

In a highly unusual case, Reeves was accused of acting "under color of law" to prevent the woman's arrest on drunken driving charges in May 2001.

He was also accused of "stalking" the woman, Rhonda Mullinax; and of accepting a \$92 per diem payment from the City of Vancouver on a night he allegedly spent in a Portland hotel with Mullinax, while enrolled in Virginia at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy.

Ironically, Reeves said last week he is holding — uncashed — a reimbursement check for \$412 from the city, which paid him back for his "conservative" use of per diem expenses because he didn't spend all that his budget allowed.

All the allegations of wrongdoing were brought by Mullinax, whom Reeves befriended during a three-year separation from his wife. The attorney general's report indicates much of the information relating to Mullinax's allegations boiled down to sometimes-conflicting testimony by her and her personal friends against Reeves.

Citing a serious medical problem, the popular Reeves resigned his position May 20, 2002. That same day, Vancouver officials announced the state was investigating his conduct.

In fact, Reeves said, the city officials started their investigation after receiving Mullinax's complaint soon after he broke off their friendship — almost a year after the incident in question.

He has since then reconciled with his wife, Geri. "That's one of the only good things to come of this," Reeves said.

He said one-sided media coverage had poisoned the town's atmosphere, distracted the police department from its public safety mandate, and made it impossible for him and his family to remain.

"I'm not the only one that feels this way," Reeves said.

Supported by Bureau

Documents released to *The Skanner* by the Vancouver NAACP show an internal conflict between Reeves' supporters and detractors in city government — some of

which was played out in the pages of Vancouver's local newspaper.

One document, an anonymous letter from police department members to city Manager Pat McDonnell dated July 8, 2002, questions the status of Reeves and raises numerous questions about the investigation of the charges against him.

"Fact of the matter is, we are confused and suspicious about how the inquiry has been handled, and was hoping that you could answer some of our questions," the letter stated.

"For instance, you were recently quoted in *The Columbian* newspaper stating that you didn't know whether or not Chief Reeves had the majority of support inside the department," the letter continued.

'Looking back on my life, this is the most painful experience next to the death of my brother.'

— Stan Reeves
former Vancouver Police Chief

"Is it not true that the Vancouver Police Officers Guild sent you an e-mail supporting the Chief and recommending his return, and that the majority of Command staff came to you personally advocating for the Chief's return?"

"It's clear that the media had it," Reeves said of the police officers' letter. "But it was also interesting that it didn't get any attention."

Speculation

The scandal was apparently fanned through erroneous speculation about an incident on May 31, 2001, in which Mullinax was pulled over by a Vancouver patrol officer and placed in the back of a squad car.

In an interview with interim police Chief Brian Martinek that "broke" the story of Mullinax's roadside incident, published June 4, 2002, in *The Columbian*, Martinek told the newspaper that anyone in custody

would "generally" be handcuffed in the patrol car.

The article also said "reliable sources" indicated Mullinax was drunk.

A key question in the incident revolved around whether Mullinax was in fact drunk, whether she was handcuffed in the back of the squad car, and whether Reeves — who arrived on the scene after being phoned for a ride home by Mullinax — pressured the patrol officer into "un-arresting" her.

As it turns out, the state's investigation determined the newspaper's speculations were incorrect.

Reeves said he often gave Mullinax rides, and when she called him on the night of May 31, she never said she was under arrest or that anything was wrong.

Mullinax alleged that the patrol officer said at the scene that her tested alcohol level was "twice the legal limit." The state investigator looking into the incident "questioned" Mullinax's truthfulness, noting that the actual score on the alcohol test was only a fraction over the legal limit of .08 percent.

According to the investigator's report, Mullinax was not cuffed, but rather placed by the patrol officer in the back of the squad car and allowed to make "volumes" of calls on her cell phone for a ride home.

Reeves showed up after Mullinax's numerous friends and family refused her request for a ride, as cell phone records indicated.

No Impropriety

According to the documents obtained by *The Skanner*, Reeves had second thoughts about resigning his job in May.

Reeves was approached by staff within the police bureau and asked to come back. "My troops and my command staff came

out in force to my house — I mean, the neighbors commented there were so many police and undercover cars on my street there was no place to park," Reeves said.

As a result, Reeves requested that Vancouver City Manager Pat McDonnell consider reappointing him to the chief's position. McDonnell responded by launching another investigation into Reeves' cell phone and travel records.

Reeves then withdrew his request for reconsideration, but asked the city to continue its audit.

"I knew there were no improprieties, and afterward he acknowledged there were no improprieties in my travel and cell phone records," Reeves said.

McDonnell afterward closed the second investigation, although Reeves again called on Vancouver's city officials to fully audit all his travel and telephone records.

Community Support

Vancouver NAACP Branch President Earl Ford and his chapter — and the larger community that voiced unwavering support during public meetings held to address the issue — defended Reeves throughout the roughly two-month state investigation.

