

# Black driver stopped. People noticed

## Marvin Taylor: Why did police pull him over?

**Madison Scott**  
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Marvin Taylor hates confrontation. As a 22-year-old Black man growing up in Rochester, he's seen his fair share of instances where interactions with police have escalated toward violence.

He had not imagined finding himself in that situation. Whether it was getting off the bus as a kid and seeing an officer forcibly putting someone on the ground or videos of police brutality that have gone viral online, Taylor said he's always been aware of the potential dangers Black Americans can face during interactions with police.

A dog breeder who travels around the country to different dog shows, Taylor described himself as laid back and non-confrontational. He's had no prior experience with the court system or even attended a court hearing for someone else, he said. After a routine traffic stop with Rochester Police escalated last month, he found himself in front of a judge for the first time. Before being released, Taylor got his mugshot taken and was fingerprinted, forcing him to face his new reality. "Now, I'm in the system for real," he said.

### Why did police pull over a Black motorist in Rochester?

In a press release, RPD stated that Taylor was driving with an expired inspection and then failed to turn on his blinker when turning onto Remington Street and Dale Street. Police say Taylor "failed to immediately stop" when being pulled over, though his car traveled less than 500 feet after he turned, according to police records and Google Maps. Taylor was not charged with fleeing police.

- Body cam footage from the May 7 incident shows two RPD officers approaching Taylor's car; one officer had his gun drawn.

- The body cam footage shows Taylor asking for the reason he was pulled over and why an officer had his gun drawn, but police did not give an answer. The officers ordered Taylor to roll



**Marvin Taylor spends a lot of his free time traveling to different dog shows across the country. There, he networks, learns about ethical breeding and marketing, and enters his pups into various obedience or aesthetic contests.** PROVIDED BY MARVIN TAYLOR

down his back window, but when Taylor continued questioning why he was pulled over **and did not roll down the windows**, an officer smashed his window and dragged him out of the car.

- The footage also shows an officer questioning Taylor about having drugs, though **no illicit drugs were found** on him or in his car and he was not charged with any drug-related crimes.

- Police released Taylor with an **obstruction of governmental administration charge**, two tickets for the expired inspection and failure to use a turn signal and a reported sprained shoulder from when police pulled him out of the car.

RPD said the incident is under review, but now Taylor is left to pick up the pieces and figure out how he can use his experience to help and better his community, he said. At the time of the incident, though, Taylor's main concern was how his shoulder injury might impact how he could physically and financially care for his pregnant American Bully, Roxy, he said.

### Growing up in Rochester: Group 14621

Taylor was on his way home from dropping his girlfriend, Chynna Jackson, off at work when he was pulled over on Dale Street. He was only there because his house, one street over, was on a one-way road. He said he's lived in the same house in the Group 14621 Neighborhood of Rochester his entire life, taking it over once his mom moved.

In an interview last week, Taylor said he couldn't sugarcoat his description of the situation. It is neighborhood with big challenges and has seen its share of drugs and poverty.

Census data from 2022 shows that 35 percent of the people in the 14621 neighborhood live below the poverty line, more than double the rates in both Rochester and New York. Regardless of the inequalities or struggles within the neighborhood, it's always been his home and he loves his community, he said. "There's people in bad areas that are good and people in good areas that are bad," Taylor said. "People stick together in that neighborhood, like look out for each other."

Taylor, the youngest of three boys, grew up playing football and basketball and graduated from Edison Career and Technology High School in 2019. He got his first dog when he was around 16 years old and immediately fell in love.

Since then, his interest in dogs has grown and he has had thoughts about becoming a vet.

### Marvo's Army: Business endeavor

Around 2022, Taylor said he started his breeding business, "Marvo's Army." He has three adult dogs: the American Bully, a Shit Tzu named Wulf and a French bulldog named Montana.

Montana is "the face" of the brand, said Taylor's best friend, Treshaun Moore.

"He's so cute," Moore said. "And he's the most well-behaved," added Taylor's girlfriend, Jackson. Breeding takes a toll on dogs and it could be harmful to have more than three litters, Taylor said. He said he looks for other avenues of making money in the dog business to remain ethical and keep his dogs safe.

"I'm trying to sell merch or sell dog items, there's other ways to make money in the dog game other than just breeding your dogs," Taylor said. "And that's a big focus I feel like breeders should understand."

Dog shows and events have become both a source of income and a way for Taylor to meet other people within the dog community. The dogs love these events too. "You could just tell the dogs that's up there, they know it's show-time," Jackson said. "My dogs allow me to travel and meet new people all over the world, so I appreciate that," Taylor said.

He's hoping to bring his dogs to an upcoming show in August. Taylor's shoulder injury from the traffic stop left him in a sling and out of work for a few weeks, he said. He remembers struggling to take his pregnant dog back and forth from the vet with only one arm. It was hard, he said, but his family and friends jumped in to help take care of all the dogs.

"I messed up a lot of things, you know," Jackson, Taylor's girlfriend, said. "He was out of work for two weeks so scrambling money together for a C-section and scrambling money for bills, it was stressful."

Roxy eventually had her puppies and recently he got another litter of French Bulldog puppies. In all, Marvo's Army gained nine new little members. Since the May 7 traffic stop, Taylor said, many people in the community have come together to support him. He's been working with Mike Johnson, a community activist from the group Save Rochester. Taylor said he hopes his situation can be a guiding light for others and show they aren't alone. Moore, Taylor's longtime friend, says he has a lot of respect for his friend speaking out and sharing his experience. "One thing for sure is it happens to a lot of people — and a lot of people don't have the courage to speak up," he said.

— *Madison Scott is a journalist with the Democrat and Chronicle who edited our Weld Street Project and also did reporting for it.*

*She has an interest in how the system helps or doesn't help families with missing loved ones. She can be reached at MDSScott@gannett.com.*