

REDWOOD CURTAIN COPWATCH
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July 6, 2010

Open Letter To Eureka Police Chief Garr Nielsen,
Eureka City Council members,
Eureka Mayor,
Eureka City Attorney, Sheryl Schaffner:

Re: EPD Sergeant Rodrigo Reyna-Sanchez punches a young man in the side of the head and threatens teenage witness if he testifies to seeing the punch

On June 26, 2010, Eureka Police Department Sergeant Rodrigo Reyna-Sanchez, accompanied by two other EPD Officers, including Adam Laird, (the third officer's name is unknown to us at this time), surrounded several young people who were cleaning their friend's vehicle (the vehicle's owner, David Teague, was present). Sanchez immediately questioned the young people, although they were breaking no laws, demanding they identify themselves. After Tony Hughes identified himself (apparently he had a warrant), Sanchez PUNCHED HIM IN THE SIDE OF HIS HEAD, knocking him to the ground. Sanchez then turned to David Teague, a minor, and told him that if he [David] testifies that Sanchez punched Tony, Sanchez will have David's vehicle towed away. David Teague looked to see the name on Sanchez' officer uniform, and Sanchez threatened him again: **"Don't strain too much to see my name; it's Rodrigo Reyna-Sanchez. And yes, I'm the cop who rapes, kills and throws people off a cliff, so if you know what's good for you, you won't testify that I hit him."** Sanchez arrested Tony Hughes, and has since told David Teague that he will tow his vehicle, parked legally or not, on Thursday, July 8, 2010.

Sound outrageous? It's not outrageous- for Sergeant Sanchez. He abuses people physically and makes threatening, inappropriate, and ILLEGAL statements all of the time. Sanchez violates the rights of and physically injures the most vulnerable people he can get his hands on and who pose no threat to him. We are outraged that you have done NOTHING about Sanchez' criminal behavior- behavior acted out while under the auspices of the City of Eureka. You are sick people to do nothing, and you are absolutely remiss in your responsibility to your constituencies while you sanction this vile, cowardly man, Rodrigo Reyna-Sanchez, to run around armed and uniformed- using his position to perpetrate violent crimes against people.

This is the second time since Sanchez' slaying of David Sequioa, shooting him POINT BLANK in the head, that we have been told of him boasting about the fact that he murders- and gets away with it. Sanchez has told people that he will kill them. He has threatened an entire teen center with his gun. We have reported to you several of these instances (certainly not all), and yet you continue to be complicit with Sanchez' psychotic, abusive, and illegal behavior. How dare you allow Sanchez' victims to pay his salary through tax dollars! How dare you ignore the bullying, the threats, the physical harm, and trauma Sanchez inflicts upon innocent and defenseless people. We receive hundreds of reports about Sanchez harming and blatantly threatening people- and Sanchez is consistent in his choice of vulnerable victims and overtly violent methods.

Do something NOW. Sanchez is a danger to our community, and he is an immediate threat to the lives of **David Teague, Brandon Santiago, Jennifer Westfall, Jeffrey Sorensen, and Eric Kelley**. We know that **Tony Hughes** is incarcerated in Humboldt County, and we know that Sanchez did not take Tony Hughes to the hospital, as required by EPD policy, after knocking him out.

Sanchez' behavior is despicable and ILLEGAL. As is any retaliation for this or other complaints.

This letter comes to you early in the morning due to the urgency that you *begin now* to protect the above-listed persons, some of whom are minors. Do not ignore this notice and warning.

EXPEL RODRIGO REYNA-SANCHEZ from the Eureka Police Department.

Sincerely,

Redwood Curtain CopWatch

*cc: Civil Liberties Monitoring Project
Civil Liberties Defense Center
Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Humboldt County Public Defender
Humboldt County Conflict Counsel
Humboldt County Alternate Conflict Counsel
Eureka Times-Standard
North Coast Journal
Humboldt State Lumberjack Newspaper
Greenfuse Publication*