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August 17, 2007

By certified, first-class mail # 7007 0710 0002 5666 2214

Robert Duffy, Lt. Col., Commander
Professional Standards Section
Connecticut Department of Public Safety
1111 Country Club Rd
Middletown CT 06457-2389

Re: Detective Thomas Karanda, Citizen Complaint

Dear Lt. Col. Duffy:

I represent M. Peter Kuck ("Mr. Kuck") and file the above-referenced complaint for review and investigation by the Internal Affairs Unit (IAU) within the Professional Standards Section of the Division of State Police, Connecticut State Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Mr. Kuck serves as the Secretary of the Connecticut State Board of Firearms Permit Examiners ("Board") and is an appointed member of the Board by nomination of Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Inc. ("Guild"). Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-32b(a). The Board meets monthly to fulfill its established mission of providing a means of appeal for citizens whose pistol permit has been denied or revoked.

The instant complaint filed by Mr. Kuck through my office concerns conduct by Detective Thomas Karanda ("Det. Karanda") at such a monthly meeting of the Board held on November 11, 2006. The conduct in question occurred when Det. Karanda, an assigned member of the DPS Special License and Firearms Unit (SLFU), approached the Board's hearing bench, leaned forward resting his fist knuckles on the bench, and told Mr. Kuck that he [Det. Karanda] was aware that Mr. Kuck and/or the Guild, had a scheduled gun show the upcoming weekend. Det. Karanda then asked Mr. Kuck if he [Mr. Kuck] had heard about a previous antiques arms show in Hartford and when Mr. Kuck indicated that he had, Det. Karanda said, "well we went too easy on those guys, and next time we will drag them out in handcuffs." Det. Karanda then engaged Mr. Kuck in a discussion of state and federal statutes governing sales at gun and antique arms shows.

Det. Karanda concluded the discussion with a threat by stating in a loud voice that he [Det. Karanda] had better not see anyone at the Guild show with price tags on any pistols or he [Det. Karanda], if the individuals did not have a local permit to sell, notwithstanding any posted sign limiting sales to Federal Firearms License holders only, would drag them out in cuffs.

The conduct described in the foregoing two paragraphs is disturbing for a number of reasons: First, the confrontation occurred at a Board meeting scheduled for the purpose of reviewing the denial or revocation of pistol permits. Det. Karanda's conduct reduced the solemnity of the administrative hearing process to a level more consistent with a back alley brawl where matters are settled by brute force rather than respect for the law.

Second, Det. Karanda's conduct was intimidating and designed to inhibit lawful activity through threats that the lawful activity would have criminal consequences. Det. Karanda's authority, by virtue of his position, demands that such threats, no matter how unsupported in the law, be taken seriously.

Third, Det. Karanda's conduct on November 11, 2006, directed toward Mr. Kuck, demonstrates a pattern of intimidation and abuse directed toward the Board member nominated by the Guild and is exercised for the purpose of influencing the Board's decisions and disrupting the administrative hearing process.¹

Various Board members and the general public were present at the November 11, 2006, meeting. A list of the Board members present who may have witnessed Det. Karanda's conduct and a list of the appellants and their attorneys scheduled for appearance on that day is available at the Board's offices in Hartford.

At this time, Mr. Kuck provides as a witness to Det. Karanda's conduct the Board's Chairman, Christopher R. Adams, Attorney.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for clarification or additional information regarding this complaint. I look forward to discussing with you the progress of the investigation into Det. Karanda's conduct.

Sincerely,

Rachel M. Baird, Attorney

¹ Mr. Kuck filed requests under the Freedom of Information Act and is appealing the denial the renewal of his pistol permit.