#### GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT Complaint Action Form

This form is to be completed in full and signed by the complaining citizen or officer. WARNING: False Statements made herein are punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor crime pursuant to Section 210.45 of the Penal Law of the State of New York. Please type or Print.

#### COMPLAINANT

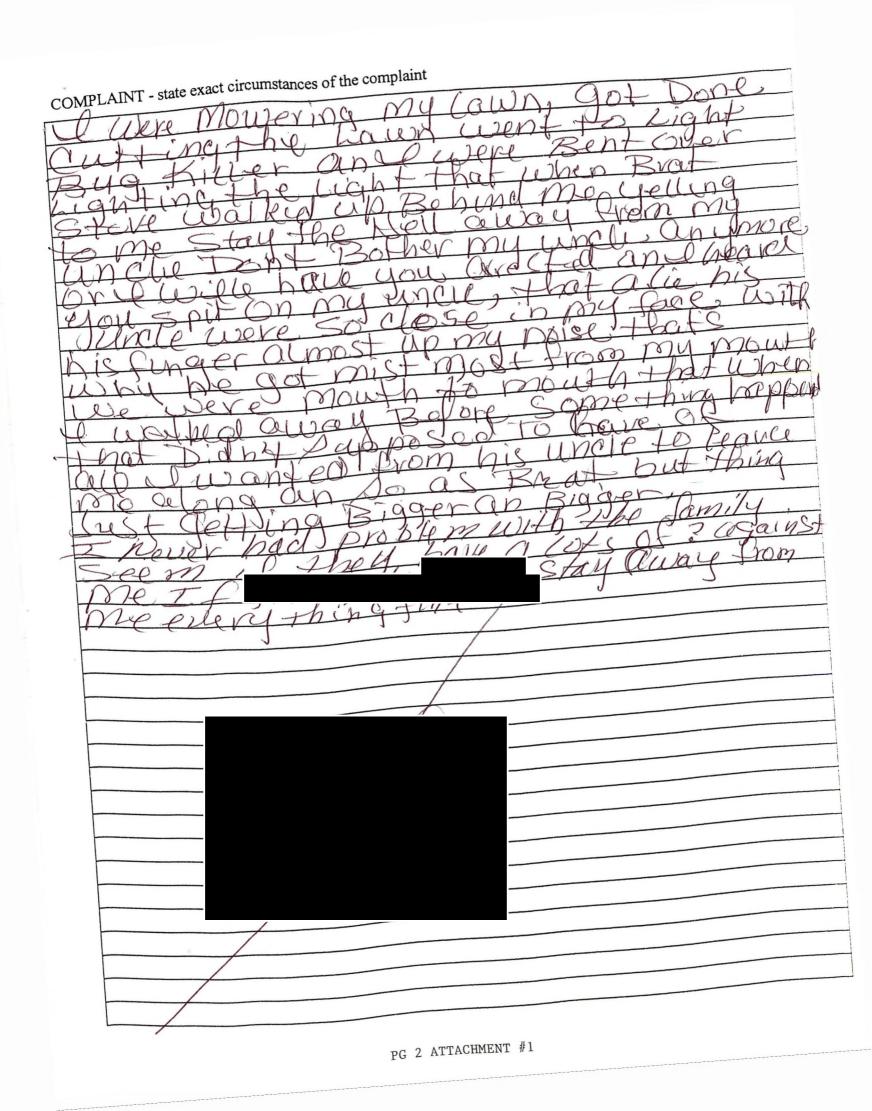
Name:		
Address:		

## ACCUSED OFFICER(S)

Name:	Brat Steve	Shield Number
Name:		Shield Number

#### INCIDENT

	Time Date Location
WITN	ESS(ES)
	Name: Address:
	Name: Address:
1.	Are you making this complaint of your own free will: Yes // No
2.	Were you arrested as a result of this incident:       Yes No         If yes, what charge:       ////////////////////////////////////
3.	Are you willing to appear and give testimony under oath at a department hearing and/or criminal proceeding:



\*\* 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: (must be signed in presence of

Command Officer Receiving Complaint:

#### GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT Complaint Action Form

This form is to be completed in full and signed by the complaining citizen or officer. WARNING: False Statements made herein are punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor crime pursuant to Section 210.45 of the Penal Law of the State of New York. Please type or Print.

COMPLAINA	ANT		
	Name:		
	Address		
	L		

#### ACCUSED OFFICER(S)

Name:	Briet Steve	Shield Number
Name:		Shield Number

#### INCIDENT

Time 7:00 pm - 2:30 Date:	Location:		
		V	-

### WITNESS(ES)

Name:		
Address:		
Name:		
Address:		

1.	Are you making this complaint of your own free will:	Yes L	No
2.	Were you arrested as a result of this incident:	Yes	No_
	If yes, what charge:	Date:	
	Disposition (fine, imprisonment, etc.):		
3.	Are you willing to appear and give testimony under proceeding:	r oath at a department Yes	hearing and/or crimina

To the Geneva Police Department:

I would like to file a complaint against Bret Steve for the misuse of his badge as a Police Officer of the Geneva Police Department, for racial harassment with intent to incite trouble with my tenant

between 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm I was just entering the On East end of the sidewalk which runs between my apartment buildings on 's apartment from saw Bret Steve walk towards the opposite end of the sidewalk and start to yell at the accused. of making trouble and bothering his uncle. was in the process of filling some mosquito lamps with oil in front of his apartment. doing and asked Bret what he was talking about and his accusations made so angry that went in to his apartment to call the Police Chief. At this point, I called to and told to call either the Sheriff or the State Police while I went down to talk to Bret. Bret asked me if I knew who he was I told him that I knew who he was. He asked me who I was and what my name was. I said I am the landlord and that my name is l asked him what the problem was and he said was causing trouble with his uncle.

