



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

500 WEST MADISON ST., SUITE 1475  
CHICAGO, IL 60661-4544

REGION V  
ILLINOIS  
INDIANA  
IOWA  
MINNESOTA  
NORTH DAKOTA  
WISCONSIN

July 29, 2014

Mr. Charles Schultz  
905 Lavender Drive  
Savoy, IL 61874

Re: FOIA# 14-01670-F


Dear Mr. Schultz:

On July 1, 2014, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received your written request for materials. We consider your request to be a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In your request, you asked OCR to provide you a copy of the complaint associated with OCR complaint # 05-14-1289. You also agreed to exclude from your request personally identifying information, the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

OCR's policy under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 5, is generally one of full disclosure limited only by the exemptions delineated therein. We have responded to your request for documents according to those provisions and have enclosed a copy of the documents you requested, which total two (2) pages. The privacy exclusions to which you agreed are marked "Nonresponsive" on the documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Frazer, at (312) 730-1653.

Sincerely,

  
Dawn Matthias  
Team Leader

Enclosures

*Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.*  
—Aldous Huxley

During the 2005-2006 school year, Champaign Community School District #4 launched a police in the school initiative, in partnership with the City of Champaign, termed School Resource Officer (SRO). Leaders of both public bodies are well-meaning people. The issue before us is not discriminatory intent, but rather it is discriminatory impact.

It is my contention that the Champaign School District and the City of Champaign SRO has a clear and irrefutable discriminatory impact on African-American students, and therefore violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations.

#### Timelines and Statistics

Sources: Champaign schools, Champaign police (N.B. Champaign police provide partial statistics for the 2005-2006 school year.) On June 8, 2014 the News-Gazette published Champaign School District SRO arrest statistics. They are telling—and incomplete.

From school years 2006-2007 through school years 2013-2014: 417 students were arrested. Three hundred fifty-seven were African-Americans. Of the 417 total arrested, 85.6% were African-American. The average percentage of African-American students enrolled at Champaign School District K 7-12 schools where the SRO primarily operates: 34.2%.

“In the program’s eight year history, police have arrested nearly eight times more black students compared to white students.” *June 8, 2014 News-Gazette*. The *June 15, 2014 News-Gazette* editorial notes: “The overwhelming numbers of those arrested are black.”

The aforementioned statistics are compelling and suggest that African-American student arrests are a product of racial profiling.

As a parent, public official and retired educator, I have a long history of supporting initiatives that keep our kids safe while they are at school. By way of observation, I have learned that SRO initiatives reduce the fear of crime, particularly when there is a racial imbalance between school staff and students. But it would be unprofessional to state other findings because neither the Champaign School District nor the City of Champaign has ever conducted an independent assessment or evaluation of its SRO initiative.

Our children must be protected. All of them. They are not miniature adults. Public organizations must not condone racial discrimination in order to further their objectives.

Respectfully,  
Nonresponsive  
Nonresponsive  
Nonresponsive

Cc: Stakeholders  
Press  
State legislators

U.S. Department of Education  
Chicago Office  
Office for Civil Rights  
Citigroup Center  
500 West Madison Street, Suite 1475  
Chicago IL 60661-7204

**Re: Civil Rights Complaint against  
Champaign Community Unit School District #4**  
703 South New Street  
Champaign IL 61821  
(217) 351-3800

**City of Champaign**  
102 North Neil Street  
Champaign IL 61821  
(217) 403-8700

**Complainant**

Nonresponsive

Date of Complaint  
June 17, 2014