



 A photograph of Peter Jay Gould, a police officer, wearing a dark blue uniform with a badge that reads 'P. GOULD'. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is dark with some street lights visible.

Presented by
PETER JAY GOULD

- Stamford Special Police Officer since 1979
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Management
 - *Summa Cum Laude*, Colorado Technical University
- Graduated top of Special Police Academy Class, August 1980
- Certified by the Police Officer Standards & Training Council (POST) as a Connecticut municipal police officer
- Joined Park Police Unit in 1981
- Served as special assistant to Chief of Police John T. Considine, 1984-1987
- Currently serves as liaison to Parks & Recreation Commission
 - Preparation & updating of enforceable Park Regulations
 - Appears before Commission at hearings on permit-related issues
- Adjunct Professor, Norwalk Community College

"WHAT ARE PARK POLICE?"

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**Park Police are Stamford
Special Police Officers**

3

“Sworn members of the Police Department”

City of Stamford Charter, Sec. C5-40-2(b)

4

“Special police shall be appointed by the Police Commission and shall have all the powers of the regular police in the apprehension and arrest of criminals, and in the service of process within the limits of the city.”

City of Stamford Charter, Sec. C5-40-2(b)(2)

5

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Same Police Powers Different Priorities

Regular Police

- Citywide Law Enforcement
- Prioritized by severity of incident
- Focused on most serious issues
 - Violent Crime
 - Gang Activity
 - Other Threats to Public Safety
- Most parks issues are low-priority
 - Response dependent on availability
 - Limited time for low-priority issues
 - Not specifically trained in Park Regs

Park Police

- Focused on Law Enforcement in Parks
- Prioritize Quality of Life issues
- Trained in Park Regulations
- Proactive presence
- Complaints involving parks receive immediate, focused response
- Emphasize “soft” enforcement
 - Most citizen encounters are advisory
 - BUT: Can take immediate police action when needed (cite/arrest etc.)


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Park Police routinely enforce these laws

- Traffic laws (speeding, stop signs, traffic lights, drunk driving, etc.)
- Breach of Peace, Disorderly Conduct, Threatening, Assault
- Loud Music
- Unleashed / uncontrolled dogs
- Hard liquor; beer after 9:00 PM
- Glass containers
- Misuse/counterfeiting of park permit
- Refusing to stop for gate agents in parks requiring permit
- Failure to obey lifeguards and other safety personnel (a citable offense)
- Unpermitted commercial operations in parks
- Unauthorized boat launchings
- Unpermitted events / field use / violating terms of city permits

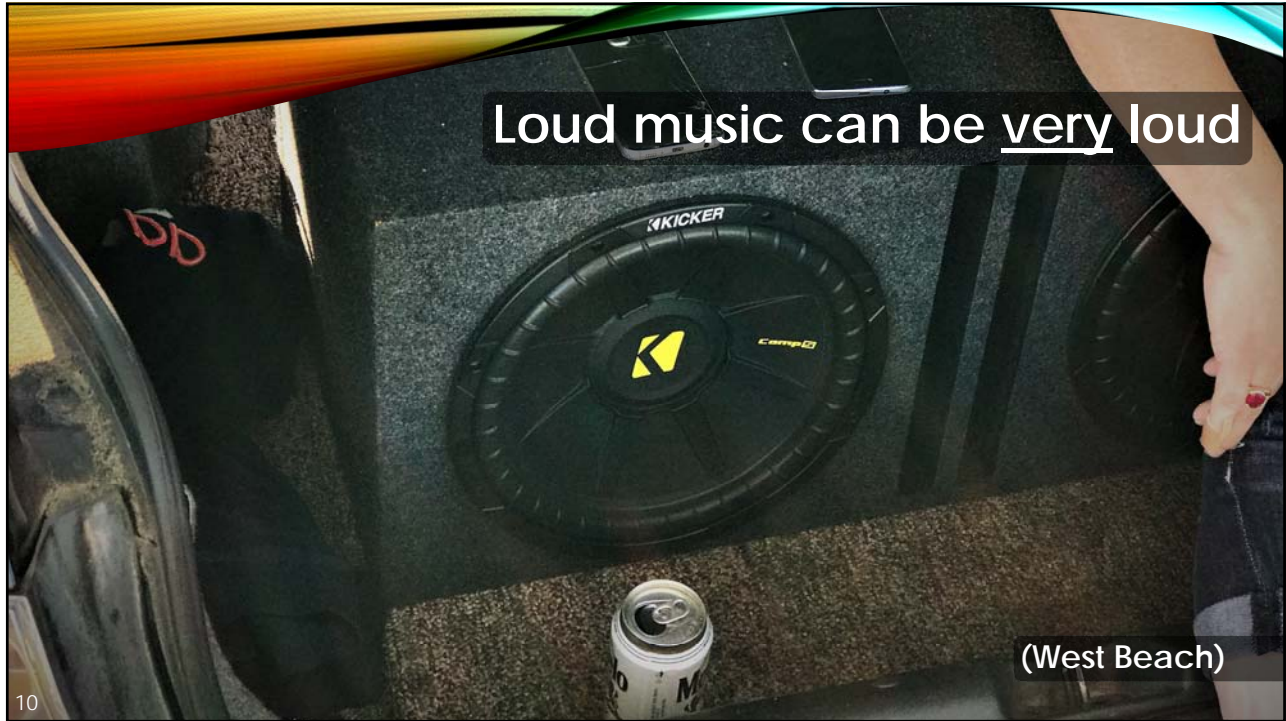
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The permit for this event was stamped **NO AMPLIFIED MUSIC** in large red letters.