(There has been a feud or rivalry between Bret's uncle, **and and** since their high school days in **and and** I told Bret that I knew there was a legal action in process between **and** and his uncle from an incident about two weeks ago.

About this time, was back out, and I told that I would handle the situation. Bret said, "I can have the Code Enforcement Officer close down your apartments for being a nuisance."

Then Bret remembered that he had seen me in a court judgment against a delinquent tenant many years ago, when he was with the second At that time, the angry tenant yelled out false accusations against me in an effort to discredit me before the judge. The judge, of course dismissed her accusations. I was wondering why Bret was bringing this up at this time. As I listened to him, I perceived that Bret was trying to blackmail me to keep me guiet and out of this argument with his uncle and second. About that time, second provoking Police Department drove up and stopped at the curb. He asked me what the problem was. I told him about Bret Steve trespassing on my property and provoking in an attempt to have second provoking and be arrested.

As and I were talking, the State Police arrived on the scene. Both and the trooper got out of their cars. Went over and talked to the trooper while Bret, talked to me about loiterers that he felt had some connection with the felt had some conne

Pg 2, ATTACHMENT #2

told me later that the trooper had suggested to him that he should go to Geneva and report the incident of

When I discussed the matter with my wife that night, we decided that I should also report the action of and why I felt his comments were threats.

I conclude from this incident that Bret used his position as a police officer to act in behalf of his uncle, the second to intimidate both and me.



Trespassing Provoking to incite angry response

I hreatening me with Code Enforcement Officer Veiled attempt at blackmail Acting as front for his uncle Out of his police jurisdiction Racial Harassment

Pg 3, ATTACHMENT #2

see the attached typ	a file
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/	

\*\* 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

Signature of Complainan	
(must be signed in presence or Command Officer)	1111-125
	MARIE
Command Officer Receiving Complaint:	KI KUM

Pg 4, ATTACHMENT #2

FRANK T. PANE Chief of Police	CITY OF GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT 255 EXCHANGE STREET GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456	Phone: (315) 789-1111 Fax: (315) 789-1814
To:	Chief Frank Pane	
From:	Lt John M Cataline	
Date:	December 29, 2004	
Subject:	Internal Investigations	

## **Introductory Paragraph**

On a line of the investigation against PO Bret Steve. The investigation involves two separate complaints by two individuals involved in the same situation. This report will include both investigations. The two complainants are and

## **Findings Section for the Specific Allegation**

The complaints alleged that Officer Steve:

- 1. Verbally abused
- 2. Verbally abused
- 3.

1

- 4. Abused his position as a police officer by threatening with retaliation.
- 5. Conduct unbecoming a police officer.

The facts of the investigation support the findings of:

- **1. SUSTAINED**
- 2. SUSTAINED
- **3. UNFOUNDED**
- 4. SUSTAINED
- 5. SUSTAINED

#### **Incident Synopsis**

at about 1915, PO Steve, who was off duty and On visiting relatives in was informed by his uncle that he was having a problem with a subject named who lived in an apartment adjacent to his uncle's PO Steve asked his uncle if he wanted him to speak with PO Steve then went out and confronted about the situation with his uncle. He accused of illegal drug activity and threatened that he would conduct surveillance on his own time to arrest , who is 's . landlord was on the scene and asked PO Steve who he was and what he was doing. PO Steve identified himself as a Geneva Police Officer and told Mr Green about the trouble his uncle was having with residents of the apartment building. PO Steve asked if he knew about nuisance laws and stated that his father and father-in-law are on the board and he will use his influence to close him down. PO Steve also told that he would personally contact the Code Enforcement Officer to shut him down. At a point Police Office came on the scene along with New York State Troopers

### **Evidence to Support the Specific Allegations**

1. PO Steve verbally abused Admission of PO Steve. 2. PO Steve verbally abused Admission of PO Steve. Police Department, Report of the 3. None. 4. PO Steve abused his position as a police officer by threatening with retaliation. Admission of PO Steve. Deposition of Officer Police Department. 5. PO Steve's actions constituted "Conduct Unbecoming an Officer." Admission of PO Steve. Police Department. Deposition of Officer-New York State Police. Statement of Tpr Article III, A 1, 2A and 49A of General Order 305, Rules of Conduct, Geneva Police Department dated 12-05-03. Section 1.20, para 34-a (b) of the Criminal Procedure Law, State of New York.

## **Evidence of Refute the Specific Allegation**

- P O Steve verbally abused None.
   P O Steve verbally abused \_\_\_\_\_\_. None.
- 3.
- 4. PO Steve abused his position as a police officer by threatening with retaliation.

None.

5. Conduct unbecoming a police officer.

None. Officer Steve firmly believed he was helping out his uncle with a problem no other agency was assisting him with.

## Identification and Explanation of Allegations and Recommended Findings

## 1. Verbally Abused

### Complainant & Involved Witnesses:

in his written statement (Attachment #1) reported that Officer Steve berated him, yelling for him to stay away from his uncle and questioned him about his drug activity and threatened him by telling him that he would conduct surveillance on his own time to have him arrested.

reported that he observed Officer Steve yell at about bothering his uncle.

#### Officer & Involved Personnel:

Officer Steve in his statement, (Attachment #3) did not deny the allegation but insisted he was simply aiding his uncle.

Independent Witnesses:

None.

Recommended Finding:

Preponderance of evidence exists to support the finding of **SUSTAINED** for this allegation, as Officer Steve verbally **a**bused

#### 2. Verbally abused

Complainant & Involved Witnesses:

in his written statement, (Attachment #2), stated that Officer Steve berated him about having the code enforcement officer close down his apartments for being a nuisance due to renting to Also stated was an incident that PO Steve brought upon about for the first court involving an accusation made by a former tenant.

#### Officer & Involved Persons:

Officer Steve, in his statement (Attachment #3), does not deny the allegation.

