

JAMIE A. HUGHES
Chief of Police



JOSHUA R. LAYHEW
Patrol Captain

JEFFREY S. BASS
Police Major

WILLIAM R. BAKER
Detective's Captain

October 9, 2024

Matthew Jackson Sanders

Raleigh, NC 27606
(via certified mail)

Mr. Sanders,

The Selma Police Department makes it a top priority to ensure that all public interactions are conducted in a professional manner. I expect each of my police officers to carry themselves with the upmost professionalism, regardless of the citizens actions. With any citizen's complaint we take appropriate action and complete a thorough investigation into the allegations. I received your notification via email on September 20th, 2024, and reviewed the original video. Captain Layhew reached out to you on the same day requesting that a formal complaint be filed.

On September 25th, 2024, you filed an official Selma Police Department complaint form with our agency. I assigned an investigator to conduct an internal investigation into your allegations. I also asked two independent agencies to assist with this investigation. The findings are as followed:

- (1) **Officer attempting to delete the video:** While it is believed that the video was in fact deleted at some point during the traffic stop, it is unclear if the action was caused deliberately or unintentionally. The cell phone forensic data was inconclusive as to when, how, or if the action occurred. Nothing was found to substantiate these allegations.
- (2) **Treatment of citizens:** During the traffic stop Mr. Sanders was asked at least 14 times (counted on video) to exit his vehicle. The officer had probable cause to ask Mr. Sanders to exit his vehicle based on the odor of marijuana coming from inside. Mr. Sanders eventually complied to the officer's orders. While Mr. Sanders and the officer both continued to be argumentative, there were no policy or procedures found to be violated.

In conclusion, I would like to ensure you that the appropriate action is being taken in this matter. Because this is a personnel matter, I cannot comment on the actions taken or discipline.

Sincerely,

Jamie A. Hughes
Chief of Police