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931-2011

Mr. Mayor.

On 20 February 1991 I was picked up for questioning by the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, involving charges by an ex-roommate.

I am HIV Positive and have known for the past five years. While searching myself and my truck the Police found my bottle of AZT, which I have been taking for 2 months. As a result of being labeled a risk by the Police Department, and everyone with whom I have come into contact. The members of the Department being no different. i.e., processing of my arrest all members with whom I came into contact wore rubber gloves.

The female detective (Detective Watkins) who was questioning me, told me I would have to wear a surgical type mask but the Linwood Police Station was out of masks. I was then put in a holding cage alone, away from others being held.

After being told to remove my belt, shoe laces and socks, the Officer (Officer Mitchell) then called to ask someone if he should put red bio hazard tape on the bag which contained my personal affects. He then stated he was out of this tape. The tape was not used or mentioned again.

Upon being taken downtown the officer saw there was a separate bag along with my personal effects which contained my medication. He then asked me what it was and I responded it was my AZT. He then "announced" this fact and I was asked to wear a mask. I politely refused. I was then put into a cell across from the "drunk tank", where I remained for two hours.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. an Officer Boyd (serial number 13033) came to the cell with a mask and told me to put it on.

I again politely refused. He then twisted my right arm behind my back and put a "choke hold" on me, which basically renders a person semi unconscious. I was then forced to wear the mask during the finger printing process.

After being taken back to the cell, where I stayed until approximately 10:15 p.m., I was taken for "mug shots". Then released. During the process of release the Officer who signed me in downtown, initially, and had received my personal affects was standing on the front side of the counter and making rude remarks about my sexual preference and placing another Officer into the cell (number 7), from which I had just been released.

This was the first time I had ever been arrested and I found it to be a completely appalling experience. The Police Department of Kansas City needs to be educated on policies and procedures for dealing with persons with HIV. It became obvious during this experience that the entire Department reacted out of fear and ignorance because of improper training/education on the issues of HIV infection and transmission of the virus. I feel the City could better serve the public by using the money currently spent on supplies such as gloves and masks for education. The Department should implement an AIDS coordination review panel, independent of city government, to investigate any future situations of this nature that will occur. This panel should also establish an educational program for employees in City jobs where contact with the public is involved.

For those individuals who violate the directives of this panel I feel that community service in an ASO (AIDS Service Organizations) would be an appropriate means of education. The contact of these violators with persons in ASO could better serve as training and educational experience for these individuals.

Having served on the boards of two ASO's (HOPE, 1988, Myrtle Beach SC and PWA Coalition, 1990, San Antonio TX) and my current affiliation with the Kansas City Free Health Clinic (Rhonda Wiemer), I am aware of peoples reaction via fear and ignorance to persons who are HIV positive and persons with AIDS. I understand the value of education as well as what fear and ignorance can create.

I have enclosed a copy of the medical report as well as the citizens complaint report. Please take these items into account in your investigation of the situation. I appreciate your attention to this most urgent matter and will look forward to

your response. It is my fervent hope that this will never occur to anyone else.

Sincere Thanks.

Joseph E. Carlton

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cc: Kay Madden, Atty
Capt. Frances Chatman
Alvin Brooks
Emanuel Cleaver II
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Alan Wheat