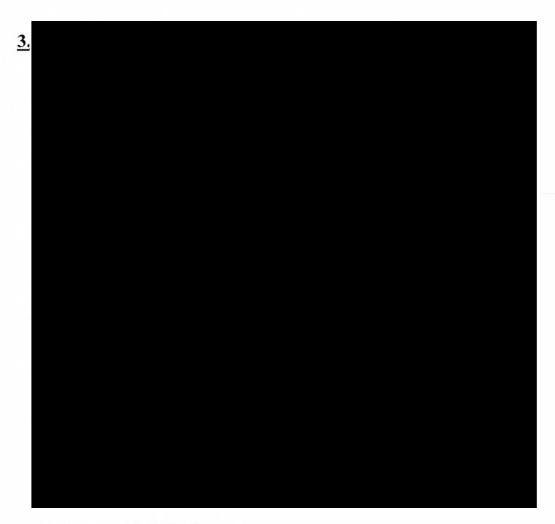
#### Independent Witnesses:

In Officer **deposition**, (Attachment #4), he stated that when he arrived, he observed Officer Steve and in a heated argument. He had to step between them to calm the situation. As this was going on, Officer Steve continued to argue with **deposition** about the situation involving Officer Steve's uncle.

Tpr in his interview stated that when he arrived, Officer had the parties separated. Officer Steve was hot and excited. He was directing his comments at not at

Recommended Finding:

Preponderance of evidence exists to support the finding of **SUSTAINED** for this allegation, Officer Steve verbally abused



Recommended Finding:

There is insufficient evidence to support this allegation. A finding of **NOT SUSTAINED** for this allegation

# 4. Abused His Position as a Police Officer by Threatening

Complainant and Involved Witnesses:

In his written statement, (Attachment #2), alleged that PO Steve threatened to notify the **state** code enforcement officer about **state**'s apartment house and the alleged drug activity and he would be closed down.

Officer and Involved Personnel:

Officer Steve in his statement (Attachment #3) admitted that he told **admitted** that he could notify the **admitted** code enforcement about the drug activity so nuisance laws would be enforced against **admitted**. He also in his statement stated that he never conducted any type of narcotic investigation at that location and he never arrested anyone at that location for narcotics violations including **admitted**. He further stated he knew of no drug activity being conducted at that location.

Independent Witnesses:

Both PO and Tpr could not be specific in what was said between and Officer Steve.

**Recommended Finding:** 

The preponderance of the evidence exists to support the finding of **SUSTAINED** for the allegation that PO Steve abused his authority as a police officer in threatening

#### 5. Conduct Unbecoming A Police Officer:

Complainant and Involved Witnesses:

In his written statement, (Attachment #1), alleged that PO Steve approached him for no reason yelling at him to stay away from his uncle; accusing him of drug activity and threatening him with arrest.

In his written statement, (Attachment #2), alleged that PO Steve accosted him, telling him that he could have the statement code enforcement officer close his apartment down for nuisance violations. Steve bis also alleged that PO Steve brought up a civil case made against referencing statement's background.

#### Officer and Involved Personnel:

In his statement PO Steve does not deny the allegations made but stated that he was only attempting to assist his uncle because no other agency was willing to do so. He denied being boisterous, loud, yell or swear at either **manual** or **manual**. He denied every being out of control.

Independent Witnesses:

In PO the deposition (Attachment #4), he stated that he observed PO Steve in a heated argument with He stepped in and tried to calm down PO Steve. He tried to speak with PO Steve but he continued the argument. PO further indicated that PO Steve's conduct escalated the situation to a point where there may have been a physical altercation.

Tpr stated that PO Steve was hot and excited and would classify him as out of control.

**Recommended Findings:** 

Preponderance of the evidence exists to support the finding of **SUSTAINED** in this allegation that PO Steve's conduct was conducting unbecoming a police officer.

#### Scope of the Investigation

On September 23, 2004, I was assigned to conduct an internal investigation regarding five (5) allegations made against Police Officer Bret Steve involving an incident, which occurred on in the village of , NY.

The complainants in these allegations are a

and

who owns the apartment house in which resides. These are two separate complaints generated by the same situation. They will be reported in this single report.

The situation, which occurred on involved PO Steve interceding for his uncle who owns a business in near where resides. Apparently there has been a problem with loiterers and possible narcotics activities and PO Steve's uncle wanted him to help him claiming that the local police were of no help. PO Steve initially confronted threatening him with arrest if he continued to bother his uncle. He 's past criminal record of which he stated he was the mentioned arresting officer. contends that PO Steve was loud, yelling and vocal in his accusations. At one point, PO Steve told that he would personally, on his own time, conduct surveillance of 's activities and residence to seek information for an arrest. became upset with these actions and left to go into his residence.

stated that he was observing the actions of PO Steve who apparently did not observe him. When went to his residence he told him to call the Sheriff's Office or the State Police for assistance. PO Steve then asked who he was and the same. stated that PO Steve identified himself as the property owner and PO Steve began to yell at him about all of the drug 10

activity that was going on at his residence and that he would contact the NY code enforcement officer for nuisance laws violations so that the apartment building would be closed. A heated argument erupted when Officer for nuisance laws violations to calm the situation. Around the same time New York State Police Officers arrived in separate vehicles. The parties were separated and complaints were made regarding PO Steve's conduct to the law enforcement personnel who advised the complainants to contact the Geneva Police Department.

On September 23, 2004, I interviewed both and and during which they each completed a Geneva Police Department Complaint Action Form signing them in front of me. **Here we** had a two page written account of the event which was included in his complaint action form.

