

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: INTERACTIONS WITH URBANA POLICE OFFICERS

Encounters with police officers can sometimes be intimidating and confusing. Most of us rarely talk to or answer questions from an officer and communications can be difficult under stress. While the following guide is not intended to provide legal advice, the text below contains some ideas you may want to consider. A little thought before a contact can help you feel more calm and in control, resulting in a better outcome.

When you encounter an Urbana Police Officer, you should expect the Officer to:

- Clearly identify him or herself as an Urbana Police Officer
- Treat every citizen with courtesy and respect regardless of race, color, class, national origin, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or any other classification
- Follow proper police procedures
- Follow all federal, state and local laws

Remember that the first couple of words said to the Officer may establish a tone for the entire interaction so be calm, courteous and respectful in voice and action.

Pedestrian Stops

If you are approached by an Urbana Police Officer while on foot, the Officer expects that you will:

- Remain calm
- Not walk or run away when the Officer approaches you
- Keep your hands where the Officer can easily see them and avoid putting your hands in your pockets
- You are encouraged to answer the Officer's questions. However, you have the right to remain silent.

If you wish to walk away, ask if you are free to go. If an Officer says you are not free to go you may not. At this point you are possibly being detained or arrested.

You may ask that a police patrol supervisor be called to assist in your contact. Please understand however that a supervisor may not be immediately available. If not, you will be contacted by the supervisor at a later time.

Traffic Stops

If an Urbana Police Officer initiates a traffic stop, the Officer expects that you will:

- Remain calm
- Slow down, pull over to the right, and stop in the nearest safe, well lit area
- Roll down your window
- Remain in your car with both hands on the steering wheel
- Wait for the Officer to approach
- Remember that the first couple of words said to the Officer may establish a tone for the entire interaction so be calm, courteous and respectful in voice and action
- Follow the Officer's directions (which may include providing license, proof of insurance and possibly vehicle registration)

Right to File a Complaint

If you believe an Urbana Police Officer has behaved improperly, please remain calm and follow the Officer's direction. You will have the opportunity to file a complaint later. Examples of improper behavior include:

- Use of discourteous or demeaning language
- Improper stop, arrest or search and seizure
- Racial profiling or discrimination
- Misuse or abuse of authority
- Unnecessary or excessive force

The Urbana Civilian Police Review Board (UCPRB) was established by the Urbana City Council to provide a fair and independent process for the review of citizen complaints concerning sworn police officers. If you have concerns, questions or suggestions about your interaction with an Urbana Police Officer, or wish to file a complaint, contact the UCPRB c/o the Urbana Human Relations Office, 400 S. Vine Street, phone (217) 384-2466 or email hro@urbanaininois.us

