



Homeland
Security

January 18, 2011

Edward Hasbrouck
1736 Franklin Street, 9th Floor
Oakland, California 94612
edward@hasbrouck.org

Re: Complaint No. 11-01-DHS-0044

Dear Mr. Hasbrouck:

The Department of Homeland Security's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) received your complaint on October 21, 2010. Thank you for contacting us with your concerns. CRCL reviews and assesses information concerning abuses of civil rights, civil liberties, and profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, or religion, by employees and officials of the Department of Homeland Security.

The issues you raise are very important to us, and we would like to inform you how your complaint will be processed by this Office. Initially, we will send your complaint to the DHS Office of the Inspector General for review. If the Inspector General declines to accept the complaint, it will be returned to CRCL for an appropriate response. Once CRCL opens a formal complaint, either we or the appropriate DHS component will conduct an investigation into your concerns. CRCL will contact you with the anticipated course of investigation for your complaint and will ultimately notify you of the outcome.

Please be advised that our complaint process does not provide individuals with legal or procedural rights or remedies. Accordingly, CRCL is not able to obtain any legal remedies or damages on your behalf. Instead, we use complaints like yours to find and address problems in DHS policy and its implementation. If you believe your rights have been violated, you may wish to consult an attorney. There may be time limitations that govern how quickly you need to act to protect your interests.

If you have not already done so, please provide CRCL with your complete contact information, including a phone number, e-mail, and mailing address if available. You may contact CRCL by email at crcl@dhs.gov, by facsimile at 202-401-4708, by phone at 866-644-8360, 866-644-8361 (TTY), or by mail at the following address:

Department of Homeland Security
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Compliance Branch
245 Murray Lane, SW
Building 410, Mail Stop 0190
Washington, DC 20528

For additional information about CRCL's roles and responsibilities, see our website at <http://www.dhs.gov/crcl>.

If you are filing a complaint on behalf of an individual, please provide CRCL with the express written consent of the individual if you would like to be informed about the resolution of this complaint. When communicating with CRCL about this matter, please include the complaint number noted at the top of this letter. Thank you again for contacting the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Communications like yours are essential to our ability to carry out our role of supporting the Department's mission to secure the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law. We look forward to working with you to address your concerns.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey S. Blumberg
Director, Compliance Branch
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Privacy Act Statement

Under 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) is authorized to investigate complaints and information from the public about possible violations of civil rights or civil liberties related to DHS employees, programs, or activities. A federal law, called the Privacy Act, says we must explain how we protect your information while processing your complaint. CRCL may disclose certain information from your complaint if we are required by law to do so or if there is no privacy impact. For example, we send reports to Congress every three months about complaints submitted by the public. Those reports describe the types of complaints, and do not include personal information. To read our past reports, go to www.dhs.gov/CRCL. To learn more about the Privacy Act, go to the Federal Information Center, www.pueblo.gsa.gov.