

March 15, 2010

## **ACRB Members**

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Chief George Turner Atlanta Police Department 226 Peachtree Street Atlanta, GA 30303

09-27 Complaint of Christine McDaniel RE:

Dear Chief Turner:

The Atlanta Citizen Review Board ("ACRB") completed its investigation and adjudication of a complaint filed by Christine McDaniel. Ms. McDaniel filed a formal complaint on July 23, 2009. She alleged that on July 18th and 19th she was falsely imprisoned by Detective Brian Anderson of the Atlanta Police Department.

Ms. McDaniel explained that she was stopped by the Alpharetta Police for a traffic violation on July 18, 2009. She was told that there was an outstanding warrant for theft and was arrested. On July 19th, the Alpharetta Police Department transported her to the Fulton County Jail. According to Ms. McDaniel, the Fulton County Jail would not accept custody of her because she did not have an active warrant in the system. The Alpharetta officers transported her to the Municipal Jail where she was not accepted as a prisoner because she did not have a green ticket. An unidentified Atlanta Police Officer then issued a green ticket and she was transported back to the Fulton County Jail because the charge was a felony. Ms. McDaniel complained to the staff and a staff member looked into the matter and round that the arrest warrant was invalid and arranged for her release.

Mr. Fenn Little was Ms. McDaniel's attorney for the original larceny charge. He claims that he went to the Zone 2 precinct and spoke with Detective Anderson on July 18, 2009. Detective Anderson investigated the original case. He explained his client's situation and presented documents that the matter had been nolleChief George Turner RE: 09-27 Complaint of Christine McDaniel Page Two

prossed by the Fulton County District Attorney on May 28, 2009. Mr. Little said that Detective Anderson told him that he did not give the prosecutor permission to nolle-pross the case and would not authorize Ms. McDaniel's release from custody.

Detective Anderson was interviewed and stated that he received a call from Fenn Little on July 18, 2009. Mr. Little explained the problem and he said that he tried to locate Ms. McDaniel on the computer system. He tried to contact the District Attorney's Complaint room to locate the ADA who was assigned the case. He attempted to contact him but there was no answer. He said that Mr. Little became agitated and demanded that he go to the Alpharetta Police Department and have Ms. McDaniel released from custody. He told Mr. Little that he had done everything he could to assist him and that he had no verification that he represented Ms. McDaniel. Later the same day, he explains that Mr. Little appeared at the Zone 2 office and he had another conversation with him. He denies that Mr. Little presented any of the documents and told him that there was nothing more he could do without speaking to the ADA assigned the case. The original warrant that was issued in August 2008 was never cancelled. It should have been cancelled on or about February 10, 2009 when the case was dismissed. This resulted in Ms. McDaniel's arrest on July 18, 2009. This warrant should have been cancelled by the Fulton County Sheriff's Office.

Detective Anderson's version of the incident differs from Mr. Little's version of what occurred at the Zone 2 office. For this reason, the ACRB recommends that a finding of **Not Sustained** be assigned to the allegation of **False Arrest**.

As you know, the ordinance requires the Chief of Police to consider the Board's recommendations and respond in writing regarding which recommendations are accepted, rejected, or will be implemented with modifications within thirty days.

Sincerely,

Joy Morrissey Chair

cc: Mayor Kasim Reed Council President Ceasar Mitchell Members of City Council