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Homeless Encampments A Growing Problem in City Parks

(Cumings Park)

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Anyone who says Park Police should be "seasonal" . . .



Anyone who says Park Police should be "seasonal"... hasn't been visiting the parks.

(Cummings Park)

22



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(Cummings Park)

23



With small children on sleds come adults in cars, bringing traffic and parking issues.

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Without traffic control, cars double and triple park, and small children dart out from between the parked cars.

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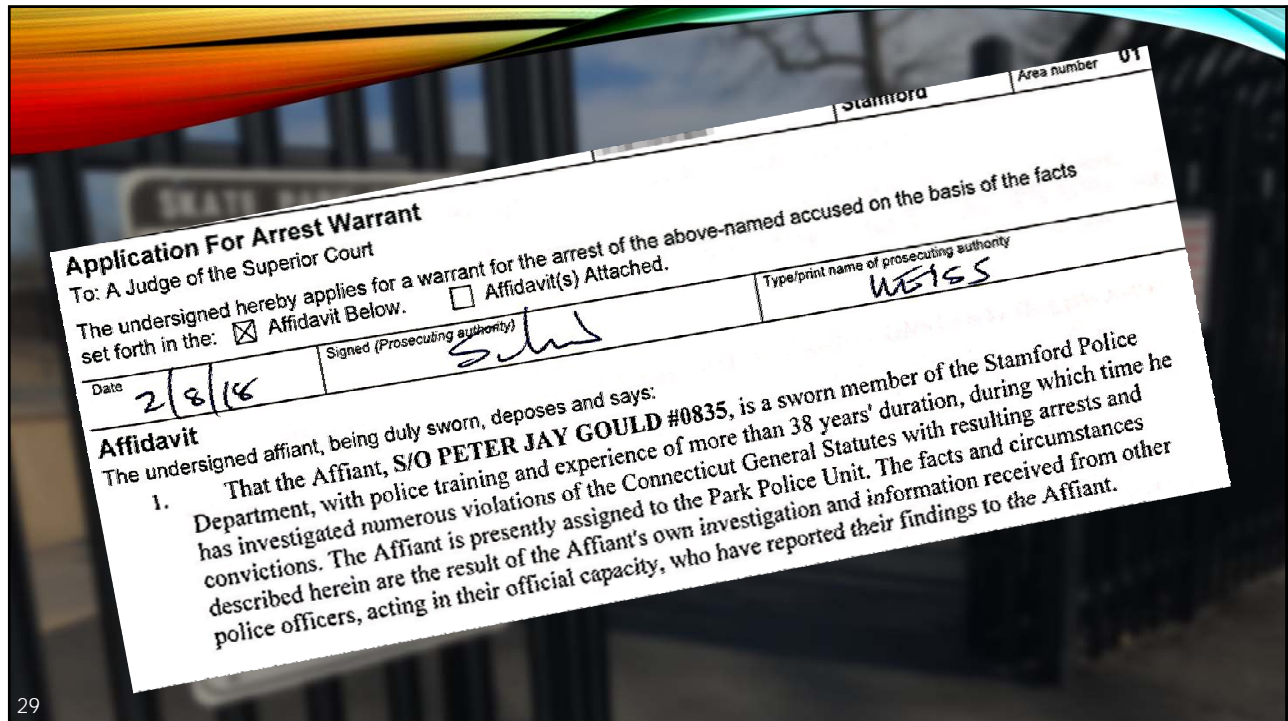
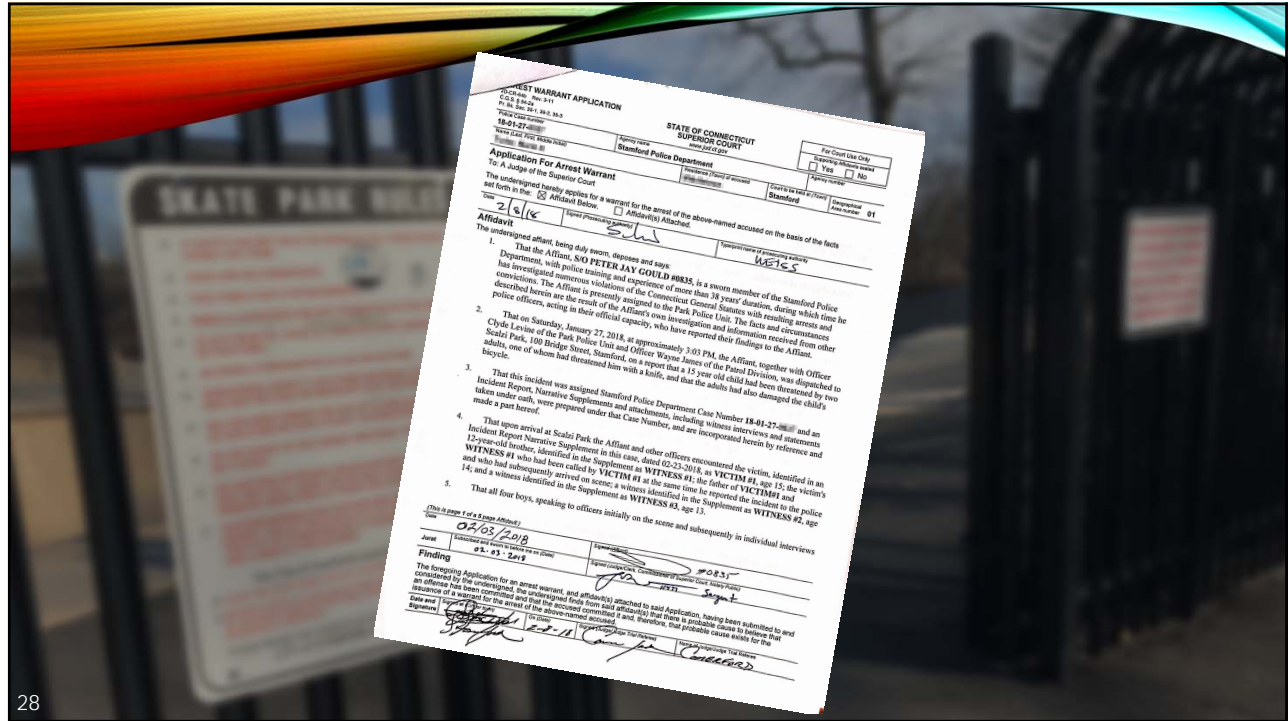
(Scalzi Park)

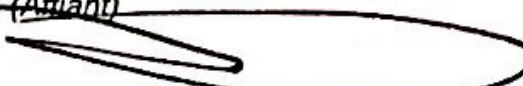
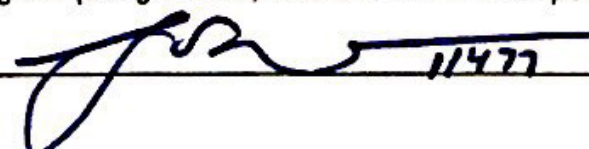
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January

