The 411 on the Five-O The NAACP Real World Guide To Interacting With Law Enforcement



THE CONTENT OF THIS PRESENTATION WAS PRODUCED BY THE DAYTON UNIT NAACP

DERRICK L. FOWARD, M.C.E. – PRESIDENT

This presentation will cover how you should react when confronted in several scenarios



- In your car
- On the street
- In your home
- If you are arrested
- Do's & Don'ts if approached

Overview



Far too often, the war on crime fought by police on the streets is waged against innocent individuals unaware of, or intimidated into surrendering, their constitutional rights. While we support effective law enforcement, we must also exercise constitutional rights to ensure law enforcement works as it should to protect all Americans regardless of race or ethnicity. This presentation will offer helpful suggestions on how to interact with law enforcement to reduce the probability of conflict.

In Your Car



- Upon request, present your driver's license, registration and proof of insurance.
- If you are suspected of drunk driving and refuse to take a sobriety test, the police may arrest you or seize your driver's license.
- You have the right not to consent to a search of your vehicle.
- If the police state they have probable cause, they may begin to search your car without your consent. Do not interfere, but clearly request the basis of the search and state your lack of consent.
- If you are given a ticket, sign it. You can always fight the case in court later

On The Street



- You are not required to answer any incriminating questions, but failing to truthfully answer simple ones will make the police suspicious and might be deemed a misdemeanor.
- If requested, show your identification.
- You are not required to consent to a search of yourself or your property.
- If police have reasonable suspicion that you have a weapon or illegal substance, they may do a pat down to check. DO NOT RESIST!!!

In Your Home



- Absent a warrant or emergency circumstances, the police do not have the right to enter your home. If the police knock at your door, you have the right to deny them entrance.
- If the police say they have a warrant, ask to see it before letting them enter your home.
- If you are arrested in your home, the police can search you and the area around you, which usually means the room.

If You Are Arrested



- Immediately state your refusal to speak to the police and make a request for an attorney. Do not make any statements other than giving your name and address. You have the right to remain silent. You have the right to a court appointed attorney if you cannot afford one.
- If you are under 18 years old, tell the police and ask for your parents to be contacted immediately.
- After you are arrested, you must be given the opportunity to make a local phone call. Know beforehand who you will call in this predicament and contact them. The police may not listen in on the call.

If You Are Arrested



- You must be taken before a judge or magistrate within a day after the arrest or within the shortest time possible.
- If you are required to post bail after being arrested, you may request to have your bail lowered.
- Do not make any decisions until you have spoken with your attorney. Do not allow anyone to mislead you into making any statements. Remember, the police are permitted to use whatever verbal tactics necessary if it will lead to a confession.

Do's & Don'ts



- Do ask for a lawyer immediately upon being arrested or placed into custody
- Do stay calm and avoid being overwhelmed by your emotions. Be courteous and respectful even if the officers are not. Matters can only become worse if you resist verbally and/or physically.
- Do carry identification at all times and be prepared to produce it.

Do's & Don'ts



- Do keep your hands visible to the police officer.
- Do take photographs if you are injured and seek medical attention as soon as possible.
- Do remember the officer's name and badge number, as well as any witness information. Write down everything you remember about the encounter as soon as possible and document all property damage.

Do's & Don'ts



- Don't make any statements about the incident without having first spoken to an attorney. Remember, anything you say can and will be used against you. (Inform your attorney if the officer does not inform you of your rights).
- DO NOT RUN!!!
- DO NOT TOUCH THE POLICE OFFICER!!!

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS



On behalf of the Dayton Unit NAACP & President Derrick L. Foward, thank you, be encouraged and Keep the Faith!!