

If You Think You've Experienced or Witnessed Police Misconduct

Pay attention to the details of the location or the address of the encounter. Look at the ways to identify the officer, such as name, badge number, or physical description: race, gender, age, height, etc. The number on a patrol car or its license plate also can help identify an officer.

Ways to File a Complaint

About Detroit Police: File a complaint with the Board of Police Commissioners. The Board's Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) investigates complaints about police officers or other DPD employees who violate DPD policy or procedures.

By Phone: **313-596-2499**

Online: **www.detroitmi.gov/BOPC**

- If police injured you, seek medical attention immediately then photograph your injuries.

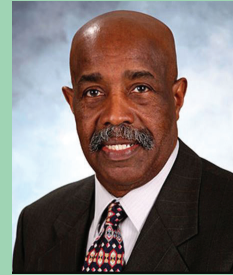
OCI does not handle complaints about officers committing crimes. OCI must refer complaints alleging criminal acts to the DPD Professional Standards division to investigate.

About Michigan State Troopers: File a complaint with the Michigan State Police Professional Standards Section, contact **517-284-3278**, **MSPIA@Michigan.gov** or visit **www.michigan.gov/msp**.

Other Police Officers: The ACLU of Michigan is a resource for complaints about violations of civil liberties by police officers. Visit **www.aclumich.org** or call **313-578-6800**.



About Police Commissioner Willie E. Bell



As a law enforcement professional and civil rights leader, Bell has been dedicated to justice, fairness, and equity in society and in community policing. He became a Detroit police officer in 1971, helped form Concerned Police Officers for Equal Justice, and served as Midwest and National Chairperson of the National Black Police Officers Association. Before his retirement, he helped oversee community complaints filed about DPD. He also has been a board member for the NAACP Detroit Branch and the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement.

To reach Police Commissioner Bell or the City of Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

313-596-1830

bellw4bopc@detroitmi.gov

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www.detroitmi.gov/BOPC

WHAT TO DO IF A POLICE OFFICER STOPS YOU



What you say and do during a police encounter can impact how the situation progresses and whether it escalates into an incident that takes up more time or negatively affects you.

IMPORTANT TIPS FROM
Police Commissioner
WILLIE E. BELL

TIPS: What to Do if a Police Officer Stops You

- **Cooperate.** Pull your vehicle over right away and turn on the dome light. If you have tinted windows, roll them down.
- **Stay calm.** Be polite, and respectful. Do not argue even if the officer is wrong because it can make things worse.
- **Keep your hands visible at all times.** Do not reach anywhere. If you fidget or put your hands in your pockets, the police officer may suspect that you are reaching for a weapon.
- **If you are a licensed pistol holder, let the officer know immediately** and tell where your firearm is located.
- **Turn your music down** immediately.
- **Documents:** Always carry your ID, driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance. Make sure documents are up to date.

What You Need to Know About Police Authority

The police are allowed to approach people and ask for information when there's a reason for doing so. An officer has the right to stop you or to detain you if he or she has a reasonable suspicion that you are committing, have committed or are about to commit a crime.

- During that stop, if an officer reasonably believes you have a weapon, he or she is permitted to frisk or pat down your outer clothing.
- If the officer feels an object and reasonably believes that it could be a weapon, the officer is allowed to reach into your pocket to check the object.
- Physical Conduct – Never touch an officer, never resist, and never run, even if you are afraid or the officer is mistaken. To do so will make it worse, leading to criminal charges.

A stop is NOT an arrest. If the police stop or detain you, they may gather evidence during the detention to arrest you.

Your Rights

We all have Constitutional rights that protect us during police encounters.

- **Right Against Unreasonable Searches and Seizures** (4th Amendment). You can tell the officer, "I do not consent to any search."
- **Right Against Self-Incrimination** (5th Amendment). Remain silent. Be quiet. Any statements you make can be used against you in court. You can state, "I do not want to make any statements until I talk to my attorney."
- **Right to Legal Assistance** (6th Amendment). You have the right to an attorney.