On November 16, 2004, I went to the Police Department to interview Police Officer He was involved in another case at the time and would not be available until later in the afternoon. I spoke with Police Chief who gave me a copy of the report that was made of the incident. He advised me that when PO eturned he would send him to Geneva to speak with me. I then went to the New York State Police barracks in Lyons to contact Tpr He was available and I interviewed him about the incident. He stated that himself and Tpr arrived in separate vehicles about the time that Officer had the parties separated. He stated that he knows Officer Steve from his days with the Police Department. He described PO Steve as very hot and excited, loudly arguing with He was not . He characterized PO Steve as being out of directing anything to control. He did not see PO Steve although later that he did and wanted to make a personnel complaint told Tpr advised him to contact the Geneva Police against PO Steve. Tpr had left the scene shortly after arriving. Department. Tpr

Later that day, Officer came to the Geneva Police Department and I advised him of the complaint and he gave me a deposition of what occurred.

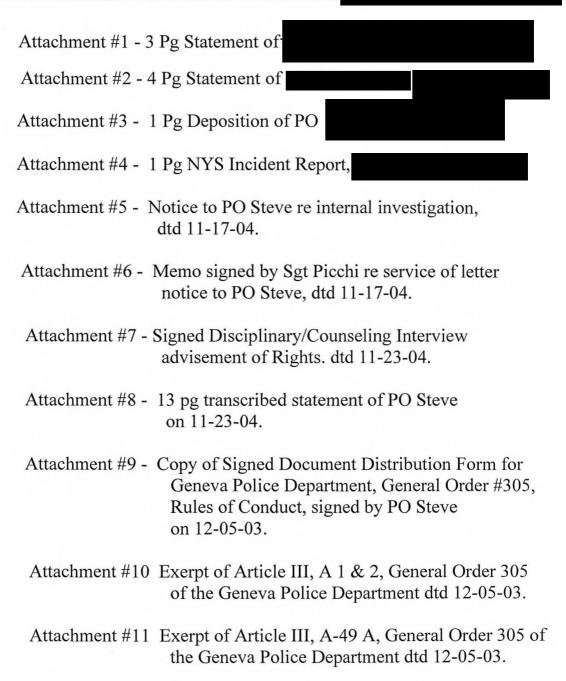
On November 17, 2004, I prepared a letter notice to PO Steve about the investigation directing him to report to me on November 23, 2004 at 1000. I gave the letter in a sealed envelope to Sgt James Picchi to serve on PO Steve when he reported for duty that evening. I also directed Sgt Picchi to sign the memo indicating that he had served the letter.

On November 23, 2004, PO Steve arrived along with PO Jeffrey Trickler, who was his union representative. I gave PO Steve a Disciplinary/Counseling Interview Advisement of Rights Form, which he read and signed. PO Trickler also signed as a witness. I advised PO Steve of the nature of the investigation and audio taped the interview. In the interview, he did not deny that he accosted both and about the problems involving his uncle. He also admitted that he told both complainants that he would conduct surveillance on the narcotic activity and either make arrests or inform the code enforcement officer for action. He further admitted that while with the **Police** Department, he never for any narcotics violation or did any type of surveillance arrested activity on the apartment building. He obtained his information from his uncle on things that were rumored. The audiotape was transcribed and is listed in this report as Attachment #7.

#### **Ancillary/Satellite Issues**

None.

## **Documentation for Internal Investigations**



#### VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WITNESS

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ONTARIO CITY OF GENEVA

Date: November 16, 2004Time: 1515 Place: Inteview Room 1. I am over the age of twenty one and I am employed as a Police Officer for the NY. On at around 1915. I was detailed to a call on . Upon my arrival, I in observed who I later identified as Brett Steve in a heated argument with anothe who I . Also present wa who I know as I stepped in and seperated the know as parties and tried to calm down Brett. Also present was New York State Trooper . He spoke to I tried to talk with Brett but he continued to argue with Brett was arguing about the who is Brett's uncle. I was finally able to get the situation under was having with problems control and all the parties left. approached me to tell me that I did not see that. I told him that he would have to address that issue with the Geneva Police Department. Brett's conduct escalated the situation to a point where there may have been a physical altercation. I have read this statement (had this statement read to me) consisting of 1 page and the facts contained herein are true and correct. I have also been told and I understand that making a false written statement is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor pursuant to section 2 New York. Signed: Witness: Witness: Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16 day of November, 2004. {{OfficialTitle}} Official's Signature)

ATTACHMENT #3

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\*FALSE STATEMENTS ARE PUNISHABLE AS A CRIME, PURSUANT TO THE NEW YORK STATE PENAL LAW.



CITY OF GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT 255 EXCHANGE STREET GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456



FRANK T. PANE Chief of Police Phone: (315) 789-1111 Fax: (315) 789-1814

November 17, 2004

To:\_\_\_P O Bret M Steve\_\_\_\_\_

and

## Re: Geneva Police Department Investigation

You are hereby ordered to report to \_\_LT John M Cataline\_\_\_\_\_ of the Geneva Police Department on \_\_November 23, 2004\_\_at \_1000\_\_\_\_.

The purpose of the appearance is for questioning in regards to a <u>departmental inv</u>estigation. The complainant in this matter is

This investigation, of which you are a target, is of an administrative nature. You are entitled to all the rights afforded you by the Constitution of the United States, the State of New York and you are entitled to all the rights afforded you outlined in Article XVI of the City of Geneva and Local 3471 Council 82, contract agreement.

You may have an attorney, union representative or both present during the questioning, if you desire. The interview may be recorded.

A member of the Geneva Police Department will conduct the questioning.

Sincerely, Lt John M Cataline

cf:

## GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT

**DETECTIVE BUREAU** 

Me	mo
	SGT PICCHI
From:	
CC:	
Date:	11/17/04
Re:	DETAIL

I NEED YOU TO PERSONALLY DELIVER THE ATTACHED LETTER TO PO BRET STEVE THIS EVENING WHEN HE REPORTS FOR DUTY. UPON COMPLETION OF THIS DETAIL, PLEASE SIGN THE BOTTOM OF THIS MEMO.

THANKS.

I, SGT JAMES PICCHI PERSONALLY SERVED TO PO BRET STEVE A LETTER FROM LT JOHN M CATALINE.

