



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

**Office of the Independent Monitor**  
OIM

201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 1201  
Denver, CO 80202  
p:720-913-3306  
f:720-913-3305  
[www.denvergov.org/OIM](http://www.denvergov.org/OIM)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE: Case # [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

The Denver Police Department's Internal Affairs Bureau (DPD IAB) received your complaint and opened an investigation into your concerns about inappropriate use of force at a protest on April 29, 2015. I have enclosed a letter from DPD IAB Commander Ronald Thomas which explains their position after review of your complaint.

You should be aware that the Office of the Independent Monitor monitors all complaints made against members of the Police and Sheriff Department. As such, your complaint and the conduct alleged will be documented and permit us to conduct quarterly and annual reviews of potential patterns of officer conduct. We hope that these reviews will assist us in improving the level of police services provided to the community in the long term.

Please note the decision made by the DPD is its own, and doesn't necessarily reflect the views or recommendations of the OIM about the appropriate disposition of this complaint or any other.

I want to assure you that a thorough review of this incident was conducted by this office.

Sincerely,

R. Suzanne Iantorno  
Deputy Monitor



**POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**  
DENVER PUBLIC SAFETY

**Denver Police Department**

Internal Affairs Bureau

1331 Cherokee St.

Denver, CO 80204

p: 720.913.6019

f: 720.913.7042

[www.denvergov.org/police](http://www.denvergov.org/police)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE: IAB Case Number [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

The concerns detailed in your correspondence to the Office of the Independent Monitor were forwarded to the Denver Police Internal Affairs Bureau for review and follow-up investigation.

Your correspondence was one of several received regarding an event occurring on April 29, 2015. The complaints allege that during a peaceful citizen demonstration officers deployed a chemical agent recklessly or without necessity and then made arrests absent sufficient justification.

This case was thoroughly investigated and based upon the following facts; this case has been declined for further disciplinary review.

- Officers were deployed to the area to monitor a demonstration after Intel reports indicated that participants involved in the protest may employ less than peaceful tactics during the event. Specifically, one source indicated some attendees had requested tolerance by other participants in their use of a "diversity of tactics" and that they would not tolerate participants trying to control other participants.
- It is disappointing that organizers of this event were unable to communicate with participants and clearly establish guidelines for behavior. Several participants indicated that they believed the event would be peaceful and relied on this understanding when they decided to bring children with them.
- Officer deployment was pre-planned and well supervised by sergeants and command staff throughout the event.
- Numerous photos and video/audio recordings by police officers and participants were reviewed. Department HALO and other overhead camera footage was reviewed as well and does not support the allegations.
- Evidence shows that protest participants attempted to interfere with normal vehicle traffic flow and block roadways in violation of the law and contrary to repeated orders from police officers. Officers on motorcycles were deployed to create a mobile barrier to facilitate the flow of traffic and encourage compliance with traffic laws. The failure to follow these commands contributed to the police response.

- Some of the participants in the protest indicated that the event would not be peaceful. Derogatory shouts and signage such as, "The only good cop is a dead cop," created concerns for officer safety.
- During the course of the demonstration, several participants physically attacked police officers. During the arrest of these persons, other participants interfered with the arrest and assaulted police officers.
- A chemical agent was used by officers to protect the officers who were conducting the arrests. It was deployed when one or more participants attempted to assault or interfere with the officers and only after repeated commands had been given for the individuals nearby to stay away from the officers.
- The chemical agent deployed is an aerosolized chemical fog style spray. It is designed to disperse over a short distance to be effective in close proximity. Persons in the area may feel the lesser effects of the spray as it travels through the area until it has sufficiently dissipated. Footage of the deployment does not show that people were significantly affected by the spray away from the deployment. In fact; numerous persons can be seen loitering around the area, suggesting no effect.
- The allegations raised in these complaints relate to incidents that were documented previously and also investigated.
- The physical force applied during this event is consistent with the applicable laws and within the department policies.

If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Office of Independent Monitor at 720-913-3306.

Sincerely,

*Ron Thomas*

Ron Thomas, Commander  
Internal Affairs Bureau