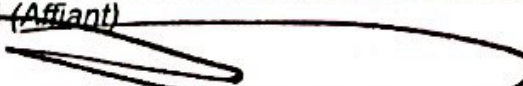
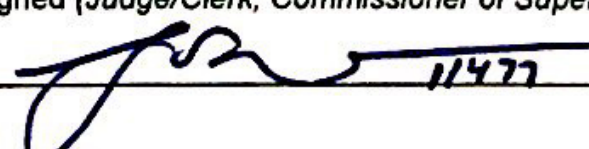
- Two adults were unlawfully riding bikes in skate park.
- Group of children playing nearby (11-15 years old).
- Adults got annoyed at one of the children.
- Chased child across the parking lot toward Cubetta.
- Both adults vandalized the child's bicycle.
- One of them threatened child with a knife.
 - Stabbed the front tire of the child's bicycle.
- Adults fled in a car; Park Police investigated.

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Signed (Affiant)		#0835
Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public)		11477 Sergeant

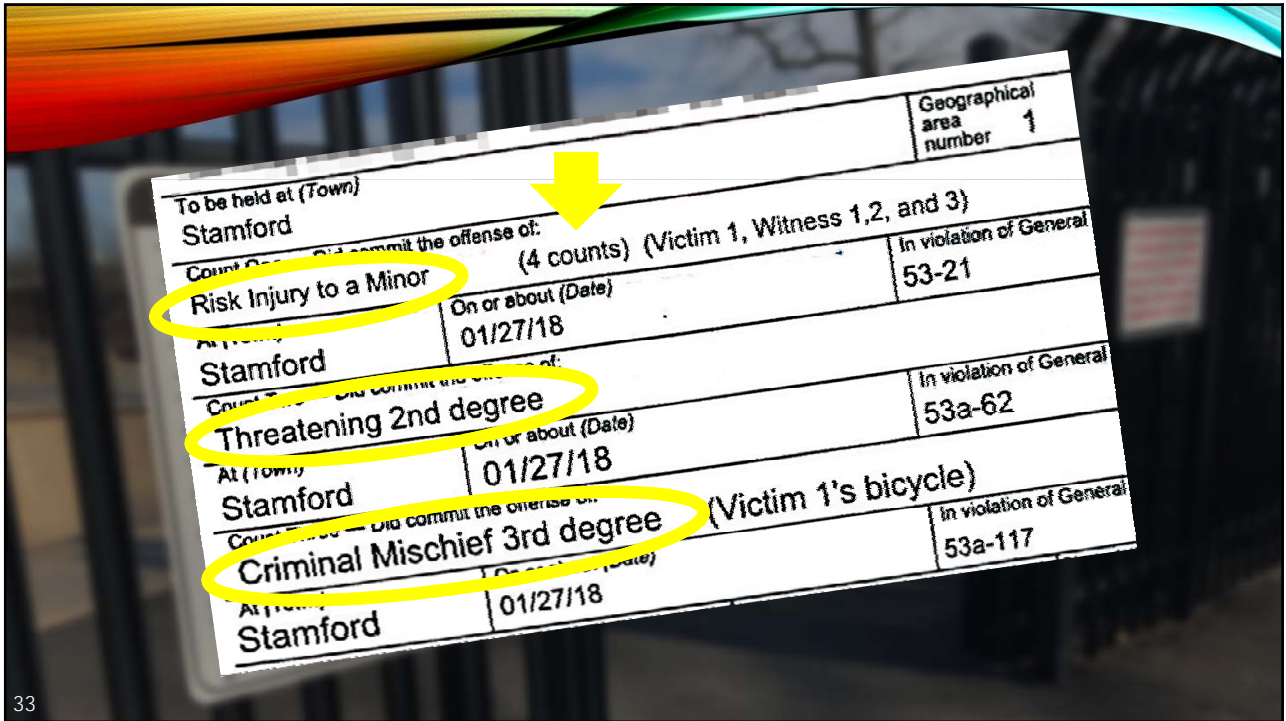
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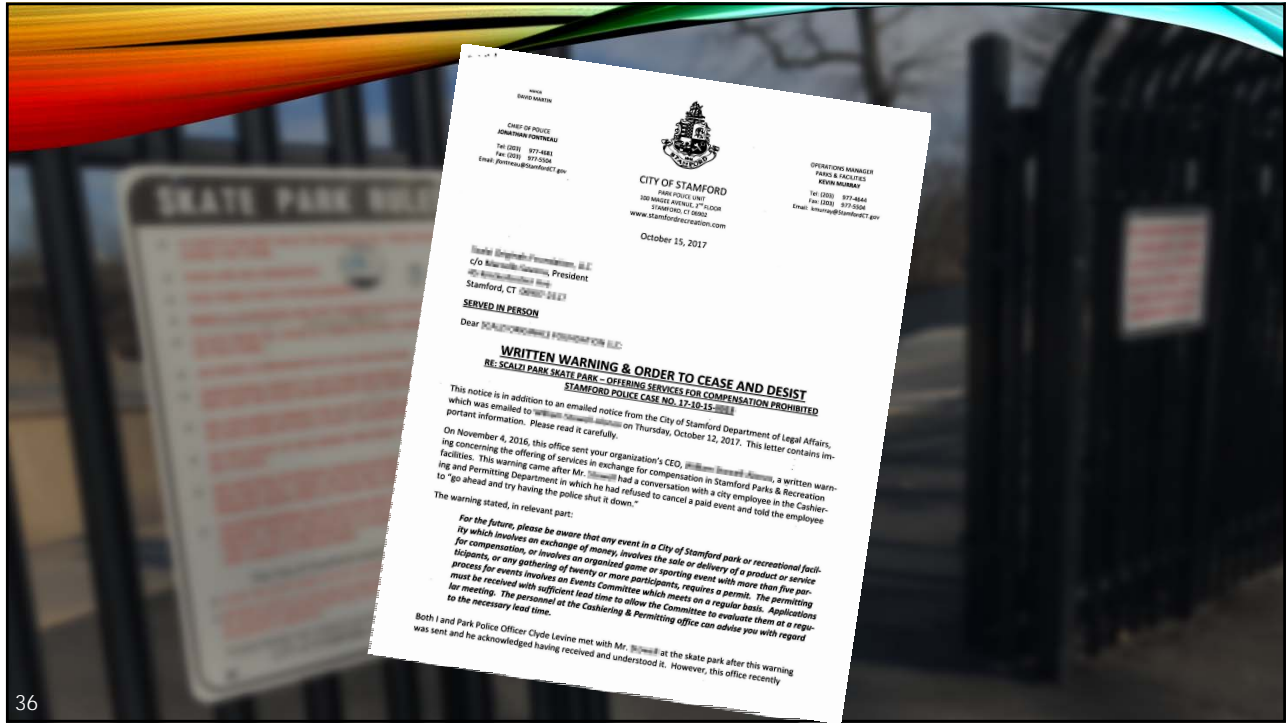


