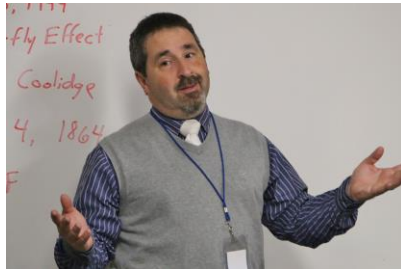


Testimony by Mark Stewart Greenstein re Hartford, West Hartford, and New Britain Police

I am prepared to testify tomorrow and hope you will give me the opportunity. Thank you for setting up the project. We all would like to have more transparency,



Mark Stewart Greenstein

I was born in Hartford, spent most of my boyhood in West Hartford, and have lived there, Farmington and New Britain for the past 20 years. I own property in New Britain and West Hartford that I rent out to tenants. My encounters with police include some calls about tenant misbehavior, one about someone who threatened a tenant, and one about a theft.

In every circumstance the officers were respectful to me. In every instance they were respectful to the tenant. I have tenants white black brown and "yellow", and have seen no differences in treatment. Indeed, what I witnessed is

- 1) caution - not to transgress
- 2) uprightness, to make sure nobody's rights are violated, and
- 3) non-involvement where appropriate

Indeed, the most disrespect for a citizen I have seen was directed toward ME. I wanted to have a tenant's room searched for illegal prescription drugs. The officer said "Sir, no, the tenant has rights and I am not going to violate them".

So while I am an anti-authority person, i personally have witnessed zero bad uses of authority by Hartford area police. Lest you think all is rose-colored in my world, let me say that is NOT the case with cops elsewhere. I lived in Berkeley California, on the same street as Kamala Harris did when she was was a girl, and there witnessed what looked like unjustifiably rough treatment. Even there, I cannot be the best judge of whether the perp was incoherent, or a deadly threat to the arresting officer.

I implore people here not do judge based on what they heard from another or even see about another. Base your account of what happened to you. I have interviewed men in Hartford about the treatment they have received. "He looked at me like I was.....", "he asked me if I knew....", "he pulled me over because", "He handcuffed my girlfriend who was"..... In every one of these instances these men go on to show that there was only a good faith attempt to

stop future crime and arrest wrong-doers. The only instance of a man telling me about a detention because he was black, happened nearly 25 years ago. That's in the previous century.

Please to not use one's thoughts about another's thought as an indictment. We should take action against true mis-deeds. Not guesses about an officer's thoughts.

Especially because MANY thoughts will go through an officer's mind during a single encounter. Most us can't even fathom their rapidity.

When on a call, a police officer has to make more decisions in 30 minutes than most of us make in a work week. And often these are life or death decisions. I'm a pretty resolute person, but I know i could not get through the physical and mental challenges of Police Academy training.

I greatly appreciate this accountability project, but hope the eventual decisionmakers are influenced only by actual personal testimony, and not innuendo.