SIGNATURE\_ 17-04 DATE

TIME

## **Disciplinary/Counseling Interview Advisement of Rights**

The purpose of this interview is to solicit responses that will assist in determining whether disciplinary action or counseling is warranted. The answers furnished may be used in disciplinary proceedings that could result in administrative action against you, including dismissal.

You are advised that you are being questioned as part of an official investigation of the Geneva Police Department. You will be asked questions specifically and narrowly related to the performance of your official duties or fitness for office. You are entitled to all the rights and privileges guaranteed by the laws and Constitution of this State and the Constitution of the United States and to have an attorney (or union representative) of you choice, or both, present during the questioning.

I further advise you that if you refuse to testify or to answer questions relating to the performance of your official duties or fitness for duty, you will be subject to disciplinary charges which may result in your dismissal from the Department. If you do answer, neither your statements nor any information or evidence which is gained by reason of such statements can be used against you in any subsequent criminal proceedings, except that you may be subject to a criminal prosecution for any false answer that you may give.

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It's Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, it's approximately 10:22 in the morning and this is an interview with Officer Bret Steve along with Officer Jeff Trickler as his Union representative. This is in regards to an allegation made by

First Bret I want to give you this advisement of rights and I want you to read it and when you are satisfied with it, you can sign it.

S - Okay.

- C Basically what the scope of this investigation is the allegations made by further approximately at 7:15 in the evening. They are alleging that you accosted them, threatened them with arrest, threatened to bring code enforcement on them, and this is two separate incidents, but it is the same incident with two different complainants so that is why we are tying it into just one report and one real investigation. Do you understand that?
- S There were two incidents no?
- C There were two people.
- S Oh, all right -
- C One incident, two people that's why we are tying it into one investigation, do you understand that?
- S Yep.
- C Basically, just tell me your side of the story of what happened. Talk up so the tape recorder can pick up your voice.
- S -All right. Two weeks prior to that Lieutenant, what happened is my parents own a business with my uncle down, right next to their apartment complex. There was an on-going problem with those guys. not but himself and other subjects who lived in that apartment with smoking weed, swearing on the street. So one day my uncle went over there and just asked them "Guys. can you quiet down. I'm trying to run a business here". So one thing led to another and spits in my uncle's face and threatens to kill him so an officer was called down and nothing was done. So my Dad went down there with my father-in-law to speak with the Chief about it. Finally was arrested. They think this is 2 weeks later I'm down in lifting. I go home, my mother says your uncle had to call 911 again. I was like, well, was anything done? And she was like "No" so I went down there, spoke to my uncle, he explained to me what was happening, was in the alleyway next to my uncle's business again. He then told me what happened – I said do you want me to say something, so I went out there. was in there, Just went out there, asked "do you guys remember me, and I said I have dealt with you, I've dealt with you (which I have arrested both of those guys before. I just said is there a problem with my uncle? He said who's you uncle? I said the guy who

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over here, and I go I hear you're doing drugs in the owns the alleyway and he proceeded to tell me "no" and so forth. I said . I've arrested you myself 3 times. I don't want to hear your lies. I said if I had to on my own spare time **I**. I will sit here and take pictures of the drug activity that's going on here. It's not like it's an unknown thing. Everybody in this knows that you do it, you're selling it and you're dealing it. If I have to in at that time sat there and said my spare time. I will take pictures of it. who are you? And I said "who are you"? He goes - well I own this apartment. I go "Good". I just said to him. have you heard of a nuisance law? He was just like yeah. Well, I will inform you my Dad's on the Board and my father-in-law is on the Board. I said the cops have been called down here numerous times. There is drug activity going on down here and I just said that if I have to talk to you know because you I've worked in and I know own apartments in also and you can be closed down for this. Nothing else was said. I go over to my - back to my uncle. I explain to him get the reports you know, get them all set up and just keep on telling the police that you want reports, you want reports so that you can go to and sit there and have this guy closed down. All of a sudden shows up and I go out there and they're sitting there trying to say that I harassed them. I said "no way". I said "what did I say"? They had nothing to say. I said "exactly". I told ·I said if they are sitting here trying to say that I threatened them, take a statement cuz then I will prove otherwise because at no time did I threaten them. I just told them there are legal actions and that is it, that can be taken. And he goes well Bret, what should I do and he's asking me what I should do, and I just told time, so that one thing leads to another, the guy puts up No Trespassing signs after that, and nothing else is done. That was it - situation over with - and my whole problem with this is why two months later is this being brought up? Do you see what I am saying Lieutenant? My Dad, in my opinion, this is nothing but a political move with problems I had with **to begin with and for one thing** has a problem with my father and my father-in-law because the whole thing with the whole Town Board he got under the whole Town Board. My Dad wanted nothing to do with that cuz there was legal suits and actions with that. My sits there and thinks that my father and father-in-law said no. so got something against him, that they don't want him there, which, and brought that up at that situation, and I was like it's got nothing to do with you. I said the problem here is that you don't live here, you live in your family lives in you're setting up for a lawsuit. My father-in-law and my Dad were right there the whole time and so when was talking to them, he said alright, let bygones be bygones and shook my hand or whatever. And I've had problems, my Dad and my father-in-law have been trying to prove situations with had been doing stuff illegally with the Police Department. I've been trying to sit there and give pointers for them to look for certain things as far as grants and so forth and it is just common knowledge, even if you speak to Officer - he knows all about illegal activities because knows about illegal activities that are going on in and I was trying to

T - Is this something to do with this investigation?

