

AUG 25 1986

ATLANTIC BAY REAL ESTATE

166 Commercial Street / Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657

AS
8/25/86
cc: Tim
Police

ALAN J. WAGG / GREGG RUSSO

(617) 487-2430

August 23, 1986

The Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
Town of Provincetown, Massachusetts
02657

To The Selectmen:

I am writing this letter as a follow-up to my phone calls to each of you. For the record I am recounting an incident that occurred on August 19, 1986, at approximately 12:50 A. M. It is as follows: I was walking west on Commercial Street with my brother and three friends visiting (for the first time unfortunately) from Cleveland, Ohio; we had just returned from a show at the Pilgrim House. We ran into two friends of mine, Diane Corbo and Valerie Carrano (owners of Snug Harbor, Ravenwood, and the Pub Down Under) and a worker of theirs.

The three latter people were on bicycles. We all stopped to greet each other and were enjoying a nice conversation before we all headed home. Our exact location on the road was the north side of Commercial Street in front of Cape Tip Sports and Mundo Clothing. Three of us were on the sidewalk and five were on the street (three on bikes) near the curb. Five minutes into talking, two officers heading west on foot approached us and said, and I quote with seven witnesses: "Get back on the sidewalk and keep moving". The officers kept going and we kept put. To say we were shocked at the manner of the officer who spoke this to us would be an understatement. To say it is an over reaction on the officers part would be a further understatement.

Behavior like this I cannot condone, and I request that a written apology be sent to me. Neither I nor my friends who own businesses in this community deserve disrespect. I have never shown it to the police and I expect equal treatment. The incident left a bad impression of our community on my visiting friends. This may seem a trivial and minor event, but it is troubling, and I am very much concerned about the drift of happenings of the last week are taking. Harrassment affects every one of us and can happen to anyone. We are walking a very fine and shaky line at this time and we are threatening to scare away our "bread and butter" - the tourist.

Yours sincerely,


Gregg Russo