



NYCLU

NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

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Internal Affairs Bureau
New York Police Department
P.O. Box 1001
New York, NY 10014

To Whom It May Concern:

We write today to submit a complaint on behalf of Stephen Cruz, a student at Robert Francis Kennedy High School in Flushing, Queens. Carlos Cruz, the father of Stephen Cruz, filed a complaint today in federal court alleging severe misconduct by School Safety Agent Daniel O'Connell, shield number 2816, who works at Cruz's school. According to the complaint, Agent O'Connell engaged in wholly unnecessary and excessive force that caused injury to Stephen Cruz, and failed to offer medical assistance to ensure the student's safety and wellbeing.

If the allegations set out in the complaint prove true, the Agent's actions constitute serious violations of the Fourth Amendment, NYPD Patrol Guide, Chancellor's Regulations, the Students' Bill of Rights, and the School Safety Agent Guide. School Safety Agents have important responsibilities to the communities they serve. Their duties include protecting the students and staff of the school where they are assigned as well as demonstrating concern for their rights, their bodily integrity, and their welfare.

We ask that the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB), the entity charged with investigating complaints of School Safety Agent misconduct, commence a full investigation into the behavior of Agent O'Connell and the potential violations of students' constitutional and statutory rights and protections afforded under the NYPD Patrol Guide and Chancellor's Regulations. If the allegations are substantiated, IAB must take immediate, decisive actions to ensure that such an event does not repeat itself. NYPD personnel working in schools must be fully educated on the law and policies affecting their work, and must be sensitive to their roles and responsibilities as members of educational communities.

Please contact Johanna Miller at (212) 607-3352 or jmiller@nyclu.org with any questions. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Johanna E. Miller
Public Policy Counsel