

**Statement of Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.**  
**November 9, 2005**

Last night I drove to the Blockbuster Video location at N. 61<sup>st</sup> St. and W. North Ave. in Wauwatosa to meet a friend and to give that person a DVD on non-violence that was produced by Time Warner Cable. I pulled into the store's parking lot and parked near the front door, in a well-lit spot with my lights on and with my license plate clearly visible to the people inside the store.

After a few moments I noticed that the store was closed, and at about this same time I noticed a Wauwatosa police car pull up behind me. An officer approached and asked me what I was doing and told me that someone had called from the store to report a suspicious vehicle. He told me that the workers at the store are sometimes jittery and call police if they see something they think is suspicious. He asked me to move along and then the squad pulled out of the parking lot. I opened my car door and looked directly into the store and directed a few blunt comments toward the workers, basically voicing my displeasure at them for calling the police without any provocation or reason at all. I was offended that the workers were basically insinuating that I was a robber eyeing the place up or waiting for a chance to rush in.

I then decided to leave and pulled my car out onto W. North Ave. After going about a block I was quickly pulled over by Wauwatosa police. An officer approached and told me I was being ticketed for disorderly conduct. He told me it was for the comments and the "disturbance" I caused in the Blockbuster parking lot. I told him that it would be ridiculous to ticket me for that, because I was not doing anything illegal and I was merely exercising my first amendment right to verbally defend myself and to let the workers know they shouldn't target people and call the police just because they think someone "looks suspicious." At that I was pulled from the car, handcuffed, and I was then struck with a closed fist on the side of my head (near my ear), and then my head was slammed against the front hood of the police car. A witness – a person I know but who I will not identify at this point – saw the police officer strike me and observed how I was treated, physically, by the officers.

I was taken to the police station, and after I told them I was a public official I was processed quickly and released. My car was towed to Brookfield.

First, I demand that Wauwatosa authorities suspend and/or fire the officers involved. The officers crossed the line by punching me and slamming my head against the car. I believe their actions would violate any reasonable code of conduct expected of sworn officers.

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Lastly, this incident happened to me but it isn't about me. It represents, I believe, just the tip of the iceberg. I want this incident to be the starting point of an inquiry that seeks justice for the many thousands of voiceless victims who have been pulled over and/or questioned in Wauwatosa and throughout the suburban communities for no reason other than they are black. I ask citizens this: How many times have you driven through Wauwatosa, Shorewood, New Berlin or some other suburb and seen police with a car pulled over that's driven by a black male? How much revenue do these communities generate from the tickets they write up on black people? How extensive is our intergovernmental cooperation with these suburbs, given the fact that our citizens and public officials of color cannot even drive on their streets without being pulled over and harassed?

These are the real issues and questions we need to address.

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