

My involvement with law enforcement in Vermont has been very discovering. I have lived in the state for three years. I have been conflicted about staying here. I have been pulled over in Vermont on I 91 and I 89 more than ever. I often wonder should I go to a state where I fit in rather than stick out like a sore thumb.

I have been followed multiple exits by state troopers trailing behind my car. Trying to find probable cause to pull me over. The feeling is intense like no other. Does anyone else think just for a moment when they get in their car, it may be their last. Driving as much as 68 on the highway can cause a stop to happen as I see other cars wiz by. But I have been stopped and asked where am I going and who does the car belong to?

I had an out of state license plate and thought changing it to Vermont would provide some relief. I think it made things a little worse actually. A simple question such as " why did you pull me over?" Can prompt a response such as "why are you so defensive?" I would really like to say it's my right to ask. That seems to come off as being hostile or disrespectful.

Sometimes I think police have a power complex that really needs to be handled psychologically. Further mental health evaluation should be conducted on a regular basis. Every police officer is not bad, but it seems to be a profession where colleagues dont self govern each other.

Shakia Woods, South Royalton