

John Murtari
34 Frankln St.
Lyons, NY 14489
March 15, 2010

Undersheriff Richard House
Wayne County Sheriff's Office
7368 Route 31
Lyons, NY 14489

Dear Undersheriff House:

I'd like to report an incident involving Deputy Harry Aunkst on February 18th, 2010, in the town of Lyons. I believe he intentionally lied to Town Judge Wunder during my arraignment and there is independent confirmation of his false statements.

I'd been arrested by another deputy at the County Courthouse for charges of graffiti & trespassing and was sitting in his car. Deputy Aunkst then arrived and I was moved to his vehicle. After a stop at the Sheriff's Offices he took me to Lyons Town Court for arraignment.

Deputy Aunkst told Judge Wunder the DA's office wanted \$2,500 bail. The Judge asked who he spoke to at the DA's office and Deputy Aunkst couldn't remember. Judge Wunder then began mentioning the names of different ADAs and Deputy Aunkst said he'd talked to Chris Bokelman for approval. The Judge also asked him if he had witnessed the events charged and Deputy Aunkst said, "Yes."

I complained about the high bail, but it remained \$2,500. We then started the trip to the jail. Although he had the radio loud in his car, I heard him make a cell call to the DA's office. It was an animated conversation. He was trying to convince them to agree to set the high bail. I suspected he'd never spoken to Mr. Bokelman and had lied to the Judge.

After my release I was able to get confirmation that neither Mr. Bokelman, nor anyone else in the DA's office, had spoken to Deputy Aunkst regarding the bail amount prior to my arraignment – he had deliberately mislead Judge Wunder.

I'm very concerned regarding both his conduct and duty status. There are many good police officers out there and this type of conduct can only serve to discredit other good people, both officers of the law and citizens who have been accused of a crime. I hope you'll give it your immediate attention. While Mr. Correia is my assigned counsel on the graffiti charges; this complaint is on my initiative. Feel free to contact me (315-430-2702: cell) if you need any more info. I hope you'll acknowledge receipt of this complaint and when confirmed I'd like to get a written apology from the Department regarding his conduct.

Sincerely,

John Murtari