Ford has repeatedly contacted Vancouver city officials requesting Reeves' reinstatement, and blasted the Vancouver local newspaper for "yellow journalism" in the case.

"As I have stated earlier Chief Reeves has raised the bar of community policing in Vancouver," Ford wrote in a June 9 letter, on NAACP letterhead, to Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard.

In a recent letter to Reeves, Mullinax wrote, "You might think I'm shallow now, but one day I hope you'll realize the 'sabotage' was an unselfish act."

Reeves said he turned it over to the state police.

"Looking back on my life, this is the most painful experience next to the death of my brother," Reeves said.

"There are things about this circumstance that I'm still coming to grips with," he added. "But at this point I would just like to focus on continuing my career."



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DECEMBER 2, 2002

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: JOHN B. CATOE, JR.
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY REPORT - ACCESSIBLE SERVICE COMPLIANCE

ISSUE

This quarter report details the service provided to the mobility-impaired bus patrons using MTA fixed route service, including service provided by MTA contracted bus services covering July 1, 2002, through September 30, 2002. The Authority contracts with CDSNet, Inc. (CDSNet), a third party contractor, to monitor and report ADA compliance according to the provisions of the settlement agreement with the Americans Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) regarding service provided to mobility-impaired bus patrons.

During this quarter, MTA recorded boarding 36,611 mobility-impaired customers. Also recorded were 534 pass-ups when the first available bus did not provide transportation due to either equipment failure or other operational problems. These pass-ups exclude those situations when customers were not boarded because the bus was full or otherwise lacked capacity, as defined in paragraph 2, page 9, lines 4-5 of the settlement agreement.

The MTA provided records to the ACLU for the quarter pertaining to 225,595 bus assignments from both the MTA divisions and our MTA contracted bus services.

The CDSNet results for the quarter are reflected on Attachment 1.

The compliance percentages resulting from observations made by CDSNet exceeded minimum expectations and therefore did not result in any fines.

BACKGROUND

In January of 1998, the ACLU, on behalf of Larry Beauchamp, Stephen Koonz, Rick Perkins, LaJuana Drew Perkins, and Robert Wargo, mobility-impaired patrons, filed a class action lawsuit against the Authority to improve the standards for maintenance and operation of wheelchair lifts and other ADA-related devices onboard buses operated by LACMTA and its contractors. The MTA Board approved the Injunctive Settlement Agreement on August 9, 2000, with the Federal Court issuing the agreement on January 10, 2001. The agreement establishes the level of maintenance and operation of ADA-related equipment such as wheelchair lifts, ramps, lift-doors, and securement devices and standards for on-street performance.

NEXT STEPS

This report details the results of the sixth quarter of mandated ADA Compliance monitoring. The MTA has four remaining quarters in the agreement, which is scheduled to terminate on October 10, 2003, provided that all terms and conditions of the agreement are met by the end of the term. The next board box item detailing compliance percentages and service provided to the mobility-impaired community is scheduled to be released by January 31, 2003, and will cover the period of October 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002.

The data received from CDSNet is carefully reviewed and investigated by the ADA Compliance Team in Transit Operations. This team identifies Operators who are complying with ADA law and MTA policies and performed well in undercover observations made by CDSNet. The team also identifies Operators that were reportedly not following MTA policies and further investigates and initiates disciplinary action where applicable to enforce ADA law and MTA policies.

Attachment 1

DATA RECEIVED FROM CDSNet INC.
 ADA Compliance Percentages from July 1, 2002, through September 30, 2002

MTA Compliance Percentages Based on 588 Observations	
Percentage Category	Compliance Percentages
(i) Bus Stopping Percentage	99.7 % or 586 of the 588 total attempted boardings
(ii) Working Lift Percentage	99.7% or 577 of 579 of the attempted lift actuations
(iii) Securement Percentage	100% or 577 of 577 actual boardings when securement devices were observed to be in working order in one location on the bus.

COMPLIANCE STANDARDS AND FINES REFERENCE CHART

Fines Established in the Injunctive Settlement Agreement	
Percentage	Fines Assessed
(i) Bus Stopping Percentage	The fine is \$10,000 if the percentage is less than 91.25%. The fine is \$30,000 if the percentage is less than 86.25%.
(ii) Working Lift Percentage	The fine is \$10,000 if the percentage is less than 92.5%. The fine is \$30,000 if the percentage is less than 87.5%.
(iii) Securement Percentage	The fine is \$10,000 if the percentage is less than 92.5%. The fine is \$30,000 if the percentage is less than 87.5%.

In the Clear

Reeves is Vindicated But Shaken

By Lisa Loving
Of *The Skanner*

Former Vancouver Police Chief Stan Reeves, accused of criminal charges that included impropriety over a 2001 traffic stop, was cleared of all wrongdoing last week by the attorney general of Washington state.

Nevertheless, Reeves said this week he doesn't want to be reinstated.

"The way the events took place, the way the events were chronicled in the media, would make it very difficult for me to stay," Reeves, 52, told *The Skanner*. "The debate about that is over."

