

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**YORK PEDIATRICIAN RECEIVES SETTLEMENT IN HIS CLAIM FOR EXCESSIVE FORCE
AGAINST THE TOWN OF YORK AND PATROLMAN JONATHAN ROGERS**

Stephen Brennan suffered severe injuries following a traffic stop. Town of York settles for \$325,000.

PORTLAND, ME—On September 20, 2019, Dr. Stephen Brennan was stopped by Patrolman Jonathan Rogers of the York Police Department for flashing his high beams. What should have been a routine traffic stop left Dr. Brennan with severe injuries after a police K-9 was released.

The encounter between Dr. Brennan and Patrolman Rogers was captured on a dashcam mounted in Rogers' cruiser. Contrary to initial statements by Sgt. Brian Curtin of the York Police Department, the dashcam video shows that Dr. Brennan did not pose an actual threat to the patrolman and he did not act in an aggressive manner.

"The value of this settlement clearly shows the initial attempts by the York Police Department to paint Dr. Brennan as the aggressor were not accurate representations of what actually occurred. Dr. Brennan was in the process of getting down on the ground to surrender when the K-9 was released," says Attorney Alexander Spadinger of Shaheen & Gordon, who represented Dr. Brennan in his suit against the patrolman and the Town of York. "This was a traffic stop for a minor motor vehicle infraction. A K-9 should never be released on someone suspected of committing a traffic infraction. Law enforcement is only allowed to use force that is reasonable and necessary. The decision to release a trained police dog was neither of those things."

As a result, Dr. Brennan suffered multiple puncture wounds to both legs and his left arm from the dog bites. He also experienced a chest wall injury and trauma to his left eye. The night of the incident he was treated at York Hospital. His injuries required months of follow up and wound care treatment.

"As a result of this case, Dr. Brennan is hopeful that the York Police Department will take steps to ensure that next time one of its officers is faced with a situation like this, they turn first to their de-escalation training before resorting to physical force," adds Spadinger.

About Shaheen & Gordon, P.A.

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