



OFFICE OF POLICE OVERSIGHT

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

September 16, 2022

ICMS #: 2022-0788

On September 12, 2022, the OPO received an online complaint.

The complainant alleges: On [REDACTED], at approximately [REDACTED] I called 311 and explained that my daughter was having a mental health issue and I needed a mental health officer. I may have explained some of the details: she is 14, with diagnosed mental health issues (major depression and mood disorder), and takes medication (Prozac). The 311 operator told me she'd connect me with 911. I explained the situation to the 911 operator: 14-year old daughter had mental health issues, was having an episode where she was destroying framed photos, pulled items and tossed them, and that while trying to stop her from hurting herself and destroying items she kicked me and struck out at me with her hands. I requested a mental health officer as I have had to do at least twice before, prior to getting her diagnosed and on meds. The operator asked if she was suicidal. I said not suicidal and, my mistake, I said maybe homicidal. However I am a lay person and it was said sarcastically in the heat of stress. The officers came and took my statement and those of my daughter and her 16-year old brother. They took photos. I kept stressing to the officers that this was a mental health issue and that I wanted her taken to a medical facility. I was previously advised by officers to do this if I thought it unsafe to drive her myself. Instead, the officer, with a smirk, kept insisting that he was mental health officer and he got to decide. He said his opinion was this was simply behavioral and not a mental health issue, in part because she was calmed down, still crying I think, but angry. I explained repeatedly that she had a diagnosed mental health condition, was on meds, and had not been eating well. I also explained that she'd just met with her mental health case manager and had a meltdown when she realized she would be losing her phone because of inappropriate social media usage. The incident occurred less than hour after the appointment, just after her dad dropped her off at home from the appointment. Three police cars and 3-4 officers were involved. I believe they sent a female officer to search her outside in front of neighbors. One officer that I spoke with appeared to only have been sent because of the homicidal comment. He left after I explained my misuse of the word and that it was said flippant without thinking sense I just saying this was a mental health issue. They arrested her, put her in display in front of neighbors in handcuffs, then drive off, taking her to [REDACTED]. An APD Victim Services



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officer came and spoke with me after they left with my daughter. I again explained the situation and explained that I only wanted medical help and assistance with transport for a mental health incident. I later got two calls from the mental health officer, I believe, telling me she through up in the police car and asking me if she'd hit her head. I told them I did not think so. The 2nd call was telling me she was being taken to the hospital on orders of the facility nurse for a possible concussion. He asked me to meet them at the hospital instead of as previously discussed at the [REDACTED] with her medication. I did so and spent about 2 hours there waiting and not seeing my daughter until she was being taken out. The officer did speak with me about the results and what would be next steps. I spent the night worrying about the physical and mental health of my child. My complaint: the officer should not have arrested my child. He should have transported her to a mental health facility for doctors or nurses to evaluate her, especially knowing she had a mental health condition and had just had a triggering event that led to her outburst. If this was proper protocol, then APD mental health officers need better training before being let loose on the public. This endangered my child's safety. I did not call to report a crime. I called for mental health assistance as instructed by law enforcement. This chills me and any other parent from trying to get mental health assistance knowing that their loved one could end up in jail, with a criminal record for a mental health issue. We are supposed to treat mental health sufferers, not criminally punish them for a mental health issue. I did not believe it was safe to transport her myself. Calling APD was my error. I will have to deal with the juvenile detention authorities because I called APD and APD's officer made the wrong call and he did si with no sympathy or compassion for a 14-year old experiencing a mental health crisis. To me, he was respectful, but he criminalized a mental health breakdown by my 14-year old. Would he have made the same call if we had not been African American? I wonder, but my gut tells me no. Report # [REDACTED]

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.