

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing regarding an unlawful traffic chase and stop that set off a chain of events affecting nearly every part of my life. I lost my driver's license, which immediately limited my ability to work, caused missed shifts and lost wages, and ultimately resulted in my termination from two jobs, as maintaining a valid driver's license is mandatory in my line of work. I incurred medical bills after being taken to the emergency room for a stress-induced seizure that occurred while I was in unlawful police custody as a result of Chief James "Tim" Bryan's misconduct. My family, including my children, were forced to witness my unlawful detention and observe me experience that seizure, an event that has caused lasting emotional harm, particularly to my eight-year-old daughter, Ava. I have also been compelled to hire attorneys to address the consequences stemming from Chief James "Tim" Bryan's actions, a process that is still in its early stages, with the total financial cost not yet known.

I am seeking unbiased transparency and a meaningful review of what occurred. Chief James "Tim" Bryan pursued me unlawfully, while off duty, in a civilian vehicle, outside of his jurisdiction. Chief James "Tim" Bryan deployed WPD helicopters, Wichita Police Department officers, Maize Police Department officers, and Kansas Highway Patrol; however, I was never charged with a crime, issued a ticket, or arrested. Chief James "Tim" Bryan's actions on the evening of November 2, 2024, have had far-reaching consequences in my life and my family's life and have hindered my ability to provide for my family and sustain my career. I am asking that this matter be examined independently, with honesty and fairness, and that Chief James "Tim" Bryan be held accountable for his actions and the impact they have had, and that this be made right.

On the evening of November 2, 2024, at approximately 10:00 p.m., I, Joseph Sublett Sr., was leaving my son Joseph Sublett Jr.'s football game at Derby High School. I was accompanied by my wife, Stacey Sublett; my mother, Michelle Briley; and my then seven-year-old daughter, Ava.

While traveling on northbound I-235, I noticed a white civilian SUV following my vehicle extremely closely and driving erratically. The vehicle continued to follow at a distance closer than allowed by law and followed me off the highway onto West Central Avenue. I did not at any time observe emergency lights, sirens, or any

indication that the vehicle was a law enforcement unit or operated by a member of law enforcement.

As I approached the stoplight at Central Avenue and Ridge Road, the driver of the SUV continued driving erratically behind me. The driver repeatedly flashed the vehicle's headlights between normal and bright settings and followed so closely that I could no longer see the SUV's headlights in my rearview mirror.

I did not know who was in the vehicle, how many occupants were inside, or why I was being followed. I had my wife, my elderly mother, and my young daughter in the vehicle, each of whom were scared. I, too, was scared and extremely worried for my family's safety. I attempted to create distance between my vehicle and the SUV; however, the driver continued to pursue me erratically. Fearing a potential road-rage incident or violent encounter, I attempted to drive toward the nearest police station.

After what felt like forever, I lost sight of the SUV and proceeded directly to my home. When I arrived, I briefly left my family in the vehicle so I could unlock our front door. My intention was to avoid leaving my wife, mother, and young daughter standing outside and exposed if we needed to enter our home quickly. Before I could return to my vehicle to escort my family inside, the white SUV pulled up in front of our home. The driver exited the vehicle and approached my vehicle with my unprotected family inside. It was only at that point that I realized the individual was wearing a police uniform. He had not identified himself as a police officer at any time during the pursuit, nor had he announced any lawful reason for following me or being at my home.

The individual was later identified as Chief James "Tim" Bryan of the Bentley Police Department. Chief James "Tim" Bryan asked if I was the driver of the vehicle, to which I asked him why he had followed me and why he was at my home. Chief James "Tim" Bryan's only response was that I had cut his vehicle off in traffic.

Immediately after, a Kansas Highway Patrol officer arrived on scene and approached with his taser drawn and pointed directly at me. My family was instructed to exit the vehicle, and my wife, Stacey Sublett, took Ava inside as she was screaming, crying, and shaking uncontrollably from fear.

---

Chief James “Tim” Bryan then kicked my knee out from under me, causing me to fall to the ground and my wallet to come out of my pocket. I was handcuffed and escorted to a Wichita Police Department cruiser. During the ensuing commotion, my wife, Stacey Sublett, was grabbed by the throat, and my mother, Michelle Briley, was shoved. Afterward, my wife, Stacey, grabbed my wallet from the ground and took it inside to keep it safe and check on Ava. As she exited the house, the KHP officer instructed her not to go back inside, leaving my seven-year-old daughter alone inside our home.

My 17-year-old son, Joseph Sublett Jr., arrived at our home shortly thereafter. At the time, my son had a broken leg from a football injury. Confused and alarmed, he asked officers what was happening and why I was handcuffed and being escorted to a police cruiser. The officers refused to provide any information and instead pushed my son away, aggravating his existing injury. By this time, there was a Wichita Police Department helicopter, Maize Police Department officers, Kansas Highway Patrol, Wichita Police Department officers, and Chief James “Tim” Bryan all on scene.

After being placed inside the police cruiser, I suffered a seizure. WPD officers removed me from the back seat of the cruiser and placed me on the ground, where I remained handcuffed and continued to seize. During my seizure, Chief James “Tim” Bryan and possibly a KHP officer entered my home unescorted and without permission and removed my driver’s license from my wallet while my seven-year-old daughter was inside alone.

While still actively seizing, emergency medical services eventually arrived, and Chief James “Tim” Bryan removed my handcuffs. My wife, Stacey, asked Chief James “Tim” Bryan whether he intended to follow me to the hospital and arrest me. Chief James “Tim” Bryan stated that I was “un-arrested” and that he would not be following me to the hospital. All law enforcement agencies then left my home, and my family followed the ambulance to the hospital.

Once I regained consciousness at the hospital, a nurse informed me that Chief James “Tim” Bryan had arrived and requested that she draw my blood. The nurse advised Chief James “Tim” Bryan that she could not perform a blood draw without my consent or a court order. Following the nurse’s refusal, Chief James “Tim” Bryan entered my hospital room and asked me to submit to a blood test. I

immediately requested an attorney. Chief James “Tim” Bryan then handed me a pink piece of paper and left the room. It was not until 30 days later, when I received a driver’s license suspension notice, that I learned Chief James “Tim” Bryan was charging me with a DUI. I have hired counsel who has advised me that while a DUI is not showing on my record, the pink piece of paper Chief James “Tim” Bryan handed me in the hospital triggered an administrative action that has suspended my driver’s license until I complete the necessary steps, such as having an interlock for two years. I was not on drugs, nor had I consumed alcohol on the evening of November 2, 2024. I do not drink alcohol or do drugs at all, as I have medical issues that prevent me from doing so.

There is video footage available from two separate neighbors that captures the incident outside my home and can be provided if needed. In contrast, attempts to obtain official records have been unsuccessful. Kansas Open Records Act requests have been submitted by three different individuals to the Bentley Police Department, and each request has been denied by Chief James “Tim” Bryan himself. These repeated denials have made it impossible to conduct a fair and independent review of what occurred or understand the predicament I’m in, as transparency has not been provided. Additionally, to my knowledge, there has never been a DUI court date, hearing, or any judicial action related to this matter. The only action taken has been the issuance of an Officer’s Certification and Notice of Suspension, with no corresponding criminal charge or court proceedings. This account reflects events that have had a lasting impact on my family and me, and I have shared them as honestly and thoroughly as I can. I appreciate your time in reviewing this and considering what has been presented.

With respect and gratitude,

Joseph Sublett Sr

316-871-1716

joeysublett@icloud.com

---