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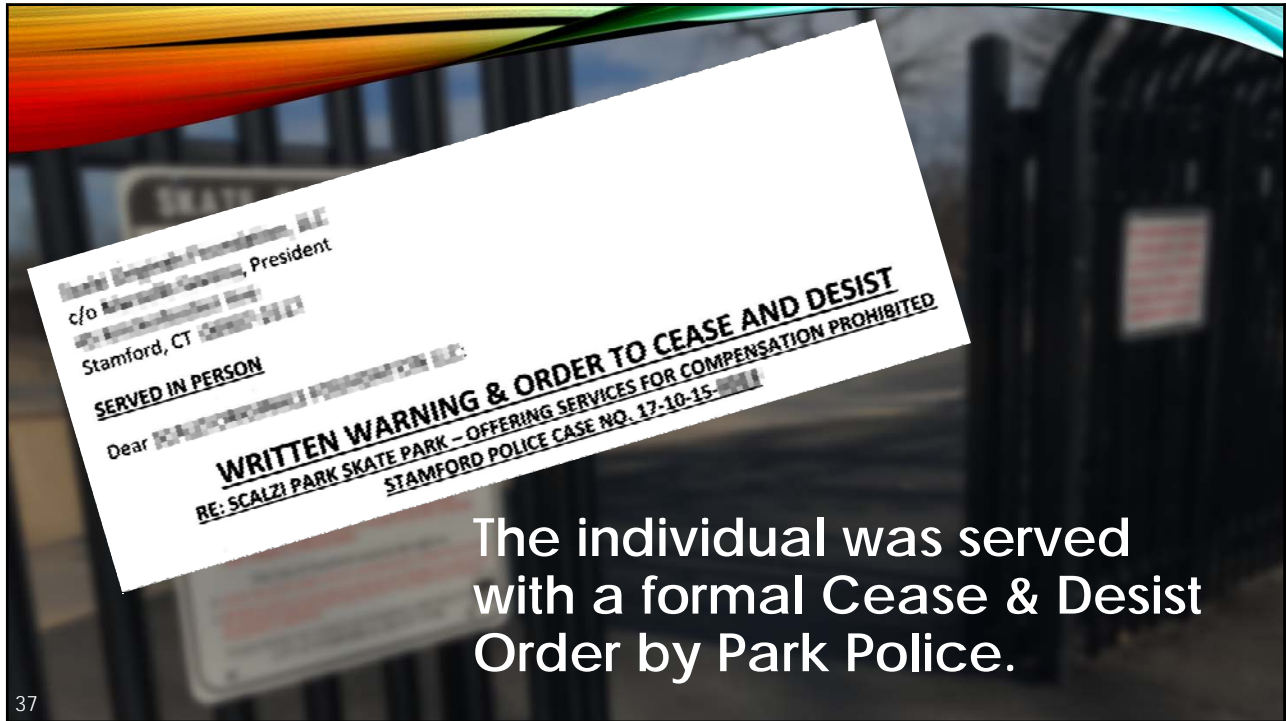
October

