

Billy Broussard Testimony Before LSP Oversight Committee: January 24, 2022

Good morning:

I very much appreciate the opportunity to address all of you this morning, and I simply want to draw attention to the fact that LSP Troopers are starting to claim our public roadways as their own property.

I know you are all familiar with the Antonio Harris matter where the troopers bragged via text of how he would never want to cross the state line from Mississippi again after he was beaten very badly with the troopers openly bragging of the severity of that beating via texts.

I'm appearing before you today to say that I too have experienced a trooper feeling like the public roadway belongs to him. Now, thank God my driver was not beaten, and I'm certainly thankful that he is alive, unlike Ronald Greene.

Nevertheless, LSP Trooper Scott Lopez saw one of my drivers driving down Duchamp Road, a public road, and passing his house in the process. Trooper Lopez pulled out of his driveway where he was at home even though he reported being on the clock, chased after my driver and, despite the fact my driver was committing no violation whatsoever, Trooper Lopez said to him, "You better not drive down my road again if you know what's good for you."

Now, Trooper Lopez did not activate his body camera for this encounter with my driver, and that seems to be a major problem at State Police with troopers selectively deciding when they'll turn on their body cameras and when they won't. I know that was a major problem entailing the Ronald Greene arrest.

I'm so thankful that, on September 10, 2021, LSP Col. Lamar Davis openly appealed to members of the public who encounter troopers not acting in an appropriate manner to file a complaint. I followed the guidance of Col. Davis, and I'm hoping my complaint won't just fall on deaf ears.

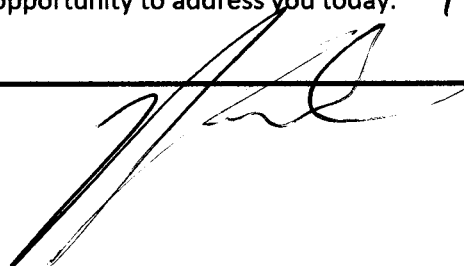
Trooper Lopez followed up his encounter by amassing a mob to show up at the January 6, 2022 meeting of the St. Martin Parish Planning and Zoning meeting and, during that meeting, Trooper Lopez repeatedly falsely accused me of acting illegally on my property. In fact, Trooper Lopez basically took over the entire public meeting and started calling upon various people from the audience to come up and testify against me. When Trooper Lopez completed his own testimony, he even used profanity directed at me in the public meeting.

Fortunately, unlike Trooper Lopez failing to activate his own body camera when he pulled my driver over, all of his commentary about me was captured on video and will be submitted to LSP Internal Affairs as part of a separate complaint. It's my hope that it too will not fall on deaf ears at State Police.

So, I just want to emphasize that the citizens of Louisiana have a serious problem entailing State Police somehow believing that they, as individual troopers, own public roadways and can determine who can and cannot use those roadways, and I hope that legislation is enacted to impose severe penalties for such conduct by troopers in the future. Thank you again for the opportunity to address you today.

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Billy Broussard



1-24-22