

## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Lt. Sean Aardema <saardema@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2018 2:04 PM  
**To:** Christina Hallingse  
**Subject:** Report  
**Attachments:** CAD Report.pdf

Lieutenant Sean Aardema  
Professional Standards Section  
Asheville Police Department  
Phone: 828-259-5791  
Fax: 828-250-8856  
[saardema@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:saardema@ashevillenc.gov)

## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Mike Horgan <michaelvhorgan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2018 1:26 PM  
**To:** Tammy Hooper  
**Subject:** Re: Johnnie Jermaine Rush

Thank you for the reply. I'm glad to hear that there are steps being taken.

Thank you as well for your service.

On Thu, Mar 1, 2018 at 10:30 AM, Tammy Hooper <[thooper@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:thooper@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for your email. The acts demonstrated in the video are unacceptable and contrary to the Department's vision and the progress we have made in the last several years in improving community trust. It is the policy of the Asheville Police Department to review all instances of use of force, and to take swift and immediate action upon any officer who uses unwarranted or excessive force. The officer responsible for this act is no longer employed by the Asheville Police Department and a criminal investigation is underway that will be submitted to the District Attorney to determine appropriate charges.

Chief Hooper

On Thu, Mar 1, 2018 at 10:08 AM, Mike Horgan <[michaelvhorgan@gmail.com](mailto:michaelvhorgan@gmail.com)> wrote:

There are too many things about the incident with Mr Rush that are beyond my comprehension.

How did your officers allow Jay Walking to escalate to that kind of treatment of someone heading home from work? He didn't seem to be bothering anyone or causing any kind of a nuisance.

I don't know how many parking lots or god forbid empty streets I've cut across over the without fear of retribution because I assume people will grant that I've got some common sense. Maybe though, I can just assume that because I'm white.

Should I now start expect the same treatment for myself, my family my friends, and my colleagues for something as minor as jaywalking? Probably not because most of the people I know are white skinned like me.

I see white drunk people careening all over the road on Haywood and in Downtown and have never once been issued a jay walking ticket, nor do I know anyone who has been issued a jay walking ticket in the 19 years I've been in Asheville.

Though I doubt it will come to bear, I hope Hickman is at least stripped of his job if not subject to further punishment. What an embarrassment this incidence is to your department and our city.

I can't think of a better caricature of a racist southern police officer than the video recording your department needs to answer to the community for. I hope you do so with equity, justice, expedience, and your role as community servants in mind.

Mike Horgan

Asheville NC

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Tammy Hooper  
Chief of Police  
Asheville Police Department

## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Christina Hallingse <challengse@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2018 11:28 AM  
**To:** Ashley Traynum-Carson  
**Subject:** Re: DRAFT Statement

Yes, in 2017 all police employees received mandatory training in de-escalation. The training is called ICAT (Integrating Communication, Assessment and Tactics).

On Thu, Mar 1, 2018 at 11:25 AM, Ashley Traynum-Carson <[atraynum-carson@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:atraynum-carson@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:  
Working on Gary's statement-can I say all police have received de-escalation trainings?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 1, 2018, at 9:40 AM, Christina Hallingse <[challengse@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:challengse@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Christina Hallingse <[challengse@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:challengse@ashevillenc.gov)>  
Date: Thu, Mar 1, 2018 at 8:50 AM  
Subject: DRAFT Statement  
To: Tammy Hooper <[thooper@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:thooper@ashevillenc.gov)>

Chief,

My idea is to share the post from the Citizen-Time's to our Facebook page with your statement above. Same on Twitter. In addition post the statement on the current threads on AC-T, WAX and Asheville Politics. Let me know your thoughts and any edits to the statement.

**Statement from Chief Tammy Hooper:**

The acts demonstrated in this video are horrible and unacceptable, and not indicative of the practices and policies of the Asheville Police Department. The community trusts our officers to protect all our community members, and to not abuse the authority they are vested. This video exhibits a misuse of this authority. It is the policy of the Asheville Police Department to review all instances of use of force, and to take swift and immediate action upon those officers who use unwarranted or excessive force.