Despite overwhelming support from rank-and-file police officers in Vancouver, as well as the town's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Reeves is still reeling from a nightmare experience of false accusations that have left him hoping he can continue his career in law enforcement elsewhere.

"I literally went from walking on water one day, to being treated like a criminal the next day," he said.

Not only that, since the investigation's report was made public, Reeves said his accuser, a former friend, has made harassing phone calls, and even sent a handwritten letter professing her love and admitting to the "sabotage" of his career.

False Accusations

Reeves' 25-year record in law enforcement was unblemished before stalking, theft and "malfeasance" charges — brought by the former friend — were thrown out by state authorities last week.

See REEVES on page 3

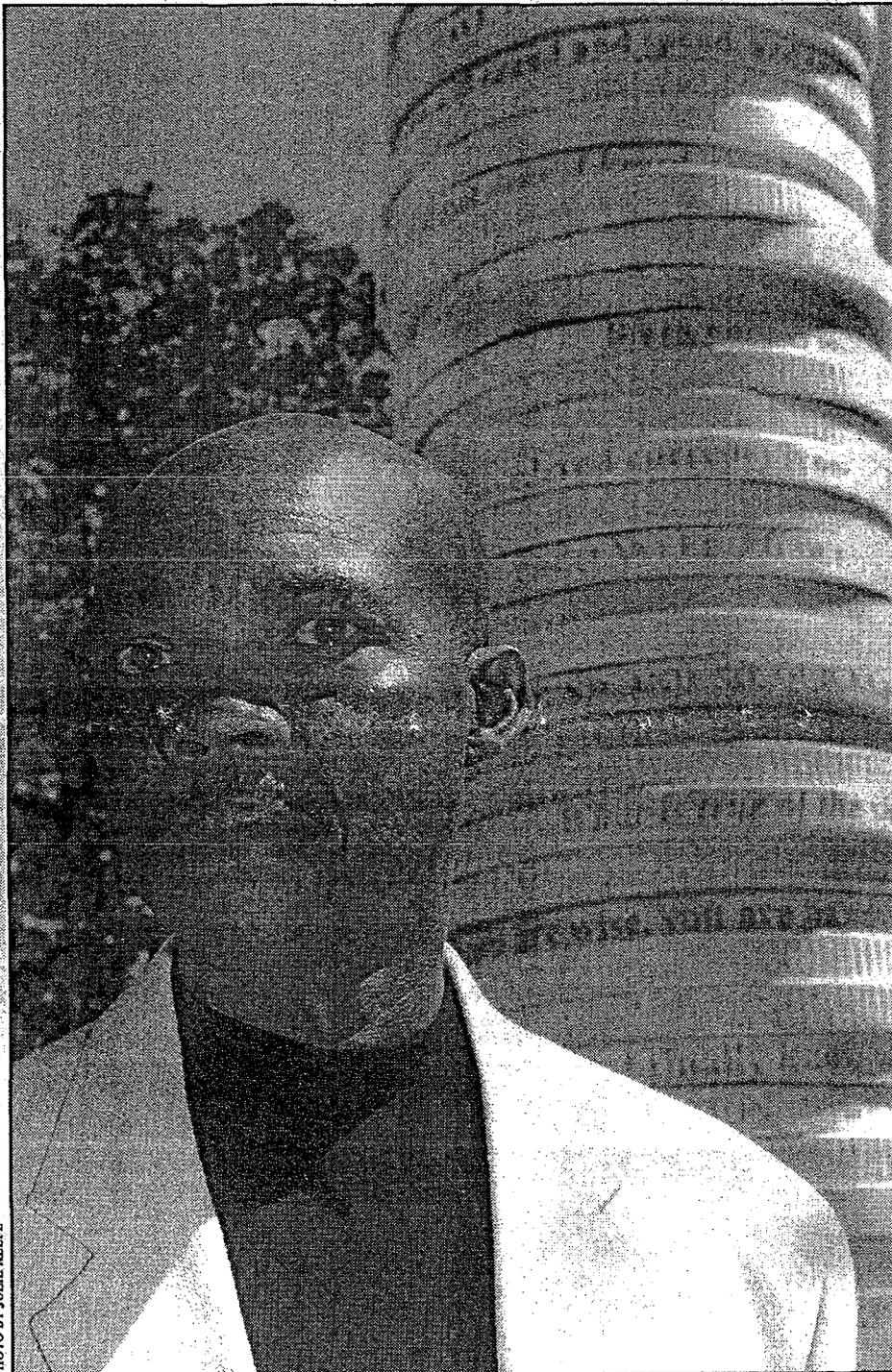


PHOTO BY JULIE KEEFE

Former Vancouver, Wash., Police Chief Stan Reeves, who was cleared last week by the Washington State attorney general of criminal charges stemming from a 2001 incident, is not interested in a return to the job. "The way the events took place, the way the events were chronicled in the media, would make it very difficult for me to stay," he said. "The debate about that is over."

City to Settle With Persecuted Firefighter