

SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT
RESPONSE TEAM

Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2018-030

Referral from

Halifax Regional Police

August 12, 2018

Felix Cacchione
Director
March 4, 2019

On August 12, 2018 at approximately 7 a.m., SiRT was contacted by Inspector Matthews of the Halifax Regional Police Service regarding the complaint of an alleged theft of money from a limousine driver, the Affected Party (AP), by the Subject Officer (SO) an on-duty Halifax Regional Police Officer.

An investigator from SiRT together with two RCMP members from the Southwest Nova Major Crime unit attended police headquarters to conduct the investigation. Ultimately, however, the assistance of these two RCMP members was not required. A video from the onboard dash camera in the AP's vehicle was reviewed. The SO was interviewed and after having consulted with counsel, provided a cautioned statement admitting to the theft.

Facts:

On August 18, 2018, at approximately 1:25 am., the AP was stopped for speeding by the SO. The AP did not have a certificate of insurance for the vehicle he was driving nor did he have his driver's license in that vehicle. The SO returned to his police vehicle to prepare the Summary Offence Tickets. As he was preparing the tickets, the SO saw the AP exit his vehicle and begin praying in front of his vehicle. The SO left his vehicle and approached the AP who told him that he wanted to say his morning prayers. The SO told the AP to return to his vehicle which the AP did. Moments later the SO returned to the AP's vehicle and told him that he could continue his morning prayers in a safe location away from potential traffic. The AP then exited his vehicle and went to a grassy area away from his vehicle and the roadway to continue his prayers.

While the AP was praying, the SO returned to the AP's vehicle and removed a wallet containing several hundred dollars in fare and tip money from the center console. The SO returned to his police vehicle, removed \$425 from the wallet and then returned to the AP's vehicle where he replaced the wallet in the center console.

The AP returned to his vehicle after he had finished praying and was given various Summary Offence Tickets by the SO. After the AP left the area, he received numerous telephone calls from the SO, most of which he did not answer. He did, however, have two conversations with the SO who told him that he had made a mistake on one of the tickets and needed to meet with the AP to correct the error. The AP arranged to meet the SO but decided not to after he reviewed the onboard camera recording and realized that some of his money was missing.

The AP went to the airport, explained the situation to a police officer who was on duty there and was told to go to police headquarters which he did. He spoke to some officers and showed them the video recording. The SO was arrested five hours after he stopped the AP for speeding. The SO was read his Charter rights, given the secondary police caution and afforded the opportunity to consult with counsel. The SO, after consulting with counsel, provided a statement in which he admitted the theft. The SO consented to a warrantless search of his personal motor vehicle and told the investigator where the stolen money was located. The money was recovered.

On August 22, 2018 the SO was charged with theft. On October 29, 2018 the SO entered a guilty plea to the charge. The sentencing was originally scheduled for January 30, 2019 but adjourned to April 30, 2019.