

From: Ginger Hurst
Sent: 3/10/2015 8:29:45 PM
To: ACLU Ation; Alice Mascio SCDC; oig,; Janine Wrecsics
Regional Clinical Director; Michael McCall; Haley, Nikki; Wentworth,
Patty; Smith, Jamal
Cc: Ginger Hurst; Wolo.com eyewitnessnew; WLTX.com
News19; Wjbf Talback6; Wistv.com countonwis
Subject: Trying to help inmates has turned in to an extreme
reaction by Officer

Please forward copy to:

Warden Cohen, Ridgland CI
Associate Warden Burton
Inmate Grievances
Michael McCall
Bryan Stirling

John Springer, 294365, request to speak to Warden Cohen concerning the problems stated below.

March 9, 2015 I sent the email below in good faith. This has turned into a crisis of which lacks common sense, logic and was handle in such a manner to cause problems that should have never happened. If someone had simply gone to John Springer and told him he could not have over 10 magazine and that he had to pick the ones he wanted to keep and removed the others, would have been the sensible thing to do. No, Lieutenant Washington had to cross the line, go over board and out side of policy in has actions. Was Office Washington ordered to take such extremes actions? If so, who was behind this extreme behavior? Why wasn't John Springer given a list of everything taken out of has room by Washington, per policy? Why was John's roommate moved out and no one else but it.

On the afternoon of March 8th an officer went in John Springer's Ridgeland and took picture of the magazine related in the email. This afternoon Officer Washington went into John Springer's room and did not just search it but trashed the room. His actions were EXTREME to say the least.

Account by John Springer, 294365

At about 3:15 this afternoon Lt. Washington came in my room and ORDERED me to unlock my locker and step out of the room. Sgt. Doe accompanied him. They both being searching my room. Doe had brought a milk crate with him so it was obvious they were planning to take stuff. Washington took all of my magazines and put them in the crate. He then started putting various pieces of property and canteen items that I had purchased. When I asked him what the problem was and why he was taking things that belong to me, such as my typing paper that I need to prepare my legal work, he demanded that I produce a receipt for it. I have over two years of receipts and have purchased typing paper several times. I could not find the one for that particular item so he took it. There is no policy that requires an inmate to keep their receipt once they are clear of the canteen. By taking my stuff Washington committed theft. He also is required to inventory any items he takes that he believes are contraband. Policy requires it be done on a standard inventory sheet and a copy of it be given to the inmate. Washington refused to do either. When I asked him why he took my Porta-pro head set he claimed that I did not have on but he had it right there in the crate he was holding. He left my room in shambles and was absolutely unprofessional. In fact, he was nothing but a bully about the whole thing. He refused to speak to me and slammed and locked the sally-port door in my face. It was obvious to all that he derived great pleasure from doing this to me.

I have sent many email regarding problems with Office Washington. NOTHING, and I mean NOTHING, has ever come of any complaint. John has reported on the systems about problems he and other inmates had regarding Officer Washington. Every answer from Major Gary Eichelberger is , "See your doom Lieutenant". The complaint is about the doom Lieutenant!!! Eichelberger, months ago, suggested that Washington and Springer sit down with him and figure out the problem. Eichelberger never followed though.

Moving John Springer to Georgetown or Charleston dorm, away from Lieutenant Washington would seem a reason request. Beaufort is the bad dorm, if John were to be moved there it would show a problem between the Major and John using Beaufort as a punishment, not to solve a problem.

When I sent the email below I had NO idea that an inmate could only

have 10 magazines. I thought I was helping many inmates by ordering magazines. So I was the one that cause this problem in the first place by trying to "DO GOOD", to help all inmates in the SCDC prison system. Some people at Ridgeland have turn this into a Big Bad Ugly Problem.

I have asked for a copy of the SCDC Policies many times and always get a run around, see the IG, no see Operations, no, we don't allow the public to see our policy's. That's what I have gotten. How can I follow any policies if I don't know what they are!!! They are not on the web! I've looked. I also get, John knows the policies and no inmate "knows the policies", because they are not consistent. Each prison, each dorm, each officer has their own policies. And what is worse is not everyone has to follow the policy.

The dorm Lieutenant Washington has drunks, pot smokers, shanks galore. Than their is the inmate that has reported to Washington Sexual harassment from an inmate many times. Washington just laughs at him. Lieutenant Washington is a bully!!! He has even made the remark, "this is my dorm and the Warden has no say so over me or it". Wow! There is total lack of Consistents in the dorm over seen by Lieutenant Washington.

Now why has John Springer been singled out for having to many magazines and not others for not following policy? hy do Officer Washington take John Springer's new batteries that he just purchased at the canteen and the rim of paper. Washington took all the magazines and did not count them or even leave the 10 allowed. Where is the inventory list per policy. Is John just one of many white males that are discriminated against in the SCDC prisons? I see this through-out the many prisons that I have visited and had contact with.

I was told today by the Operations office Sandra, that SCDC needs consistence though out SCDC inmates. Policy says the SCDC has to a clean environment, they don't. A safe einvironment, they don't. Broken showers, walls that need paint. So why when a person is trying to do something good for the good of all is his room trashed, items taken from his room that he has the right to have under policy, not getting a list of items taken from him? Policy, sorry the policy line