

NEWS SERVICE
BREAKING NEWS
SAN RAFAEL PRESS CONFERENCE
12:00 NOON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29th

**Civil Rights Attorney John Burris Announces The Filing Of A Federal Civil Rights Lawsuit
Against The City of San Rafael For Terrorizing A Black 21-Year Veteran U.S Mail Carrier Whose
Only Crime Was Driving While Black.**

"This is an egregious case of stopping a black man on a hunch without having a scintilla of evidence. Even though Mr. Bracy's treatment isn't physically as brutal as many of the highly visible police cases in the news, the issue reflects the kind of insults to citizenship and self-esteem that African Americans, especially men, routinely suffer. The officers' conduct was intentional, reckless, and negligent toward Mr. Bracy's physical and mental well-being. Mr. Bracy's humiliation could have been avoided with good competent police work."

Civil Rights Attorney John Burris

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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COMPLAINT LINK:

PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT: <https://www.facebook.com/johnburrislaw>

WHAT: Press Conference announcing legal action related to the detention and arrest of Karl Bracy, a 21 year veteran US Postal Service mail carrier by members of the San Rafael Police Department

COMPLAINT LINK:

PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT:

WHERE: San Rafael, corner of 4th and A streets

WHEN: 12 NOON-October 29, 2020

WHO: Attorney John Burris and US Postal Service Mail Carrier Karl Bracy

San Rafael CA---Today, Attorney John Burris filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the City of San Rafael on behalf of black 21-year veteran U.S Mail carrier Karl Bracy. The suit alleges that Mr. Bracy was wrongfully stopped, detained, and handcuffed by the police for being a person suspected of carjacking. Mr. Bracy dressed in his postman uniform and driving his white 2007 Chevy Malibu was innocent.

On the day in question, Mr. Bracy left work from his Post Office in San Rafael to go home to Fairfield, CA. Bracy, who had put in a long 10-hour day delivering mail, briefly stopped at a 7/11 convenience store to purchase small personal items. Upon exiting the store and getting into his car, he noticed several San

Rafael police cars parked in a parking lot near the store. Bracy didn't think much of it other than as a black man, he was conscious of them and wanted to be sure to drive so as not to attract their attention. After turning onto 4th street, he immediately noted a police car was trailing him, but he thought they might be looking for someone else. However, after 5 minutes and four very long blocks, he was stopped by them just as he was about to enter the freeway.

A police officer loudly ordered him out of the car at gunpoint. Bracy noted that there were at least three other officers present with guns drawn. Mr. Bracy, who was still in his official USPS uniform, became was frightened and afraid for his life. He couldn't imagine why he was being stopped at gunpoint. (Mr. Bracy has no criminal record)

The officers gave several commands with which he complied. Mr. Bracy tried to tell them he was a postman and had just left work, but his plea was ignored. The officers' guns remained trained on him. He was handcuffed and placed in the back seat of a police car. More and more officers arrived at the scene. Each of the officers had their guns out and pointed at Mr. Bracy. After an excruciating 10 minutes, the officers determined that Bracy's car was not the vehicle they were looking for. Bracy was finally uncuffed and told that he was free to leave. During this period of detainment/ arrest, Mr. Bracy was not free to go, and at all times, he was frightened and feared for his life.

Unbeknownst to Mr. Bracy, there had been a car theft reported to the police. The police dispatcher had broadcast that three people had stolen a car, two men and a woman. The stolen vehicle was a 2011 white Impala with black tires. Oddly, the dispatcher did not report any information about the thieves' age, race, clothing, or physical description. There was no information that the police had received that could serve as bases to stop Mr. Bracy, a slender, brown complexion 55-year-old African American man driving alone in a 2007 white Malibu when stopped by the police. Moreover, one or more of the officers had expressed reservations about Mr. Bracy's car, not being the stolen car. Still, they allowed Mr. Bracy to suffer the indignity of arrest and handcuffing, which could have been avoided.

John Burris says that this is an egregious case of stopping a black man on a hunch without having a scintilla of evidence. Even though Mr. Bracy's treatment isn't physically as brutal as many of the highly visible police cases in the news, the issue reflects the kind of insults to citizenship and self-esteem that African Americans, especially men, routinely suffer. The officers' conduct was intentional, reckless, and negligent toward Mr. Bracy's physical and mental well-being, said Burris. Mr. Bracy's humiliation could have been avoided with good competent police work.

The officers were negligent and incompetent because, as they followed Mr. Bracy for four blocks, they could have easily checked his license plate and ascertained that he was the owner. They should have seen the Malibu symbol on the back of the car; in fact, an officer wrongly claimed that he was following a 2011 Impala. Additionally, they could have asked dispatch for more information, but they did not and consequently subjected Mr. Bracy to fear, intimidation and humiliation.

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