

Purcellville Police Department

0008-EX-PL-1999



DUANE L. ATKISSON
Chief of Police

130 East Main Street
Purcellville, Virginia 20132

(540) 338-7422
Fax (540) 338-7090

Mr. Jim Burtle
Federal Communications Commission
Chief, Experimental Branch

November 5, 1999

Dear Mr. Burtle,

On November 3, 1999 a citizen approached me and informed me that Mr. William T. Druhan Jr, who has a FCC approved "experimental license" to use a radar device confronted her and informed her "he had clocked her speeding on Maple Avenue, in the Town of Purcellville. In addition, I was approached by an unidentified citizen on November 4 who "wanted to file" a complaint because he felt Mr. Druhans actions of clocking motor vehicles were unsafe. The citizen said if he did not stay off the road area he was going to get "run over".

I am personally aware of an incident last year in which Mr. Druhan clocked a vehicle, which he determined was speeding. This incident led to a verbal altercation between Mr. Druhan and/or his neighbors and the motorist. It has also been brought to my attention that youths that attend our local high school have discussed "baiting" Mr. Druhan. The teenagers have discussed "speeding by his house while he is using the radar gun" to see what his reaction might be. In my opinion, this is could be a deadly combination of teenage inexperience or arrogance challenging a citizen whom has a history of confronting suspected traffic violators. When Mr. Druhan verbally confronts the citizens in our community who he feels have broken the laws, then it is my opinion he has moved out of the "experimental mode" and into a "law enforcement" role. I am concerned about a potential explosive issue where the end result could turn tragic because of charged emotions.

As the Chief of Police in this small community I am deeply concerned about this issue. I do not know what type of experiment Mr. Durhan needs to conduct where he has the authority to inform citizens "they have been clocked speeding". It's only a matter of time before one of these annoyed citizens decides to "respond" to Mr. Durhans unsubstantiated acquisitions.

Sincerely,

Duane L Atkisson