: Response to Complaint Action Form

Date 11.19.17

Lieutenant Passalacqua:

This letter is in response to the complaint action form dated 10.5.17 against me and the Geneva Police Department and the questions you have submitted to me.

as I was responding to a 911 hang up call at the Geneva Middle and High School complex, (refer to , I came upon a vehicle stopped, east of the intersection of The vehicle was occupied by 2 subjects. At the time, the signal at the aforementioned intersection, was green, and other vehicles were entering the left turn lane to go around the stopped vehicle. Originally, I thought the vehicle was disabled, then observed the occupants engaged in a conversation. I too pulled up the side of the vehicle. The driver looked at me, with a "startled" look, then pulled ahead to the signal that had cycled to red. Based on the look I received from the driver, I repositioned my patrol vehicle at the rear of the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. I approached the driver's side, where the driver opened his door, due to reporting the window did not work. I did not recognize the driver at this time. I requested from the driver his license and registration to the vehicle. The driver, responded argumentatively, refusing to provide said documents. As with ever traffic stop performed, I receive documents prior to informing the driver as to the reason why they were stopped. Reason for this practice, If the driver was to leave without providing documents, further action can be taken having the documents. This is a practice that was trained to me at the beginning of my career and has continued throughout. The driver continued to be argumentative and refused to provide said documents, despite several requests from me for the documents. The driver insisted that he did nothing wrong and that he was only having a conversation with the passenger. During the several requests, I did inform the driver that usually when an Officer requests your license, you give it to them, as well as informing him of the reason for the stop, which was obstructing traffic. This violates NYS vehicle and traffic law 1201.a, which reads;

Upon any highway outside of a business or residence district no person shall stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon the paved or maintraveled part of the highway when it is practicable to stop, park, or so leave such vehicle off such part of said highway, but in every event an unobstructed width of the highway opposite a standing vehicle shall be left for the free passage of other vehicles and a clear view of such stopped vehicles shall be available from a distance of two hundred feet in each direction upon such highway.

At some point during the traffic stop, Detectives Vine and Choffin arrived to assist. I cannot say exactly the number of times I had requested from the driver his documents, but I had made, at least, 8 requests for the documents. On the last request, due to frustration with the driver, I did say "give me your fucking license." At that point, the driver threw his license at me. I then returned to my patrol vehicle to complete the traffic stop. It was at this point, viewing the driver's license, I recognized the driver's name. I did not know the identity of the driver until this point.

Inquiry with DMV, through the EJustice portal, resulted with the registration to the vehicle, being suspended for an insurance lapse. I also observed the rear passenger side tire to be the spare "donut" for the vehicle, where there was no tread left on the tire.

Uniform traffic tickets were issued for the violations of; no stopping on highway (NYS vehicle and traffic law 1201.a), operating while registration is suspended (NYS vehicle and traffic law 512), and unsafe tire (NYS vehicle and traffic law 375.35).

I believe I have answered each of the questions that were presented to me.

Respectfully,

Officer T. Peters



11/22/2017

Lt. Passalacqua,

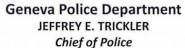
On Just with Just written Just with traffic tickets and that Officer Peters did swear at him because Just written Just wri

I do not recall if it was that day or the following day, explained the complaint action form to him and gave him a copy. I also received it back from when he turned it in.

