

LAW OFFICES OF
PAUL S. LEVIN

40 RUSS STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
WWW.ATTORNEYLEVIN.COM
E-MAIL: PLEVIN1111@AOL.COM

(860) 560-7226 TEL.
(888) 560-7226 TEL. - TOLL FREE

(860) 471-8400 FAX
(860) 834-3333 CELL

January 17, 2011

Frank Limon, Police Chief
New Haven Police Department
1 Union Avenue
New Haven, CT 06519

Re: Sam Lewin
Motor vehicle accident report #10-7241
Date of Accident: November 22, 2010
Location of Accident: Orange and Church Streets, New Haven
Time of accident: Approximately 5:30 p.m.

Dear Police Chief:

My office represents the interests of Sam Lewin, a pedestrian struck by a vehicle driven by Assistant Chief of Police Ariel Melendez on November 22, 2010. As you know the incident took place one block from police headquarters and Assistant Chief Melendez was reportedly on duty at the time. Evidently, the Connecticut State Police were not called in to investigate as your office elected to handle the matter internally. Given the fact that the members of the accident reconstruction squad who were tasked to investigate are junior in rank to Ms. Melendez, and Mr. Lewin did sustain serious injuries (which have already required surgery), we are requesting that you reconsider your decision at this time.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that when Mr. Lewin's mother, Pam Kruh, came to the department last Friday to pick up the accident report that she was telephonically advised had been prepared for release, she was not able to get it. Instead, she was invited to the office of Captain Bombalicki, who commented to her that the accident was Sam's fault and proceeded to interrogate her about what Sam was doing in the area and to question her about whether he had been taking drugs. Before being invited upstairs, Mrs. Kruh was further informed at the front desk by a woman named "Denise" that the report was, in fact, not ready as the State Police were handling it at this point and that she would have to contact them but that she could speak to Captain Bombalicki first for an explanation. Accordingly, the circumstances which led to Mrs. Kruh's presence in the Captain's office appear to be a pretense.

Frank Limon, Police Chief

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Mrs. Kruh is married to a retired police officer from another jurisdiction and the Kruhs are mortified by the behavior of the department as summarized above. I am copying this letter to the State Police Commissioner and am hoping that their department will take control of the investigation at this point. I sincerely hope that you have retained a copy of the 911 call(s) made, any video footage of the event from cameras within the police vehicle which Assistant Chief Melendez was operating and/or nearby street cameras which we believe to exist. We are aware of the recent controversies involving Assistant Chief Melendez resulting in ongoing internal department investigations and, frankly, decry the evident failure to immediately involve the state police in such a sensitive investigation.

Respectfully,

Paul S. Levin

PSL:jgs

cc: Colonel Danny Stebbins
State Police Deputy Commissioner

Dictated but not read.