

Sean T. Brandenburg
Chief of Police



Key West
POLICE DEPARTMENT

October 31, 2019

Citizen Review Board
PO Box 1946
Key West, FL 33040

Citizen Review Board,

On October 9th, 2019, the Key West Police Department received a complaint from Mr. Raycel Godoy through the Citizen Review Board. Mr. Godoy stated in his complaint, on September 26th, 2019, at about 10:45 pm, he was pulled over by Sergeant Mark Siracuse, of the Key West Police Department, for failing to use his turn signal. Mr. Godoy said, about five minutes into the stop, a canine officer arrived and the canine search his (Godoy's) vehicle. Mr. Godoy said the entire stop last about sixteen minutes and he was released without a citation. Also in his complaint, Mr. Godoy asked if Sergeant Siracuse brings a canine to every traffic stop he conducts.

As a result of this complaint, I conducted an inquiry into this incident. I spoke with Sergeant Siracuse, Canine Officer Thomas Anglin, and Officer Brian Leahy. I also reviewed all body worn camera videos related to this incident. The following was learned during this inquiry.

On September 26th, 2019, Sergeant Siracuse initiated a traffic on Mr. Godoy's vehicle, for failing to use a turn signal, near the intersection of Fogarty Avenue and First Street. Sergeant Siracuse approached the vehicle, identified himself and provided the reason for the stop. Mr. Godoy did not have his driver's license in his possession, but did provide Sergeant Siracuse with his driver's license number. Sergeant Siracuse provided the license number to KWPD Dispatch, to check the validity of the license. While waiting for KWPD Dispatch to respond back, Sergeant Siracuse asked Mr. Godoy for how long has he owned the vehicle. This question appeared to upset Mr. Godoy. Mr. Godoy began to question the reason for the traffic stop and asked Sergeant Siracuse if he was "stereotyping". Sergeant Siracuse attempted, several times, to explain to Mr. Godoy why he pulled him over, but Mr. Godoy continued to argue the reason for the stop.

Approximately five minutes into the traffic stop, Canine Officer Anglin and Officer Brian Leahy arrived on scene. Mr. Godoy became more agitated about their presence. Mr. Godoy was asked to exit his vehicle, and he was informed that Canine Officer Anglin was going to use his canine to conduct a sniff of the exterior of his vehicle. This is authorized by law and Key West Police Department policies and procedures. During the sniff of the exterior of the vehicle, the canine alerted to the odor of narcotics in Mr. Godoy's vehicle. The alert gave the officers probable cause to search his vehicle.



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At that point, Canine Officer Anglin and Officer Leahy began a manual search of the interior of the vehicle. During the search, a very small amount of suspected marijuana (commonly referred to as "shake") was located in the vehicle. The suspected marijuana was field tested, and the results were positive for marijuana. When Officer Leahy informed Mr. Godoy of what was found, Mr. Godoy advised he had loaned his vehicle to a friend recently and when it was returned, he could smell the odor of marijuana in his vehicle. Officer Leahy explained to Mr. Godoy that the small amount of marijuana found in his vehicle was not going to lead to an arrest, it was just proof of what the canine alerted to. As you will see in the videos, their conversation continued for a few more minutes, then Mr. Godoy was released from the traffic stop.

To answer Mr. Godoy's question regarding, "Does Siracuse bring the canine for every stop?" I reviewed Sergeant Siracuse's activity reports starting January 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019. During that time, Sergeant Siracuse conducted a total 93 traffic stops. Of those 93 traffic stops, Canine Officer Anglin responded and conducted 48 sniffs using his canine. The biographical details involving the 48 canine sniffs are listed below.

Males - 41

Females - 7

White - 26

Black - 16

Hispanic - 6

After completing this inquiry, I have determined that the actions of Sergeant Siracuse, Canine Officer Anglin, and Officer Leahy were within the law and Key West Police Department policies and procedures. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Castillo".

Sergeant Jason Castillo

Professional Standards Division Commander



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