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December 29, 2009

Sgt. Christie Wood
Coeur d'Alene Police Department
3818 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

Dear Christie:

As you are undoubtedly aware, I was involved in a situation of mistaken identify on December 23rd. My purpose in writing is to represent to you as I have to Mike Gridley that the action of the five city police officers was proper given the circumstances.

As has been my practice for a number of years, I came to the office sometime between 5:00 and 6:00 in the morning. Until about 8:00 o'clock in the morning, I am the only one in this bank.

The downstairs door next to the drive-by window is always closed and locked, but every so often it doesn't quite close and stays ajar ready to open.

The police heard a burglar alarm set off in the building right about 7:00 a.m. They were able to open the door. They came in and came upstairs by the elevator and were in a state of high alert.

As it happened, I had my office door open, but I was in the restroom at the time they arrived on the second floor. I heard loud voices which was surprising since nobody else is usually there that early. When I opened the restroom door they thought I was the burglar. I was wearing cutoff jeans and a sloppy shirt and certainly didn't look professional.

The events occurred of which you are aware. In retrospect, I thought it reasonable that they would think that someone coming out of the restroom had been hiding. With no one else in the building, that person could be the only one setting off the alarm.

It was a most interesting experience. I am at an age where nothing very exciting ever happens and this certainly was a memorable event.

Also in retrospect, it was rather complimentary that someone in my condition walking only with a cane was thought physically capable of robbing a bank.

The tragedy of what happened to four policemen in western Washington and then again two others plus the increase of crime in this area, undoubtedly puts a state of high tension on your officers. I would rather have them make a mistake of fairly harmless nature, than that they be exposed to what has happened to others. We know from other reports that advanced age is no assurance that the elder is not carrying a gun.

Yours truly,

Scott W. Reed

SWR:kgb

cc: Mike Gridley