



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF UTAH FOUNDATION, INC
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Chief Rick Harrison
Roosevelt Police Department
255 South State Street
Roosevelt, Utah 84066

October 24, 2011

Re: Investigation of Haka Dancer Pepper Spray Incident at Roosevelt High School
Football Game

Dear Chief Harrison:

I am writing on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah ("the ACLU") in response to the news accounts and video of two of your Department's officers' use of pepper spray and batons on a group of people performing a Haka Dance at the conclusion of the Roosevelt High School football game on Thursday, October 20, 2011.

The ACLU is deeply troubled by the use of force recorded on the videos of the incident. Not only does it appear that the use of force was unprovoked, but it has also been reported that the pepper spray also affected uninvolved bystanders. We are, however, pleased that that you have initiated an investigation into the incident, and hereby request a copy of any report that results from that investigation. Additionally, we are also requesting any written policies and training materials your Department have regarding the use of force and on the use of pepper spray and batons more specifically.

We understand the importance of ensuring that there are adequate channels of egress from the stadium, but we are troubled with the usage of the pepper spray, which could not have reasonably been calculated to open such a path. We are hopeful that you will conduct a fair, comprehensive, and unbiased investigation into this matter, that to the extent that your report reveals wrongdoing, those who are deemed to have used excessive and unwarranted force are held accountable, and that training will be provided to your force to ensure that another incident like this is never repeated.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We eagerly await your response to our requests. If you wish to discuss this matter, I can be reached at (801) 521-9862, Ext. 108.

Sincerely,

Joseph Cohn
Interim Legal Director*

Not a Member of the Utah Bar; Member of the PA & NJ Bars