Respectfully,

Sgt Jeffrey Keyser









To: Lieutenant Michael J. Passalacqua

From: Brian Choffin

Re

Date: 11.17.17

Lt. Passalacqua,

Earlier this fall, I'm not sure of the exact date, I was with Det. Vine and we drove by a vehilce that had been stopped by Officer Tim Peters. As we drove by, I heard the driver of the vehicle, later identified as velling at Officer Peters and telling him that Officer Peters had no right to pull him over. Det. Vine and I stopped our patrol vehicle and assisted at the traffic stop. I approached the drivers side door near Officer Peters and observed the interaction. Officer Peters repeatedly asked for drivers license refused. Kept insisting that the stop was for no reason and and registration and repeatedly that he didn't have to provide the documents that Officer Peters requested was beligerent and using obscene language and I advised to calm down and just give the documents to the Officer. Again, Officer Peters respectfully requested the documents and refused just to give the paperwork to the Officer and lets deal with disrespectully. I again advised the matter at hand. Reluctantly, practically tossed the documents at Officer Peters and then Officer Peters returned to the Police Vehilce to complete the paperwork. I stayed at the Drivers window and attempted to calm . He was irate, using racial slurs and was using dergoatotry comments about Officer Peters and other Officers of the Geneva Police Department. Even though Officer for the reason for the stop, I advised him again. He kept insisting that it must Peters advised I be some kind of mistake that his vehicle is suspended. DMV then reported that failed to and he said that he was supposed to pay the fine and pay a suspension. I reported that to get his license back but he admitted that he didn't pay any of the fine. I advised him that is the reason for the supension and he calmed down. I advised that we would now need to seize his license agreed and apologized to me for his actions. As I was taking plates and tow his vehilce. his front license plates, I observed that he had two sets of plates on his vehicle. stated that he didn't realize that this was an infraction and I advised that we wouldn't issue a UTT for that. was advised that he could retrieve any items that he could take from his vehicle prior to the tow arriving and again he thanked me for being so helpful. Officer Peters exited the patrol vehicle and became defensive and argumentative with Officer Peters. Officer Peters immediately, ignored the derogatory comments and the total lack of disrespect from and advised him to stand on the side walk and await the tow truck. I advised I on how to attempt to get a valid registration and again he thanked me. The tow truck arrived and the car again thanked me and I left the scene with Det. Vine. At no was removed without incident. time was a Geneva Police Officer disrespectful or unfair to

Dll Rue Cu

Detective Brian Choffin



Lieutenant Michael J. Passalacqua Geneva Police Department Subject: Complaint Date: 11.22.2017 Lieutenant Michael J. Passalacqua: during the incident in question. I had no conversations with My involvement in this situation is as follows: I drove by a traffic stop on North St where P.O. Timothy Peters had conducted a traffic stop; the driver of said traffic stop was . As I drove by the traffic stop I overheard P.O. Timothy Peters repeatedly asking to produce registration and insurance cards for the vehicle. This went on for several attempts by P.O. Timothy Peters, and continually refused to adhere to P.O. Timothy Peter's directions. Detective Brian Choffin and I then stepped out to assist P.O. Timothy Peters. Detective Brian Choffin went to the vehicle to speak with and maintained a rear security position of his vehicle. Respectfully,

Office of the Chief of Police

Detective Steven Vine.



1/28/2018

RE: Officer Timothy Peters

On 1/28/2018, I spoke with Officer Timothy Peters regarding a personnel complaint that was made by _______. The complaint was found to be sustained, and was a result of his conduct during a traffic stop.

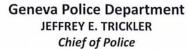
I reviewed the General Orders with Officer Timothy Peters regarding the "Rules of Conduct" (section 305). I advised him using vulgar language towards a citizen during a traffic stop, as well as any other time while working as a Geneva Police Officer, is not acceptable. I reminded him that as a police officer, he must treat everyone in the public with professionalism, even when people are being disrespectful toward him.

Officer Timothy Peters agreed and stated he understood. He stated the demeanor of the subject during the traffic stop led to frustration, and that is when he lost his temper and swore at him. He agreed to be more mindful of his attitude and professionalism when dealing with the public.

Respectfully,

Sgt Jeffrey Keyser









December 13, 2017



Dear :

Relative to your personnel complaint the following investigation was undertaken by Police Lieutenant Michael Passalacqua:

- Review of complaint action form
- Response PO Tim Peters
- Response Sgt. Jeff Keyser
- Response Det. Brian Choffin
- Response Det. Steve Vine
- Response Complainant

Specific Complaint -

1. Officer was unprofessional during the time of traffic stop and used profanity

Finding -

1. Sustained – The act complained of did occur and constituted a violation of policy, procedure, rules, regulations, or statute

The officers mentioned in your complaint will be dealt with internally by my office.

Thank you for calling your concerns to my office. Complaints and inquires often can have a beneficial effect on the department.

Sincerely,

Seffrey E. Trickler

Geneva Police Department

JEFFREY E. TRICKLER

Chief of Police

Chief of Police

255 Exchange St. - Geneva, New York 14456 (315) 789-1111 - Fax (315) 789-1814 - www.geneva.ny.us