Immediately following this incident, Officer Christopher Hickman's police powers were immediately suspended and an administrative investigation was launched. In addition, we have begun a criminal investigation into this matter. Officer Hickman is no longer employed with the Asheville Police Department.

I would like to personally apologize to the victim, Johnnie Rush, and to the community for the actions depicted in this video.

Thank you,



Christina Hallingse  
Asheville Police Department  
Public Information Officer  
(O): [828-259-5881](tel:828-259-5881)  
(C): [828-230-4471](tel:828-230-4471)

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Thank you,

Christina Hallingse  
Asheville Police Department  
Public Information Officer  
(O): [828-259-5881](tel:828-259-5881)  
(C): [828-230-4471](tel:828-230-4471)

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Thank you,



Christina Hallingse  
Asheville Police Department  
Public Information Officer  
(O): 828-259-5881  
(C): 828-230-4471

## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Tammy Hooper <thooper@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2018 10:43 AM  
**To:** Ryan Anderson  
**Subject:** Re: Please take Officer Verino Ruggiero off the streets.

Thank you for your email. The acts demonstrated in the video are unacceptable and contrary to the Department's vision and the progress we have made in the last several years in improving community trust. It is the policy of the Asheville Police Department to review all instances of use of force, and to take swift and immediate action upon any officer who uses unwarranted or excessive force. The officer responsible for this act is no longer employed by the Asheville Police Department and a criminal investigation is underway that will include a thorough review of the entire incident and all involved. Once completed, it will be submitted to the District Attorney.

Chief Hooper

On Thu, Mar 1, 2018 at 10:10 AM, Ryan Anderson <[r.c.anderson@me.com](mailto:r.c.anderson@me.com)> wrote:  
Chief Hooper,

When I pull up the APD website, the first thing I read is the following:

"The City of Asheville Police Department is dedicated to providing public safety and maintaining order and enforcing the laws of NC, upholding the US Constitution and enhancing National Security."

This morning I watched Officer Hickman's [body cam footage shared by the Citizens-Times](#). I am completely outraged that an officer under your supervision would treat an Asheville citizen this way. Hickman was not acting in the interest of public safety. He was simply being a bully to Johnnie Jermaine Rush. Rush was not a threat to National Security. This sort of action by any officer should not be tolerated. I'm happy to hear Officer Hickman is off the streets. Please continue the investigation into his criminal actions.

I also urge your department to investigate the actions of Officer Verino Ruggiero. I do not feel safe with him on the streets. Please calm my mind and tell me he is no longer in active duty. If his job is to provide public safety, he has failed miserably. He should have stepped in and protected Rush, a citizen of Asheville, from being beaten by Hickman. I fear Officer Ruggiero will cause further harm to our citizens in the future.

If there are other officers involved in this incident that were not named in the Citizen-Times article, they should also be investigated.

Thank you for your continued service.

Best regards,  
Ryan Anderson  
Asheville, NC

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Tammy Hooper  
Chief of Police  
Asheville Police Department

## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Tammy Hooper <thooper@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2018 10:29 AM  
**To:** Stevie Alverson  
**Subject:** Re: police brutality in asheville

Thank you for your email. I agree with you. The acts demonstrated in the video are unacceptable and contrary to the Department's vision and the progress we have made in the last several years in improving community trust. It is the policy of the Asheville Police Department to review all instances of use of force, and to take swift and immediate action upon any officer who uses unwarranted or excessive force. The officer responsible for this act is no longer employed by the Asheville Police Department and a criminal investigation is underway that will be submitted to the District Attorney to determine appropriate charges.

Chief Hooper

On Thu, Mar 1, 2018 at 9:49 AM, Stevie Alverson <[smalverson@gmail.com](mailto:smalverson@gmail.com)> wrote:

As a resident of Asheville, I am extremely concerned about the video I watched this morning of an Asheville Police Officer assaulting a black man for jaywalking. The escalation was completely unnecessary and I hope to see justice served and transparency of the actions coming forth to all of the citizens of Asheville. I understand that the officer has resigned, but that is NOT enough. He should be charged with assault and reparations (including a PUBLIC apology) should be made to Johnnie Rush.

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Stevie Alverson

"Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough."  
Franklin D. Roosevelt

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Tammy Hooper  
Chief of Police  
Asheville Police Department