



Department of Police

123 South Third Street
STEUBENVILLE, OHIO 43952

CHIEF OF POLICE
JERRY McCARTNEY

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NEWS RELEASE

In the past, prior to the Consent Decree being in place, Federal officials made claims against officers after reviewing several complaints. The Justice Department never interviewed the officers in question.

I submitted over 200 names of prominent citizens in Steubenville to the Justice Department to be interviewed in regards to the claims being brought forth by the Justice Department. To my knowledge, these people were never questioned or interviewed in regards to the claims and charges against my officers. However, I do know that the Justice Department has interviewed individuals who claim that their civil rights were violated. These claims were honored and financial settlements were given to these individuals.

I have spoke with Chief Jackson of the Columbus Police Department in regards to the Consent Decree. We have also met, in person, in my office, where we discussed the Consent Decree brought forth upon the Steubenville Police Department. We discussed several issues at length. Chief Jackson was very concerned and disappointed with a lot of the items that the Justice Department was forcing upon us.

There are some items that I agree with in the Consent Decree, such as education and training. Also, we now have in place a computer system, which I feel is working well and is an asset to the Steubenville Police Department

However, there are several things that I do not agree with. One of these is hiring a Chief from outside of the Department upon my retirement. Steubenville has been on the map for 200 years and we have



always had a Chief from within the ranks of the Steubenville Police Department.

I do not agree with Internal Affairs investigating anonymous complaints where the citizen does not have to identify himself or come forward and appear. Anything they have to say can be given anonymously in the form of a letter or by public service. I feel that every officer should be able to face his accuser when allegations arise. Then it can be determined through an investigation whether or not the officer was falsely accused. I feel that anonymous complaints, when they are investigated, is strictly a violation of the Constitution of which our Country was founded.

The Justice Department, since the Consent Decree came into effect, has not discussed any of the cases with me. They have also failed to show any type of abuse or pattern of claims that are brought against the department.

I feel that the Justice Department was very intimidating in their approach and tactics in regards to the Consent Decree. We were given very little time, and in my opinion not enough time, to go through the entire Consent Decree and to negotiate different items in the Decree. The Justice Department gave us a date by which the Consent Decree was to be signed and informed me that if an agreement was not reached, that they would definitely file civil rights complaints against the City, which includes the department as a whole.

I had talked this over with my Law Director, Mr. Gary Repella and there was a meeting set up with Council, Mr. Repella and myself in regards to discussing the Consent Decree, however, there was very little discussion in regards to signing this Consent Decree. I feel that Mr. Repella, as my Law Director and legal counsel should have gone over the Consent Decree at length.

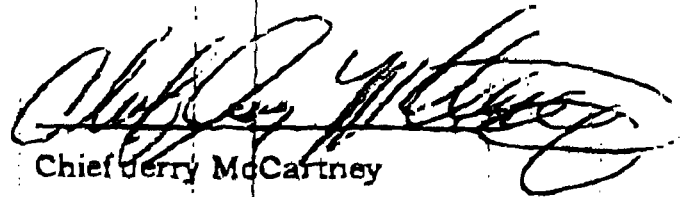
I feel that when Mr. Repella, from the start, was in favor of the Consent Decree. He showed very little, if any, ambition to even question



several of the items in the Consent Decree. I believe it was brought to Council for their review and during the month of the review, Mr. Repella's opinion was to accept the Consent Decree, sign it and abide by it.

I do not feel that Mr. Repella had the Department's or the City's best interest at heart when he failed to take the time to review all the items in the Consent Decree with City Council and myself prior to recommending that the City accept the Decree. I feel that we should have had the opportunity to negotiate some of the items of the Consent Decree, such as bringing in an outside Chief and anonymous complaints.

I have always disagreed that the Consent Decree was signed in its present form. However, the Justice Department, the City Officials and Mr. Repella, my Law Director agreed upon the Decree. We, as Police Officers, are sworn in to uphold the law and maintain law and order. Therefore, I along with all members of the Steubenville Police Department will abide by all items in the Consent Decree and will also abide by all rulings in regards to the Consent Decree handed down by a Court of Law.



Chief Jerry McCartney



U.S. v. City of Steubenville



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