

NEWS SERVICE

BREAKING NEWS

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Attached Michael Bennett Statement

**SUPER BOWL CHAMPION ASSAULTED BY
LAS VEGAS METRO POLICE**

**SEATTLE SEAHAWK MICHAEL BENNETT HAS
RETAINED LAW OFFICES OF OAKLAND CIVIL RIGHTS
ATTORNEY JOHN BURRIS**

Mr. Bennett was face down on the ground when a Las Vegas Metro Police officer placed his gun at the back of his head and shouted 'don't move or I'll blow your fucking head off.' **Michael Bennett's Attorney John Burris**

Oakland, CA -The Law Offices of John L. Burris has been retained to represent Super Bowl Champion and star NFL football player Michael Bennett. Mr. Bennett was assaulted by two yet to be identified Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Officers after the Mayweather v McGregor fight and Mr. Burris' firm is in the process of investigating the incident and advising Mr. Bennett of his legal options including filing a federal civil rights lawsuit. Lead Attorney, John Burris calls on LVMPD "to be transparent by immediately identifying the involved officers and releasing the Officers' body camera videos of the incident."

The incident took place at the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard and East Flamingo Road during the early morning hours of Sunday, August 27, 2017 when Mr. Bennett a defensive lineman with the Seattle Seahawks, like thousands of other people was in Las Vegas attending the Mayweather v McGregor fight on his off day. After the fight was over, Mr. Bennett was in the process of making his way back to his hotel when he heard what sounded like gunshots. The sound caused him and dozens of other people to run for cover. In the midst of seeking safety, a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officer shouted at him to "get on the ground or I'll shoot". Mr. Bennett immediately went to the ground at gunpoint. Civil Rights attorney John Burris said "Mr. Bennett was face down on the ground when a Las Vegas Metro Police officer placed his gun at the back of Mr. Bennett's head and shouted don't move or I'll blow your fucking head off." Burris goes on to say "Bennett was in total compliance and scared for his life when a second officer for no apparent reason forcefully dug his knee into Mr. Bennett's back making it difficult for him to breathe." According to Burris, "Terrified and frightened, Mr. Bennett continuously asked the Officers why they were arresting him and he tried to remind them that he had rights." The Officers ignored Mr. Bennett's pleas and instead placed him into handcuffs. They cinched the cuffs so tight his fingers went numb. Burris said, "Adding insult to injury, the Officers placed Mr. Bennett to a nearby patrol car where they continued to physically manhandle and mistreat him while forcing him into the cramped backseat where he remained handcuffed and stuffed in the patrol car's backseat for what felt like to him an eternity." Burris states that "Only after the Officers confirmed that Mr. Bennett was, in fact, a Super Bowl Champion and star National Football League player did they

finally release him from custody.’ . . . ‘It is important to note, Mr. Bennett was unarmed, sober and not involved in any altercations or dispute at the time the police officers arrested and threatened to use deadly force against him.” Burris went on to say, “The Officers’ conduct is particularly outrageous in that there was no basis upon which to select Mr. Bennett from a crowd of people all running for their lives. He did nothing wrong.” According to published reports, it was later determined that there were no gunshots ever fired.

Mr. Bennett believes “the system failed me” and the Officer treated him as if he “was guilty until proven innocent.” He laments that when he was on the ground complying with the Officers’ orders “I was terrified that I was going to be shot and killed” for “no reason other than I was a black man at the wrong place at the wrong time” and wondered if he would ever see his wife and two little girls again.

Mr. Burris calls the actions of the two Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officers “outrageous, and exhibit A as to how every black man rich, famous or poor, unarmed and innocent can be falsely detained, arrested or even shot and killed by the police. This is a situation where Officers arbitrarily jumped Mr. Bennett and then doubled down on their misdeeds by threatening him with deadly force and prosecution rather than common sense or their training.” The law firm is currently considering all of Mr. Bennett’s legal options including filing a federal civil rights laws suit.

ColorofChange.org has formed a petition to pressure LVMPD to identify the officers and release the body camera footage of the incident.

All press or media inquiries should be directed to: Lee Houskeeper NewsService@aol.com