

Notice of Claim

CITY CLERK

Now comes, Lucien P. Leja, **Pro Se**, an individual resident of the State of Maine, residing at 112 Mechanic Street, Westbrook, Maine and Pursuant to Title 14, Part 7, Chapter 741, Sec 8107, files the following complaint.

Statement of Events

1 On 10 February 2009 a City of Portland Health Inspector did an inspection of my coffee shop, located at 222 St John St, Portland, Maine 04101. Towards the end of his inspection he asked my opinion regarding a date code on a refrigerated item. I responded and included a harsh criticism of his, *attitude*, and *abilities*. His response was, "If I say it is so, then it is." At this point, I told him I do not pay the City for attitude and demanded he leave. Without hesitation he left the store without incident and said on his way out, that he would close me down. I have been at this location for 17 years. For the record, two people in my kitchen is a crowd, and this inspection was not within my regular business hours.

2 On 12 February 2009, the very same City Health Inspector arrived at my place of business, during business hours, this time accompanied by a female supervisor and two armed Portland Police Officers. She proceeded to introduce herself and without hesitation and without asking my side of the story she began accusing me of a physical assault upon the health inspector during his recent visit. I responded that this is absolutely not true. I also included that if this alleged assault actually occurred that the police would have been called that very same day to investigate.

3 We continued a discussion regarding this matter for the better part of 20 minutes as the city health inspector did his job and the Portland police officers and supervisor loomed over me. During this time I told the supervisor that I was very intimidated by the police and fearful of them.

4. At no time did I feel I was free to stand and move about my own store. I felt as if I was taken hostage and felt forced to agree with everything she said, in fear of reprisal from the daunting police presence. Also, I believed I was not free to meet and greet my customers as they came and went, which was extremely embarrassing.

CITY CLERK

2009 FEB 17 P 1:34

5. Upon seeing the police, a friend passing by, Susan Haskell Correa came in and sat with me and witness most of the inquisition. Susan is a Social Worker and is very knowledgeable of good and bad behavior. She later told me she believed the female inspector was trying to antagonize me.

Nature of Injuries

6. There is a clear disparity in power between a 61 year old owner of a coffee shop with heart disease working part time and two city officials and two Portland police officers used for a routine inspection. This imbalance of power was used to intimidate and harass me for reasons unknown and reasons discussed, thus giving cause for this action. I was made to suffer and continue to suffer, **Mental anguish** and **Emotional distress** and have suffered unknown loss of business and business reputation.

Monetary Damages

7. Unspecified.

Dated at Westbrook, Maine this 12 day of FEB 2009 and respectfully submitted.

Lucien P. Leja
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Cc: Tammy Munson
David Marshall
City Clerk ✓