

[This text originally submitted to District 2 captain Kevin Reardon via e-mail on 9 May 2007.]

I was photographing the area surrounding the Virginia Square Metro station on 5 May 07 at approximately 1030. Among the prominent buildings in this area is 3701 N. Fairfax Dr. As I approached this location, I was immediately flagged down by an Arlington County patrol unit, and summoned by the officer to approach his vehicle, which I did without complaint.

Upon approach, the officer (Malara) inquired as to why I was photographing this location. I explained that I was just finishing an entire morning of photography in a variety of Arlington neighborhoods. Officer Malara then explained that this was a "high security facility" and requested that I delete any photographs that included detail of this particular building. As I hadn't yet taken any, there was nothing to delete.

Officer Malara requested identification, which I provided in the form of a valid Virginia driver's license. I was then asked for my Social Security number, which I provided. Officer Malara's notes should reflect that I complied with these, and other ancillary requests without hesitation.

As Officer Malara transcribed my information, I requested that he explain exactly why it was that he was collecting this information. Specifically, I asked which code section or stated prohibition, if any, I had violated. There are no signs that would lead one to believe that this facility is sensitive, nor are there any posted warnings indicating that photography of this location is in any way prohibited. I was taking photographs from a public space.

In response to the above, he explained that this is a "high security area," and that he is required to request and record identifying information from individuals who are witnessed taking photographs that may include the building at 3701. And, once asked for identification by a law enforcement official, non-compliance is, in and of itself a crime (a statute of which I am well aware, and with which I complied).

In an effort to better understand how my information is being used, I hereby request (electronically, if possible, or by U.S. Mail):

- a copy of any and all notes, reports, or other documents including my personal information that are in any way related to this incident.
- that I be provided with a point of contact at any other agency or office to which this incident has been reported.
- the full name badge number of the officer involved (Malara).
- the badge number of his commanding officer (Capt. Kevin Reardon).

As an aside, I'd like to point out that at no time was officer Malara confrontational or otherwise unprofessional. To the contrary, he was courteous, professional, and offered answers to any and all questions asked of him without hesitation.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Regards,

Keith W. McCammon III
[address]

[e-mail]
[phone]