- S Alright, well I'm just thinking this is like a critical move, because if I had threatened one, I didn't do nothing wrong, and two months later, after this incident with where my Dad's no longer in office this is getting brought up is my point.
- C Well, it wasn't brought up two months ago -
- S Oh it wasn't?
- C It was brought up just two days after it happened
- S Oh, alright
- C I'm just getting to it because I had three other ones I had to review
- S Alright
- C That's why
- S Okay.
- C Are we okay. Two (months) after the fact that they made a complaint, I think, on
- S Alright
- C Okay?
- S Yeh.
- C Why did you go talk to on that day?
- S Just because of this threats towards my uncle.
- C He made threats?
- S Yes.
- C Did you take this upon your own to do it?
- S I went and spoke to my uncle about it first.
- C Did he ask you to do it?
- S He said he wanted me to talk to him, he wasn't getting no assistance from
- C When you went to talk to

Pg 3, ATTACHMENT #8

S	did tell him I worked for Geneva
С -	
S -	No, I said "do you remember me, I work for Geneva now"?
C -	If you arrested him 3 times before, why didn't you think he wouldn't recognize you?
S -	Well, just the fact that I didn't work for anymore. I didn't know. I haven't seen or spoke to the guy since I worked in $100$ , and what was that $-4$ years ago.
С -	Did you ever threaten with arrest?
S -	No, I had nothing to arrest him on. I just said as I told you before. if I have to sit here and take pictures, you know, and do an investigation myself of the drug activity that is going on here, on my own free time, I will.
С -	When you were having this discussion with <b>a set of the set of the</b>
S -	No. it was just like I said - those guys and me. didn't swear or none of that
С -	No swearing, you weren't boisterous, you didn't bring any attention to the incident?
S -	No.
С-	Did you ever threaten with use of force?
S -	No.
С -	You said you knew because you had arrested him before?
S -	Yes, I dealt with him on numerous occasions before that.
С -	And when you talked to what were the circumstances?
S -	Just as far as the nuisance laws, is the only thing I talked to him about and that's it.
С -	But what prompted you to talk to him - because he was there?
S -	No, he started talking to me – I really didn't bring a conversation with him on. I only knew him – I didn't know that he owned that apartment – I just thought he was sitting there hanging out with those guys.

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- C When's the first time you saw him there?
- S He was there the whole time.
- C When you were talking to
- S Yes.
- C You saw him when you were talking to
- S Yes.
- C -
- S No, I just said I worked for Geneva Police Department, that's it.
- C Did you ever threaten him with arrest?
- S No, I just explained to him what the Nuisance Law was.
- C And did you threaten him with reprisals for Code Enforcement violations?
- S What's that did I -
- C Did you threaten him that you were going to bring action against him through the Code Enforcement?

S - I told him that I would talk to myself.

- C Who is
- S He is the Code Enforcement Officer
- C For who?

S -

As far as me, myself. I have no power.

- C Did you know before that day?
- S No, not personally, I know of him because his name in the past, but that's it.
- C Did you ever have a confrontation with him in –
- S No.
- C In a Court?

S - No

#### C - Court?

- S No. I was in court with him not against him, but I was there on a V&T incident and he was there on a civil suit with a female.
- C And did you bring that to his knowledge about that civil suit with that female to use against him?
- S Yes.
- C Now, I will go back and ask you a question.
- S- No
- C -
- C Did she make any allegations to the police in about that?
- S That I do not know. I didn't handle the investigation. I was just there during court.
- C Is this while you were still employed by
- S Yes
- C You were on the PD?
- S Yes
- C How much narcotic investigation did you do for that location while you were on the PD?

- S Just self-exploring with I was in on a couple of arrests with and a couple of other places where we made busts.
- C But that specific location. do you have personal knowledge
- S No, he wasn't living there at the time
- C Who?
- S -
- C How about He owned the property, right?
- S I don't know if he owned it back then
- C But you had no knowledge that there was drug activity at that location?
- C So why did you tell him that you knew about the drug activity –
- S No, when live in there.
- C You have me confused.
- T I think what he was saying is
- C Did you have knowledge of drug activity at that location?
- S Only as far as the problems with
- C When you arrested him for did you arrest him for drug violations?
- S No.
- C So how did you know that there was drug activity in that apartment?
- S With from my parents and
- C So just hearsay, not through your own investigation, not through your own knowledge, just hearsay?
- S Yes.
- C So basically, you didn't know if there was any drug activity there?
- S To my own personal knowledge I did not

Pg 7, ATTACHMENT #8

C - But you told that he didn't know about drug activity and you did?

- S There were reports done on it though.
- C By who?
- S My uncle has all the reports
- C I'm talking about somebody in law enforcement? Did law enforcement do any intelligence gathering information at that location for narcotics?
- S No.

C - So if law enforcement didn't know about it. how would you expect know about it? Follow me?

to

- S- Yeh.
- C You familiar with General Order 305 in the Police Department?
- S No sir
- C It deals with Rules of Conduct you're not familiar with that at all. did you ever read it?
- S Yes
- C Let me refresh you 305 calls for your total conduct. rules and regulations and it also specifies Section 349(A)(2)(a) about dealing with relatives. do you remember what it says about that? Dealing with relatives?
- S No sir
- C It basically you don't get into any involvement with relatives' deals.
- S Alright
- C If you have a relative who has a problem, you refer them to some other agency or to some other officer. You don't get involved in it if they come asking for your help. The same thing if you get involved in a case where it involves one of your relatives – you are to back off immediately, notify your supervisor and have your supervisor detail somebody else to take care of it. Just because of these kinds of incidents so that preferential treatment can't be given to the relatives and others. That's why we have that there so you back away from that so now nobody can point a finger and say hey. Are you familiar with Section 120 of the Criminal Procedure Law of the State of New York?
- S No, not off the top of my head sir.

