

**EBONY**

820 South Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60605 • (312) 322-9200

October 23, 2001

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Each day we receive numerous requests from our readers asking us to investigate injustices or assist someone in exercising his civil rights. As a publishing company, we are not equipped to cope with such problems, so we regret that we are unable to be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

by

B. J. Coppage

Mr. Kevin Phillips  
1047 Avon Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55103

BC/el

**W. e  
A. in't  
G. ood  
E. nough  
S. tupid**

If I was a famous athlete, actor, actress, musician or wealthy person trying to buy my child's way into a college (wink, wink), I may have gotten the PRIVILEGE PROFILE break (This style of profiling will be discussed in my next book SWB).

Prolific producer **Tyler Perry's** facebook complaint that he was the victim of racial profiling by two Atlanta police officers has led to an investigation. As reported by the NY Daily News, the police department is looking into "whether any departmental policies or procedures were violated."

Perry alleges that he made a left turn from a far-right lane -- a move his security team taught him to help him find out if he's being followed. He was pulled over shortly after. According to Perry, what followed was a violation of his rights. His complete statement, from his official Facebook page, is below.

"A few days before President Obama was supposed to speak at my studio, I was leaving the studio, headed to the airport. Most times when I leave the studio I have an unmarked escort. Other times I constantly check in my rearview mirror to be sure that I'm not being followed. It's a safety precaution that my security team taught me. As I got to an intersection, I made a left turn from the right lane and was pulled over by two police officers. I pulled the car over and put it in park. Then, I let the window down and sat in the car waiting for the officer. The officer came up to the driver's door and said that I made an illegal turn. I said, 'I signaled to get into the turning lane, then made the turn because I have to be sure I'm not being followed.' He said, 'why do you think someone would be following you?'

"Before I could answer him, I heard a hard banging coming from the passenger window. I had never been in this position before so I asked the officer who was at my window what was going on and why is someone banging on the window like that. He said, 'let your window down, let your window down. Your windows are tinted.' As I let down the passenger window, there was another officer standing on the passenger side of the car. He said, 'what is wrong with you?' The other officer said to him, 'he thinks he's being followed.' Then, the second officer said, 'why do you think someone is following you? What is wrong with you?'

"Before I could answer the officer on the passenger side, the one on the driver's side had reached into the car and started pulling on the switch that turns the car on and off, saying, 'put your foot on the brake, put your foot on the brake!' I was so confused as to what he was doing, or what he thought he was doing. It looked like he was trying to pull the switch out of the dashboard. I finally realized that he thought that switch was the key, so I told him that it wasn't the key he was grabbing. I reached down into the cup holder to get the key, not realizing that the key had a black leather strap on it. As I grabbed it they both tensed up and I dropped it as I heard my mother's voice from when I was a little boy.

"My mother would always say to me, 'if you get stopped by the police, especially if they are white

Actor Forest Whitaker's morning deli run turned into an embarrassing, racially tinged incident on Friday. Because he's a celebrity but also just like us, Whitaker dropped by Morningside Heights' Milano Market for a pre-work cup of yogurt. Not finding what he needed, he was headed for the store's exit when an employee accused him of "taking something" and insisted on a pat-down. Unsurprisingly, they didn't find any pilfered Smart Water or mini-Toblerones. Upon realizing that he had just needlessly frisked an innocent person/Oscar winner, the Milano worker blamed his accusation on the "bad angle" of the store's security cameras and offered Whitaker free food to make up for the trouble. He also asked Whitaker not to call the cops, which he worried would result in the loss of his job. While Whitaker was nice enough to oblige the request, his publicist says that he was definitely "troubled" by the whole thing. "This was an upsetting incident given the fact that Forest did nothing more than walk into the deli," she told the New York Daily News. Forest asked that, in the future, the store change their behavior and treat the public in a fair and just manner."

Actor Forest Whitaker gets stopped and frisked leaving Morningside Heights deli [NYDN]

Forest Whitaker claims he was falsely accused of shoplifting, frisked at Manhattan deli [NYP]