

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

When police step on deaf people's rights.

First Amendment and the rest of the Bill of Rights. (From the public domain.) Deaf Law blog, which last posted over five months ago, has two important posts about police mistreatment of deaf people. In one instance, police in Modesto, California, fired upon a deaf motorist who did not hear -- and, therefore, did not follow -- police commands to get out of his car. The police did not stop to think he might be deaf; they did try addressing him in Spanish, which clearly was of no help. In another instance, Deaf Law blog reports on a confidential litigation settlement by a man who filed a complaint alleging unlawful arrest and detention arising from a warrantless search, and a violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act not only for the police failure to provide a sign language interpreter, but also for the ongoing handcuffing of the arrested man, which deprived him of his main means of communication. More information on this case is here. I hope Deaf Law blog resumes its blogging activities. Jon Katz.

Posted by Jon Katz in Constitutional Law at 00:05