

provided a conclusive answer other than he was "following the vehicle and was going to turn off and go home."

Officer Huset also asked Hall why he wouldn't have called law enforcement to make a complaint instead of following the complainant's vehicle, and stated Hall "had no reasonable explanation for what he was doing."

During this time Deputy Puelston had interviewed the George's, and learned the specifics of the driving conduct by Hall. He conveyed this information to Officer Huset, and the officers conferred on the appropriate enforcement action. Officer Huset issued Hall citation #7491 for MN Stat. 169.13, subd. 2, Careless Driving, and advised him of his court date of 01-08-2013, at 0830.

Officer Huset reports that it was his suspicion that Hall had been drinking, due to his "sweating" and "chewing gum profusely", but he did not think Hall was over the legal limit. He asked Hall if he would be willing to take a PBT, and Hall stated he did not want to. Officer Huset then cleared the stop.

On his next shift, Officer Huset went to the George's home and took statements from Bryan and Lisa regarding the driving conduct by Officer Hall. That interview is summarized below:

Bryan George stated he was travelling northbound in I-35 north of Stacy, south of the Co. Rd. 17 exit. He had pulled into the left lane to pass a semi and suddenly noticed a car with one headlight right on his bumper. He attempted to get around the semi, but was up to 80 mph and didn't want to go any faster than that, and the other car was still right on his bumper.

George stated he slowed down, changed lanes and got behind the semi in order to exit. While he was doing this, the other car started flashing high beams at him. This vehicle pulled alongside him and began motioning to him, but he couldn't really see what the driver was doing because he was concentrating on his driving.

George wanted to make his exit at Co. Rd. 17, so he braked and changed lanes to the right to enter the ramp. As he did so, Lisa George stated she saw that the driver had his dome light on and was giving them "the finger" and shaking his finger at them. They described the driver as being older, with possibly grey hair.

As they exited, they observed that the other car passed the ramp, stopped, and then backed up on the freeway to the exit to follow them onto Co. Rd. 17.

At that point, Bryan George told his wife that if the car followed them west on Co. Rd. 17, he would call 911. The car did turn left to continue following them, despite there being another car which had exited behind them and in front of the suspect vehicle. George stated he called 911 at this point.

After travelling a short distance westbound on Co. Rd. 17, the George's turned north on Falcon Avenue, and stated the other car closed the gap and got back on their bumper.

As they progressed north on Falcon waiting for law enforcement to arrive, the suspect vehicle pulled over into the opposing traffic lane and placed his bumper at their rear quarter panel. By this time, the George's were fearful that the driver of the other car possibly had a gun, or by the placement of his vehicle, that the driver planned to execute a "pit" maneuver and knock them off the road.

A short time later, Officer Huset arrived in his unmarked squad, followed by Deputy Puelston and both vehicles were stopped.

Chisago County Sheriff's Office Report

I also requested squad MVR video from Chisago County Sheriff's Department Patrol Supervisor Sgt. Steve Pouti, who checked and advised me that the responding officer, Deputy Kyle Puelston, activated video en route to the call but at the stop selected flashers only, so there is no video or audio of the traffic stop.

Deputy Puelston's police report is summarized below:

He stated that he assisted NBPD on an aggressive driver who was following the complainant. He reported that the driver of the suspect vehicle was an off duty police officer, and that the officer's service weapon was on the front passenger seat.

The driver of the suspect vehicle was identified as Jeff Allen Hall. The vehicle Hall was driving was [REDACTED] 13.43.

Deputy Puelston stated he removed the weapon, cleared it, and secured it in his squad car while officers spoke with the driver.

The complainant/driver of the other vehicle was identified as Bryan Leroy George, 36024 Falcon Way, North Branch, MN 55056, DOB 7-20-1967. George was driving [REDACTED].

Deputy Puelston reported that he spoke with Bryan George, who told him he was travelling northbound on I-35 in the left hand lane and was passing a semi, when the suspect vehicle came up quickly behind him and began tailgating him. George said that he did not want to go over 80 mph to pass, so he slowed down, changed lanes to the right, and exited at County Road 17.

George said the suspect vehicle passed the exit, stopped on the freeway, backed up, and began following him off the interstate. During this time, Officer Hall was flashing his high beams, tailgating, and at one point used an obscene gesture towards him.

Deputy Puelston was dispatched at 0333 hours and cleared at 0401 hours.