- An individual formed a small business and began to charge a \$250 fee to offer skateboarding lessons in the Scalzi Skate Park.
- He had no permission to do this from the City of Stamford, no permit, and no insurance.
- He refused all administrative efforts to get him to stop.
- He was belligerent to Parks staff.
- Park Police were assigned to investigate.

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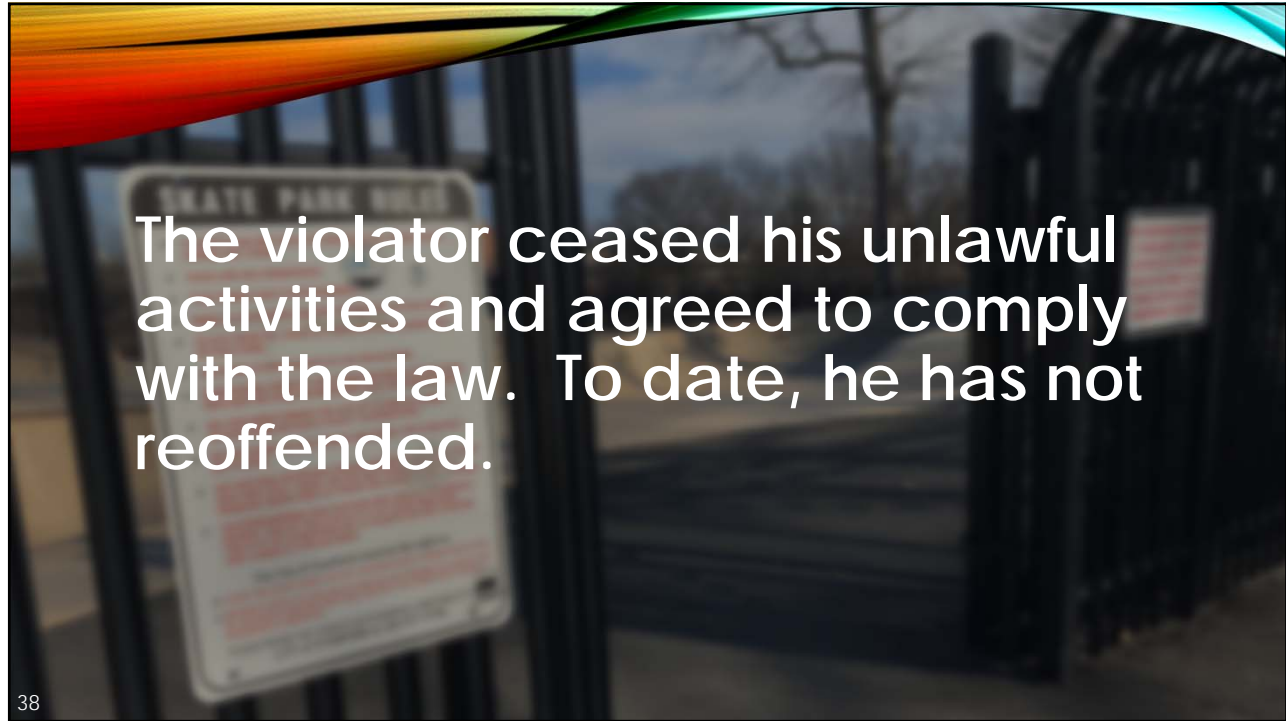


