

video file



JAMES CARBONE



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GORDON GRANT

Suffolk County Legislators Kara Hahn, left, and Bridget Fleming, and Monica Martinez, a former Suffolk legislator who is now a state senator, have voiced concerns about the video.

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Suffolk police said the investigation was requested by Hart “to ensure protocol was followed” and, because no formal complaint was filed, the findings and possible sanctions would not be disclosed. Complainants are usually notified of a case’s disposition.

Possible outcomes

Suffolk police policy is that if an allegation of officer misconduct is substantiated “the target officer will be subject to discipline commensurate with the offense,” the department said in a written statement. The outcomes could include extra training, an official reprimand or forfeiture of time and pay.

Complaints can also be deemed unsubstantiated, the department said, for “lack of evidence proving or disproving the alleged misconduct.”

Suffolk police did not name which officers are under investigation. Both detectives in the video were reached by *Newsday* and said they are not able to comment on the investigation because of department rules.

Perez did say that he has often served as an interpreter, as needed: “I am a bilingual police officer. I’ve worked on many cases where I was called in to speak Spanish ... and, you know, for them to say we didn’t provide anybody who spoke Spanish is a fabrication.”

The mother of the teen in the video spoke to *Newsday* on condition of anonymity because she and her husband are concerned for their daughter’s safety. At the request of Internal Affairs investigators, the family met with detectives about two months ago, accompanied by a representative from Make the Road, but the mother later said they have lost faith Suffolk police will help them.

She said the man who held their daughter was never prosecuted while her daughter, now 18, was treated as a suspect.

“At no point did they help us,” the mother, 41, said in Spanish. “I tell people that this happened to us probably because we are immigrants and we are Hispanic. . . . All I am asking of them is that they try to do better in helping immigrant people.”

Advocates working with Suffolk’s Latino immigrants see the video as symptomatic of bigger challenges in police relations with the growing community. The department has been monitored by the U.S. Department of Justice as part of a 2014 settlement agreement to improve policing and outreach in the Latino immigrant community.

In its most recent report, issued in October, the Justice Department found the police internal investigation procedure to be in substantial compliance with the settlement agreement. That came after years of criti-

cism in previous reports that lengthy and opaque investigations were eroding community trust.

Hart said the department is committed to also investigate “the underlying allegations” in the teenage girl’s missing case while continuing efforts to improve policing and communication with the Hispanic community.

She said the department has increased efforts to recruit Spanish-speaking officers, hired bilingual liaisons and recently started offering Spanish-language classes twice a week for a 20-person officer class and others who connect through videoconferencing.

“This is one incident that we take very seriously, obviously,” Hart said, “but we are doing a myriad of different initiatives to make sure that we are building the trust in the community.”

Immigrant advocates said progress has been made in community outreach but that they are not convinced the department’s culture has changed enough to bridge a gap of trust.

“It’s not just a matter of the language,” said Cheryl Keshner, coordinator of the Long Island Language Advocates Coalition, a group that seeks better interpreter and translation services from local governments. “The bottom line is the way that that girl was treated was completely inappropriate and disrespectful.”

S&P 500 hits all-time high, erasing '18 slide

The Associated Press

The S&P 500 hit an all-time high Tuesday, marking the stock market’s complete recovery from a nosedive at the end of last year.

The benchmark index’s previous record was set last September, shortly before the market sank in the fourth quarter amid fears of a recession, an escalating trade war between the U.S. and China, and concern the Federal Reserve was moving too aggressively to raise interest rates.

Those concerns have eased or taken a back seat to more optimism among investors this year. Investors are more confident in the prospects for steady, if slower, growth. And they’ve been encouraged by an increasingly hands-off Federal Reserve, which has signaled this year that it may not raise interest rates at all in 2019 after seven increases the prior two years.

Traders are also feeling more optimistic about the global economy. In China, economic growth held steady at 6.4 percent in the first quarter of the year as increased government efforts to stem a slowdown gained traction. In the United States, job growth rebounded in March following a surprisingly weak February.

And the uncertainty over the costly trade dispute be-

tween the United States and China has eased in recent weeks amid signs that both sides are making progress toward reaching a resolution.

The S&P 500 has now recovered all of the ground it lost last fall, gaining 24.8 percent since it hit a bottom on Christmas Eve.

“New highs, in and of themselves, tend to be bullish and tend to beget more new highs,” said Willie Delwiche, investment strategist at Baird. “You have the combination of Fed friendliness, the economy still in good shape and some expectations from an earnings front being reset that create a fundamental backdrop that isn’t all together unfavorable for stocks.”

Tuesday’s broad rally was driven by big U.S. companies turning in solid results for the first quarter. That surprised investors because analysts have forecast the worst quarter of earnings growth in years.

The S&P 500 index gained 25.71 points, or 0.9%, to 2,933.68. It’s previous record high was 2,930.75, which was set on Sept. 20.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 145.34 points, or 0.5 percent, to 26,656.39. The Nasdaq composite index climbed 105.56 points, or 1.3 percent, to 8,120.82, beating the record high close of 8,109.69 it reached on Aug. 29.

Small-company stocks rose much more than the rest of the market, a bullish sign indicating that investors were more willing to take on risk.

While the S&P 500’s latest milestone reflects renewed optimism about stocks, where the market goes from here depends largely on corporate earnings growth. To that end, the breadth of earnings growth is key, said Delwiche.

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— Willie Delwiche, investment strategist at Baird