

While in the left lane, Officer Hall came quickly onto George's bumper and stayed there. George slowed down and changed lanes, and then Hall pulled alongside him on his left, turned on his dome light, and started making obscene gestures towards the George's.

Bryan George then exited at Co. Rd. 17, and Officer Hall went past the exit, slowed down, stopped and then backed up on the freeway and exited at Co. Rd.17 to continue to follow them. He then turned west on Co. Rd. 17, and observed that the following vehicle was behind another vehicle on the ramp which had also exited there. George stated that if the suspect vehicle turned left on Co. Rd. 17 to follow him, he would call 911, which is what he did.

After Bryan George turned north on Falcon Ave., Officer Hall caught up to him and again began tailgating him. As this continued, Officer Hall moved over into the opposing lane of traffic and positioned himself just off George's left rear bumper, in what George described as a "pit position." George stated he was concerned that the driver of the car possibly had a gun, because of "how times are, you know."

Officer Huset told me that Lisa George's story did not differ from that of her husband. Lisa George stated she definitely saw Officer Hall give them "the finger" after turning on his dome light.

Officer Huset stated he found both Bryan and Lisa George to be credible. He did not think that either Bryan or Lisa George had been drinking or were under the influence of any kind of drugs during the incident.

He did not think that Bryan George did anything to antagonize Officer Hall, such as slamming on his brakes, blocking him in, or preventing him from getting past.

Officer Huset stated he believes he recommended additional charges of disorderly conduct to the Chisago County Attorney's Office after he learned further details of the event during his follow up interviews with Bryan and Lisa George the following day, but was not sure if the County Attorney added that charge to the case.

Statement of Deputy Puelston

On 12-19-2012, I took a recorded statement from Chisago County Deputy Kyle Puelston regarding this case. That interview is summarized below:

Deputy Puelston told me that he was working on the date and time of the incident and responded to a call for service to back up a North Branch Police Officer who had been dispatched to a call where a suspect vehicle was tail-gating, flashing high beams, and driving aggressively while following the caller.

He arrived just as the NBPD officer was stopping the suspect vehicle, which matched the description giving of the following vehicle. He approached on the passenger side of the

suspect vehicle, and stated that when Officer Huset started speaking with the driver, later identified as Jeff Hall, Hall stated "I work for the Minneapolis Police Department."

Deputy Puelston said that Hall was wearing a light blue shirt, uniform pants and a civilian coat which was unzipped.

Deputy Puelston recognized Officer Hall's face, as he had met him approximately 1 1/2 years ago after Officer Hall had gone into a ditch. On that occasion, Deputy Puelston told me that Officer Hall held out his Minneapolis ID badge before he got up to the vehicle to talk to him. He did not cite Hall in this incident, and did not want to answer when he was asked if he thought alcohol had been involved.

Deputy Puelston told me Officer Hall did not present a badge or a police identification card to Officer Huset during the stop. He said that Officer Hall told Officer Huset that he was a police officer first, and did not see Officer Hall present a driver's license at any time during his interaction with him.

Deputy Puelston stated he observed an unholstered Beretta 92F 9mm handgun laying on the front passenger seat of Hall's car, which he recovered and secured in his squad after clearing a round from the chamber.

After doing this, Deputy Puelston went to the other vehicle and conducted a preliminary interview with the George's. He stated that he knows the George's in passing as they deliver newspapers to a gas station they stop at frequently around 0300 hours.

The specifics of the driving conduct by Officer Hall have been documented elsewhere in this report, and will not be repeated here. Deputy Puelston stated that he found the George's version of events to be credible, and that he had no reason to doubt their veracity.

He said that he did not observe any indications about the person of Bryan George to indicate he had been drinking, or was under the influence of substances.

After finishing with the George's, Deputy Puelston returned to Officer Huset, where they discussed the facts known to them and decided it would be appropriate to cite Officer Hall for careless driving.

The officers additionally discussed the possibility that Hall was intoxicated. Officer Huset indicated that he did not smell the odor of alcohol on Officer Hall, but did smell the strong odor of mouthwash, gum or an air freshener with some kind of a mint flavor. They did not think they had sufficient probable cause to perform field sobriety tests on Officer Hall.

He stated Officer Huset asked Officer Hall if he would be willing to submit to a PBT, and that Hall refused to do so.