

From: Doug Frank <dougf14@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Plaza, Thomas <ThomasP@townoffrisco.com>
Subject: Praise for one of your officers

Officer Plaza,

I wanted to recognize you for the cordial and pleasant way you handled my traffic stop last week. For that reason I wrote the following email to your Police Chief, Thomas Wickman. Since I seem unable to find his email address on my own could I trouble you to forward on this email to him for me?

Many thanks,

Doug

Dear Police Chief Thomas Wickman,

I wanted to take a moment to let you know about an encounter I had last week with one of your officers, Thomas Plaza. He pulled me over for exceeding the speed limit and the experience was, remarkably, delightful.

To appreciate how this might be possible it would be helpful to explain what happened that evening:

My wife, her sister and I flew from Los Angeles to Boulder to attend our son's wedding. We allowed ourselves an extra day after the wedding to enjoy some of the sights of Colorado before making the flight home. The three of us decided to spend that day visiting Breckenridge. So we made the drive and found the ski town so enjoyable that we didn't begin the return trip until around 9 pm.

At that hour there were few cars on the road and our drive went smoothly. The drive took me through the town of Frisco. While there I noticed a white SUV with green stripes running along its side driving at a speed that seemed much too slow for that section of the road. In that particular stretch of road there are two lanes heading in each direction and the white SUV was in the left lane while I was in the right. So I made the decision to overtake the SUV instead of matching the SUV driver's speed. I didn't travel much faster than the SUV but I still passed it. As I did so I noticed that words were printed along the right side of the SUV and it was then that I realized that I was passing a police vehicle. (In Los Angeles patrol cars don't look anything like those in Frisco. LA patrol cars are generally black and white). It was in that moment that I knew I had made a mistake.

I turned to my wife, who was oblivious to what had just happened, and told her with a laugh, "I just passed a cop!" I laughed because there was only one realistic outcome for a mistake of this sort. Having no justification for passing a police officer on the road I would be pulled over and cited. I had resigned myself to this fate.

Sure enough, I was pulled over. I immediately rolled down my window and pulled out my driver's license. When officer Plaza walked up to my window I again laughed and explained that I had no idea I

was passing a police car and then told him how I broke the news to my wife and sister-in-law. Office Plaza saw the humor in the situation and shared a genuine laugh with us too. He explained that he had to pull me over, if for no other reason, to at least see if I was driving under the influence of alcohol or some drug. I assured him I wasn't and he was comfortable with my answer. To cover his bases officer Plaza called in my license information. He returned shortly thereafter and good-naturedly handed back my license to me. He told me he wasn't citing me and cautioned me to be more vigilant during the remainder of my drive.

While I greatly appreciate his not citing me that's not the reason I'm writing about him to you. I'm writing because throughout our entire encounter he was friendly, pleasant, and relatable. In a cultural moment when a lot of undue criticism is being heaped on members of the law enforcement community I wanted to take this moment to let you know your officer left us with an extremely favorable impression, and our experience with him is one we'll be recounting with our friends and acquaintances for many years to come.

Thank you for creating an environment where officers like Thomas Plaza are given the flexibility to show their human side. It's genuinely and enormously appreciated.

Sincerely,

Doug Frank