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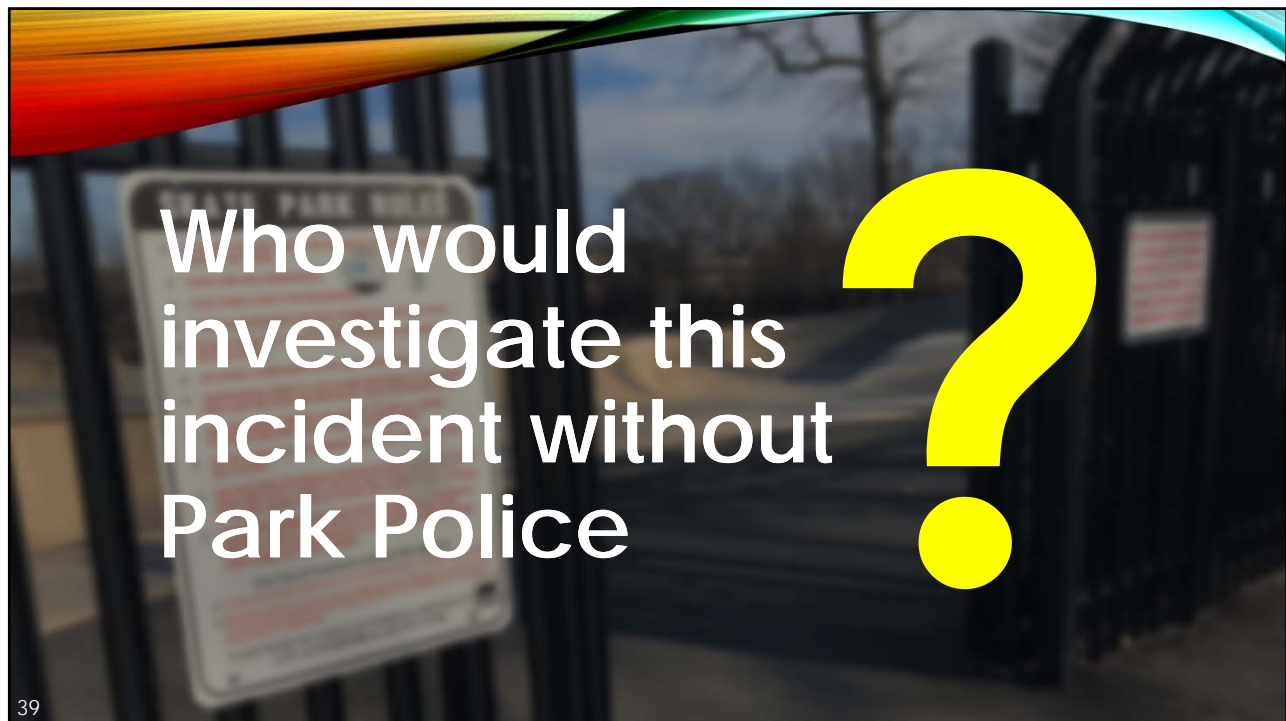


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The individual was served with a formal Cease & Desist Order by Park Police.



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Current Status

- Park police dropped in staffing from about thirty in the 1980s to three by the Spring of 2017 due to neglect.
- In early 2017 we were still providing 7-day coverage.
- When Park Officer Frank Green suddenly passed away in 2017, Park Police were reduced to two officers.
- Park Police are no longer covering 7 days per week.
- There are qualified, experienced officers interested in joining the Park Police, but only on a permanent part-time basis.

