



PUBLIC COMMENTS –
for the Tuesday, January 13, 2026 Board Meeting

From: Bob Robertson
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 8:12 PM
To: PublicComments
Subject: 187th Street Speeding

I thought you guys were getting this under control. You clearly haven't. Where are the police? We barely see them. Did you think the traffic speed beacons were enough? Cars for the last 2 weeks are going over 40 regularly in both directions. You continue to do nothing about it. Where are you with figuring this out? Why can't you police this town? The school buses and every day cars are terrorizing Southgate and you just ignore it. We report it constantly and NO ONE seems to care about it. You have failed everyone and we need answers. What are you doing about the dangerous driving in this town? And specifically what are you going to do about the excessive dangerous driving and speeding at 187th and Ashland. You've essentially done nothing.

Truthfully,
Bob Robertson

From: Tonga Harper
Sent: Wednesday, December 31, 2025 5:32 AM
To: PR; PublicComments
Subject: NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUE – Police Misconduct, Constitutional Violations, and Unlawful Search (December 2025)

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND EMAIL

Village of Homewood
Attn: Village Manager, Village Attorney, and Chief of Police
2020 Chestnut Road
Homewood, Illinois 60430

Re: Notice of Intent to Sue – Police Misconduct and Civil Rights Violations

Dear Village Officials,

This letter serves as formal notice of my intent to pursue legal action against the Village of Homewood, the Homewood Police Department, and individual officers, including but not limited to Detective James Strayer, arising from unlawful police conduct that occurred in December 2025.

Parties

I am Tonga Harper, a Homewood resident, single mother, and the maternal grandmother and caregiver of a minor child who was unlawfully seized from my home.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND (SUMMARY)

1. In early December 2025, DCFS investigators inspected my residence and affirmatively deemed my home a safe kinship placement for my infant grandson. I was instructed not to release the child to his mother due to safety concerns.
2. Despite this, beginning on or about December 15–16, 2025, the Homewood Police Department repeatedly came to my residence, including late-night visits, creating fear and intimidation.
3. Homewood Police officers questioned my 15-year-old minor son without my consent, both:
 - o via phone through neighbor John Neely, and
 - o by removing him from class at Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School, during final exam without parental notification or consent.
4. Officers threatened me in front of my minor child with the execution of a search warrant if I did not comply with demands to surrender the infant.

5. On or about December 16, 2025, Homewood Police officers, under the direction of Detective John (James) Strayer, executed a search warrant at my home, detained me, and seized my grandson, returning him to an unsafe environment.
6. I was not provided a copy of the warrant at the time, nor any lawful documentation explaining the seizure of the child.
7. I later confirmed with the Cook County Juvenile Court Clerk that no juvenile court case exists for my grandson. I have never appeared before a judge, and no shelter care hearing occurred.
8. DCFS has refused to disclose my grandson's whereabouts, and the police have since claimed an "ongoing criminal investigation," despite no charges being filed against me.

LEGAL VIOLATIONS

Based on the above conduct, the Village of Homewood and its officers violated multiple provisions of law, including but not limited to:

Federal Constitutional Violations

- Fourth Amendment (U.S. Const. amend. IV):
 - Unlawful search and seizure
 - Execution of a warrant lacking proper probable cause
 - Seizure of a child without judicial oversight
- Fourteenth Amendment – Due Process:
 - Removal of a child without notice, hearing, or court order
 - Deprivation of familial association
 - Coercive police conduct against a caregiver
- 42 U.S.C. § 1983:
 - Acting under color of state law to deprive constitutional rights
 - Supervisory and municipal liability under *Monell v. Dept. of Social Services*

Illinois Constitutional & Statutory Violations

- Illinois Constitution, Art. I §§ 2 & 6 (Due Process and Search & Seizure)
- 705 ILCS 405 (Juvenile Court Act)
 - Removal of a minor without juvenile court jurisdiction or shelter care hearing
- 325 ILCS 5 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act)
 - Failure to follow statutory procedures for child protection removals
- Questioning a Minor Without Parental Consent
 - Removal of a minor from school and interrogation without consent or exigent circumstances
- Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress
 - Threats, intimidation, and police action conducted in front of minors