- C It covers geographical boundaries. geographical jurisdiction of your employment.
- S I know I know I can't make that arrest.
- C You can't make an arrest for a violation outside of your geographical territory where you are employed. Okay?
- S Yes
- C Crimes are different you can make it if it is exigent circumstances or refer it to the local agency. Okay?
- S I know what you are talking about.
- C You are living in now, right?
- S Yes.
- C So why would the status of that building in be so important to you?
- S Really it doesn't. It's just the fact that it's effecting my uncle and my parents business.
- C So basically you interceded on behest of your uncle and your parents' business?
- S Yes
- C So you actually didn't see any violation of the law take place?
- S As far as a violation, yes drug activity no.
- C What violation did you see?
- S Them swearing and hanging out on the public street next to my parents' place of business they were asked to move
- C Who?
- S The whole group constantly
- C How about that night,
- S Oh that night, no
- C Did you observe any violation of law take place?
- S No

- C And again, you weren't loud and boisterous?
- S No
- C You weren't out of control?
- S No, Lieutenant, I was just talking to them. I've had people smashed, I'm not going to lose my job over this
- C I am advising you again because I have witness statements and I will advise you again and ask you the question were you out of control, were you loud, were you boisterous?
- S No
- C Were you nose to nose with either
- S No sir, they were in the alleyway and I was on the sidewalk the whole time
- C You didn't come into contact them at all?
- S No sir.
- C -
- S No sir.
- C To either one of them?
- S No. I said I worked in Geneva. that's all.
- C So your basic side of the story is that you interceded on behest of your uncle and your father and mother because of supposed statements or allegations by against your uncle?
- S Yes, it was going on for about two months.
- C And you also have no direct knowledge of any illegal activities at that apartment house other than what people have told you?
- S Yes I have.
- C And you weren't loud and boisterous during this allegation?
- S No sir
- C To either

- S No
- C <u>But you knew</u> because of a dealing in court and you did mention to about the fact of the accusation made by this female tenant at one time?
- S Yes
- C And you also stated that you were going to inform the Code Enforcement Office for the Village of **Control** to do what?
- S If the activity kept up I was just going to like I said do an investigation on myself if I had to and notify of the problems that were going on there, and that's it.
- C Do you have a private investigator's license by the State of New York?
- S No.
- C Is there anything else that you want to add?
- S No sir
- C Is there anybody that you can name as a witness in your behest to verify your side of the story that I should talk to that was present at the time of this incident when it took place?
- S During what part? An Officer was there, my father and then my father-in-law were there.
- C What's your father-in-law's name?
- S -
- C Do you have a phone number?
- S Yes -
- C What's your father's first name?
- S -
- C Any what's his number?
- S -
- C Nobody else there to verify what you did?

- S No
- C Were they there for the entire duration of the incident?
- S No
- C When you went to see where did you come from?
- S My uncle's business
- C You were inside of the store?
- S Yes
- C So did anybody go with you as you walked out of the store?
- S I don't know if my uncle was no I don't think so
- C And you walked to where was?
- S Yes, about 5-10 feet
- C What was he doing
- S He was just hanging out with
- C Was he doing anything
- S No
- C He was just standing there was he cutting the grass?
- S No, there's no grass
- C Was he filling bug lights lanterns?
- S No, I wasn't paying attention to that.
- C But you said you were on the sidewalk and they were in the alley that's where the confrontation happened?
- S Yes
- C And now you say you walked 5 or 6 feet into the alley?
- S No, the business is very near the -----. If you just walk out. I walked 5 feet

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north, the alleyway is right there so he's in the alleyway and I'm just sitting on the side – if you see the alleyway is right here, he's in the alleyway here and I am on the sidewalk right here.

- C So you never really how far away were you from him?
- S 15-20 feet
- C You never came face to face with them. nobody had to break you up?
- S No. I just advised him as ----- and went in and told my uncle what to do and that was the end of it.
- C Is there anything else you want to add?
- S No sir.
- C That concludes the interview –
- T So I'll see where we go next
- C But this is all of the information I have, the statements I have from other people that saw it or heard it and we will go from there. I will do a report and give it to the Chief and it's the Chief's decision of what he wants to do.
- T Do we get an opportunity to see any of the allegations?
- C This isn't a criminal investigation, it's an internal affairs matter. I just told him what the allegations were, okay, but these guys are saying that he threatened them with arrest, threatened them with code enforcement violation retribution.
- T That's it
- C- That's the end of the interview, it is approximately 10:47 a.m.

Pg 13, ATTACHMENT #8



## Geneva Police Department **DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION FORM**

TO:Sgt. Brian Travis/Sgt. James Picchi 11P-7A Shift SupervisorsUNIT:11PM-7AM Shift

DISTRIBUTION:

All Sworn Personnel

Attached to this form is a copy of **G.O. 305- Rules of Conduct.** Please circulate this form and the attached copy amongst each member of your Shift, or Bureau in accordance with General Order 115, § V (A.1). Have each member sign the form after they have read, and indicated they understand, the attached copy. Please make a copy of the completed form for your records and forward the original to Lt. Liberatore.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read the attached copy of G.O. 305- Rules of Conduct. I further acknowledge that it is my responsibility to understand and comply with this General Order. If I do not understand this General Order, or any portion of it, I am responsible to request clarification through the chain-of-command.						
	Employee Name Employee Signature Date Read					
1	Sgt. B. Travis	Set Prita	12-05-03			
2	Sgt. J.Picchi	SCT. Special				
3	PO C. Reale	P.o. C. Ash	12-07-03			
4	PO M .Valenti	Pom?/				
5	PO C. Keear	Pa	12-5-03			
6	PO B. Steve	POLBSID	12-5-03			
7		p. Du	12-3-03			
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ATTACHMENT #9

