



OFFICE OF POLICE OVERSIGHT

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

September 9, 2022

ICMS #: 2022-0756

On September 6, 2022, the OPO received an online complaint.

The complainant alleges: I was threatened of unlawful arrest by police because I was a black woman. I came to Austin to celebrate a sorority sister's birthday and went to [REDACTED]. I was allowed to cut the line by a patron at the [REDACTED] but the security refused to allow my entrance. The security called the police when I refused to exit the line. The police threatened to arrest me when I asked for their probable cause. Officer [REDACTED] working [REDACTED] claimed the bar had a right to deny entrance for any reason. As an attorney, I knew that was false and not lawful. I explained that if the publicly licensed establishment allowed public entrance and if I met those entrance requirements, the establishment could not bar my admission. Officer [REDACTED] stated that I could be prevented entrance based on their arbitrary standards. I asked for the manager- who apologized and admitted me- even after Officer [REDACTED] threatened me with arrest. His reasoning was my commission of blocking a public line. There was no line, I was standing on public property and stated these facts when challenging his threat to arrest. I believe Officer [REDACTED] was unfamiliar with my constitutional rights, threatened me with an unlawful arrest, and behaved aggressively because I was a black woman. I am a licensed attorney and knew my constitutional rights to entrance of a licensed liquor establishment which, I believe, my expressed knowledge enraged the white officer. Officer [REDACTED] behavior was not neutral and clearly, erroneously on behalf of the [REDACTED]. I am offended and experienced trauma to the threat of an erroneous arrest. I request an apology and commitment to teaching police officers the constitutional rights of bar patrons.

This notice of complaint is a request for Internal Affairs to initiate an investigation to determine if the employee conduct is within compliance of APD policy, Civil Service Rules, and Municipal Civil Service Rules.