MUNICIPAL LIABILITY

The Village of Homewood is liable for:

- Failure to train officers regarding juvenile removals and parental rights
- Policies or customs allowing police to substitute criminal process for juvenile court oversight
- Failure to supervise Detective Strayer and responding officers
- Ratification of unconstitutional conduct through inaction and FOIA denial

DAMAGES

As a direct result of this misconduct, I have suffered:

- Severe emotional distress and anxiety
- Fear for my minor children's safety
- Loss of familial association with my grandson
- Reputational harm
- Ongoing trauma to my household

DEMAND & PRESERVATION

I demand that the Village of Homewood:

1. Preserve all evidence related to this matter, including body-worn camera footage, reports, affidavits, dispatch logs, emails, texts, and school communications;
2. Identify all officers involved in the December 2025 incidents;
3. Provide written confirmation of the authority relied upon to question my minor child and seize my grandson.

This letter is sent without waiver of any rights or claims. If this matter is not resolved, I intend to pursue all available remedies, including claims for damages, injunctive relief, and attorney's fees.

Please direct all future communications regarding this matter to me in writing.

Sincerely,

Tonga Harper
Homewood, Illinois 60430

From: Bob Robertson
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 8:36 PM
To: PublicComments
Subject: Re: Stop Speeding

On Wed, Dec 17, 2025, 6:50 PM Bob Robertson wrote:

Your employee was driving a pickup truck like a maniac on Regiel Road in Homewood. This HAS TO STOP. I couldn't get a plate, but I've attached an image of the truck. This was at 187th Street and Reigel Road, southbound in Homewood, IL. This street is 30mph. This truck was driving WAY over that. This was today December 17th, 2025, at 5:49pm.

From: Carlo Fabiano
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 7:20 AM
To: Bob Robertson; PublicComments
Subject: RE: Speeding Plumbing Trucks

Bob,

Thank you for taking the time to bring this to our attention. We take concerns like this very seriously, especially when they involve the safety of the communities where we work.

We want you to know, when situations like this are brought to our attention, we have a strict action plan and the following steps are taken internally:

1. We review the report with our management team and identify the vehicle and technician assigned to that area and time
2. We reiterate our zero-tolerance policy for unsafe driving, including speeding, to our entire field team (not just this driver)
3. We mandate that the employee take a safe driving course to ensure they understand the importance of their driving
4. We have a three-strike policy for drivers to ensure our employees follow these rules

Our vehicles represent our company, and we expect them to be always operated safely and responsibly. We appreciate you bringing this to our attention so we can address it promptly and ensure this does not happen again.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any additional concerns.

Thank you

Contact me if you have any questions.

Carlo Fabiano
President
R. Carrozza Plumbing

From: Bob Robertson
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2025 8:43 PM
To: PublicComments
Subject: Speeding Plumbing Trucks

The Village of Homewood is already inundated with speeding vehicles it cannot handle. One of your red colored plumbing vans was speeding tonight southbound on Dixie Highway and turned right (Westbound) on Heather Road on Homewood. This must stop. The van was traveling well over 40 in a 25mph, just South of 183rd Street at 5:28pm.

From: Bob Robertson
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2025 9:06 PM
To: PublicComments
Subject: Re: Stop Speeding

Hello?

On Wed, Dec 17, 2025, 6:50 PM Bob Robertson wrote:

Your employee was driving a pickup truck like a maniac on Regiel Road in Homewood. This HAS TO STOP. I couldn't get a plate, but I've attached an image of the truck. This was at 187th Street and Reigel Road, southbound in Homewood, IL. This street is 30mph. This truck was driving WAY over that. This was today December 17th, 2025, at 5:49pm.

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From: Bob Robertson
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 6:51 PM
To: PublicComments
Subject: Stop Speeding

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