G.O. 305

Geneva Police Department GENERAL ORDERS		<b>RULES OF CONDUCT</b>		
□new: Ørescinds: Policy & Procedure 14.1; 14. □amends:		4.3	cross-reference: GO 310; GO 400 NYS Election Law; Alcohol Beverage Control Law; Racing Wagering and Breeding Law General Municipal Law Accreditation/Recognition standards: C.A.L.E.A.: 26.1.1	
effective date: 12-5-03	iss	ue/amend date: 12-5-03	NYS L.E.A.P.: 14.1; 14.3	
I. PURPOSE	conduct o what is ex limited to The rules standards	f the members of the Gen pected. Certain rules of c the extent that official sta as set forth in this order a of the law enforcement p	is to establish policies and procedures for the general neva Police Department so that each member will understate conduct concern behavior while off duty and these are atus, police authority or other job-relatedness is involved. are not exclusive, and members are expected to meet the profession at all times, to uphold to public trust, and to act epartment and the profession at all times.	
II. POLICY	adhere to		e Department that all members become familiar with and set forth herein and that any violation of the rules shall action.	
	3.	<ul> <li>manner as to reflect officer shall include discredit upon the of operation or efficience</li> <li>b. Any officer who is answer any offense, I becoming aware of Police.</li> <li>Immoral Conduct- Of in their personal and bus the law enforcement pr incident involving moral</li> </ul>	act themselves at all times, both on and off duty, in suc- most favorably on the department. Conduct unbecoming that which brings the department into disrepute or refl- ficer as a member of the department, or that which impairs cy of the department or officer. under investigation, is arrested, or is summoned to appea by any other law enforcement agency, shall, within 24 hour such investigation, arrest, or summons, notify the Chief fficers and employees shall maintain a level of moral cond- tiness affairs which is in keeping with the highest standard rofession. Officers/employees shall not participate in al turpitude, which impairs their ability to perform as causes the department to be brought into disrepute.	
	4.	a. Officers and employe	ees shall obey all laws of the United States and of any state which the officers/employees are present.	
		b. A conviction of the voor of this section.	violation of any law shall be prima facie evidence of a viola	

of 1 ATTACHMENT 10

iii. The annual filing of financial disclosure forms required by certain employees GML, §806 (1) (b)

#### 48. Labor Activity

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- A. Officers and employees shall have the right to join labor organizations, but nothing shall compel the department to recognize or to engage in collective bargaining with any such labor organizations except as provided by law.
- B. Officers and employees shall not engage in any strike. "Strike" includes the concerted failure to report for duty, willful absence from one's position. unauthorized holidays, sickness unsubstantiated by a physician's statement, the stoppage of work, or the abstinence in whole or in part from the full, faithful and proper performance of the duties of employment for the purposes of inducing, influencing or coercing a change in conditions, compensation, rights, privileges or obligations of employment.

#### 49. Conflict of Interest

A. Officers will not take police or enforcement action, whether on duty or off duty. in cases that involve a conflict of interest, potential conflict of interest, or that may have the appearance of a conflict of interest or other impropriety. For purposes of this section, circumstances involving a "conflict of interest, potential conflict of interest, or that may have the appearance of a conflict of interest or other impropriety" include but are not limited to situations involving circumstances or persons in which the officer has a personal or family relationship with one or more of the involved parties, or has a personal, family, financial, business, or other private interest in the matter or its outcome. If such circumstances exist or may exist the officer will refrain from taking any police action and refer the matter to a supervisor, except that officers may take action in an emergency situation to deal with an imminent threat to the safety of any person or to prevent the imminent damage, destruction, or theft of property.

Approved By

CHIEF OF POLICE

## EMPLOYEE COUNSELING MEMO

TO: PO Bret Steve

**FROM:** Lt. Peter J Liberatore

RE: Personnel Complaint of alleging Unbecoming Conduct on

#### Written Narrative: PO Steve

This memo is to serve as a counseling memo in regards to the aforementioned matter. Mr. and and allege that on the above stated date while in allege NY, you did conduct yourself in other than a professional manner. Through an investigation that you were made aware of by Lt. Cataline, this allegation is sustained.

Referring to General Order 305 "Rules of Conduct" § III (A)(2)(a), "Officers shall conduct themselves at all times, both on and off duty, in such a manner as to reflect most favorably on the Department." You did not adhere to such Order as was evidenced through independent witness statements. Also, you failed to adhere to § III (49)(A) "Conflict of Interest" by becoming involved in a family matter that had no concern to you and should have been referred to the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction. There was no "emergency situation to deal with an imminent threat to the safety of any person or to prevent the imminent damage, destruction, or theft of property."

Being police officers, you must realize that we are held to a higher standard than the ordinary population and when police officers become involved in matters outside of their jurisdiction especially those matters involving family, it tends to lead to the appearance of improprieties, even though none might occur.

Also, when dealing with family matters, you must realize that although people feel that they are in control, the involved person, such as yourself, would not have gotten involved unless they thought it was for a just cause whereby there is a preconceived bias in the situation to begin with. This too leads to allegations of unbecoming conduct on part of the officer.

This matter has been reduced to writing so as to bring it to your attention that this incident violated the Geneva Police Department's General Orders in the hope that nothing of this nature will happen again and any future occurrences may be cause for disciplinary action.

My signature acknowledges that I have read and received a copy of this counseling memo. It does not mean that I agree with the contents. I know I have the right to attach a rebuttal.

Employee's Signature But Star	Date 2-10-05
Supervisor's Signature	Date 2-10-35
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CITY OF GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT 255 EXCHANGE STREET GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456



Phone: (315) 789-1111 Fax: (315) 789-1814

FRANK T. PANE Chief of Police

January 5, 2005



The Police Department has completed the investigation concerning the personnel complaint that you filed of the personnel Your complaint alleged that Geneva Police Officer Bret Steve abused his authority. The investigation included information from you, from witnesses and the involved officer.

At the conclusion of the investigation we have sustained your allegation. The act complained of did occur and constitutes a violation of our rules.

The matter will be handled internally within the Police Department. I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention so corrective measures can be taken. If you would like further information about your complaint, please feel free to contact Lieutenant John Cataline at 789-1111.

Very truly yours.

Frank T. PANE

Chief of Police

FTP/liz



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CITY OF GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT 255 EXCHANGE STREET GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456

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Frank Thave

FRANK T. PANE Chief of Police

FTP/liz