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Security / "Ambassador" Programs

- Security guards or "Ambassadors" have no powers of arrest; no ability to enforce traffic or other laws.
- Not equipped to stop a crime in progress.
- Cannot compel a violator to produce identification.
- Cannot "hold" a violator for police.
- Cannot conduct investigations or solve problems.
- Routinely ignored by public / violators.
- In many cases, could be in physical danger from some of the people Park Police deal with.

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Park Ambassadors Already Failed

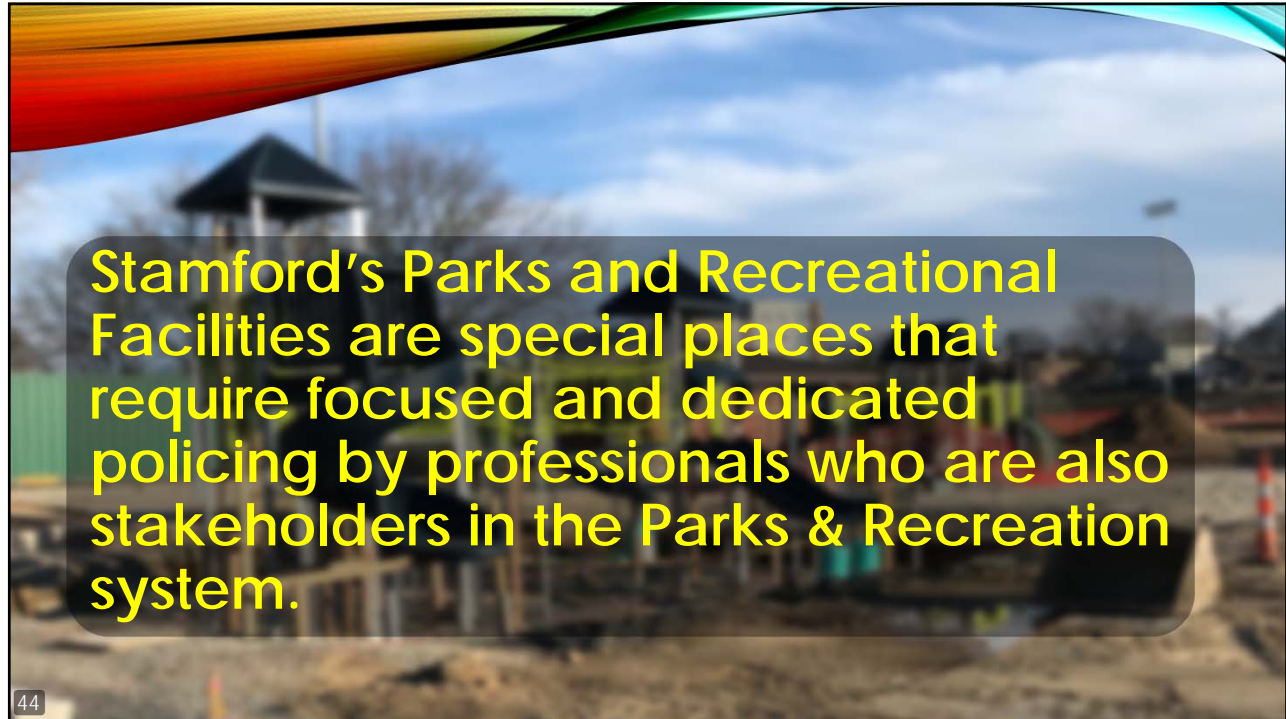
- A "Park Ambassador" program was attempted during the Malloy Administration circa 1999.
- Its personnel were primarily assigned to Cove Island and Cummings Park for safety reasons.
- "Ambassadors" were roundly ignored by the violator population – to the point of being jeered at.
- Employees became demoralized and stopped making any effort; they became paid spectators.
- The program was disbanded after one season.

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Our Parks are a Fragile Resource

- Parks are only attractive when visitors feel safe and their visit is enjoyable (no drugs/noise/problems).
- Unsafe or unpleasant surroundings drive good people away. When this happens, bad actors take over and the community loses control of a park.
- Once a park is lost, it is hard to reclaim.
- Some facilities (Lione, etc.) are already at severe risk.
- Entrusting safety, security, and quality of life to those who are not trained or empowered to safeguard them would be disastrous. **Don't let this happen.**

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