

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
HORACE CURRY,

Plaintiff,

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, POLICE OFFICER
ANNA RUIZWERKEMA SHIED NO.: 13063 AND
UNDERCOVER POLICE OFFICER 364,

Defendants.
-----X

CIVIL ACTION

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Index No. 18 CV 6690

Plaintiff, by his attorney, Jason L. Lopez, as and for his complaint hereby alleges as follows:

Parties

1. Plaintiff HORACE CURRY presently resides and is domiciled in the State of New York.

2. Upon information and belief defendant the CITY OF NEW YORK (hereinafter "City") is a municipal corporation domiciled in the State of New York.

3. Upon information and belief, defendant POLICE OFFICER ANNA RUIZWERKEMA SHIED NO.: 13063 (hereinafter "Ruizwerkema") AND UNDERCOVER POLICE OFFICER 364 (HEREINAFTER "UC 364") reside and are domiciled in the State of New York.

Jurisdiction - Venue

4. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983 and the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the Constitution and

laws of the State of New York. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the federal claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and §1343(a)(3)(4).

5. Venue on this action lies in the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 as the events giving rise to this action occurred in the Southern District.

General Allegations of Fact

6. Plaintiff presently resides in New York.

7. At all times relevant hereto, the City maintained, controlled and operated the New York City Police Department which is empowered under the laws of the State and City of New York to prevent, respond to and investigate crimes.

8. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant hereto, Police Officer Ruizwerkema and UC 364 were employed by the New York City Police Department. As such, Police Officer Ruizwerkema and UC 364 at all times relevant hereto, possessed the authority under the color of law to make arrests, investigate crimes committed in the City of New York and file criminal complaints.

9. On July 25, 2017 Plaintiff was lawfully in the vicinity of 124th Street and Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10037 the actual location of his false arrest.

10. At said location, Defendants without probable cause illegally searched Plaintiff, subsequently placed Plaintiff in handcuffs, placed him into a police van for several hours and ultimately transported him to the 34TH Precinct. Plaintiff remained incarcerated for several hours before being released on his own recognizance.

11. Plaintiff, as a direct result of the criminal complaint sworn out by Police Officer on Ruizwerkema on July 26, 2013, was charged under New York County Docket No.:

2017NY040249 with one count of Patronizing a Prostitute in the Third Degree pursuant to Penal Law §230.04 (hereinafter “Criminal Complaint”).

12. Plaintiff as a result of the false allegations lodged against him by the Defendants, was required to return to court on several occasions before the matter was ultimately dismissed on January 23, 2018.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. §1983

13. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 17.

14. At all times pertinent hereto the defendants acted under color of law in connection with their false arrest and imprisonment of Plaintiff.

20. That on July 25, 2017 the Defendants wrongfully seized, detained, searched, arrested and imprisoned plaintiff in violation of his constitutional rights including but not limited to violation of the Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution in violation of his rights secured by the Constitution and laws of the State of New York.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
FAILURE TO INTERVENE - 4TH AMENDMENT - PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. §1983

21. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 20.

22. Members of the New York City Police Department have an affirmative duty to assess the constitutionality of interactions between their fellow members of service and civilians and to intervene where they observe another member of the New York City Police Department employing unjustified and excessive force against a civilian or falsely arresting a civilian.

Defendants failed to intervene in the aforementioned conduct. Defendants failed to intervene against the aforementioned constitutional acts and as a result allowed Plaintiff to suffer a violation of his constitutional rights and loss of liberty.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. §1983 AS A
RESULT OF MALICIOUS PROSECUTION

23. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 22.

24. Upon information and belief, Defendants were directly and actively involved in the initiation and continuation of criminal proceedings against Plaintiff relating to his arrest on August 19, 2013.

25. Defendants lacked probable cause to initiate and continue criminal proceedings against Plaintiff relating to his arrest on July 25, 2017.

26. Defendants acted with malice in initiating and continuing a criminal proceeding against Plaintiff with respect to his July 25, 2017 arrest.

27. Upon information and belief, Defendants misrepresented and falsified evidence to the New York County District Attorney relating to the events surrounding Plaintiff's arrest on July 25, 2017 at the initiation and throughout all phases of the criminal proceeding maliciously lodged against Plaintiff.

28. Upon information and belief, Defendants did not make a complete and full statement of the events surrounding Plaintiff's arrest on July 25, 2017 to the New York County District Attorney at the initiation and throughout the criminal proceeding maliciously lodged against Plaintiff.

29. Upon information and belief, Defendants withheld exculpatory evidence from the New York County District Attorney regarding Plaintiff's arrest on July 25, 2017 at the initiation and throughout all phases of the criminal proceeding maliciously lodged against Plaintiff.

30. Upon information and belief, Defendants falsely arrested and commenced criminal proceedings against Plaintiff to achieve objectives outside the legitimate means of the legal process.

31. Despite the above, the criminal proceeding against Plaintiff was dismissed and sealed on or about January 23, 2018.

32. As a result of the foregoing, Defendants deprived Plaintiff of his constitutional rights secured by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

33. As a result of the foregoing, Defendants deprived Plaintiff of his liberty.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
DENIAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. §1983

34. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 33.

35. Upon information and belief, Defendants misrepresented and created false evidence against Plaintiff.

36. Upon information and belief, Defendants communicated misrepresented and false evidence to members of the New York County District Attorney's office that caused the initiation of the aforementioned criminal proceeding against Plaintiff relating to his July 25, 2017 arrest.

37. Upon information and belief, Defendants maintained that the misrepresented and false evidence was true throughout all phases of the criminal proceeding against Plaintiff relating to his July 25, 2017 arrest.

38. As a result of the aforementioned, Defendants violated Plaintiff's constitutional rights to a fair trial under the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
MUNICIPAL LIABILITY/MONELL CLAIM PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. §1983

39. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38.

40. Defendants arrested, incarcerated and subjected Plaintiff to the aforementioned criminal proceeding in the absence of any evidence of criminal wrongdoing knowing that such actions would violate Plaintiff's constitutional rights, deprive him of his liberty and negatively impact his well-being.

41. The Defendants carried out the acts complained of in their official capacities as members of the New York City Police Department under the color of law pursuant to the customs, policies, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and New York City Police Department under the supervision of their superiors.

42. Upon information and belief, the customs, policies, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and New York City Police Department that the Defendants followed include but are not limited to the following:

- i. fabricating evidence against innocent persons falsely arrested during alleged narcotics investigations
- ii. falsely arresting individuals and subjecting them to criminal proceedings despite credible evidence which exonerates the accused individual of any criminal activity

43. The aforementioned unconstitutional customs, policies, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and New York City Police Department may be inferred from similar

repeated wrongful conduct documented in previous civil rights claims filed against the City of New York including but not limited to the following:

- *Diaz v. City of New York*, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 08CV6399
- *Richardson v. City of New York*, United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, 05CV2375
- *Stewart v. City of New York*, United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, 05CV2375
- *Douglas v. City of New York*, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 03CV6475
- *Flood v. City of New York*, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 03CV10313

44. The aforementioned unconstitutional customs, policies, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and New York City Police Department presented a deliberate indifference to the safety and well-being of Plaintiff and served to violate Plaintiff's constitutional rights as alleged above.

45. The aforementioned unconstitutional customs, policies, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and New York City Police Department empowered and motivated the Defendants to violate Plaintiff's constitutional rights as previously alleged.

46. As a result of aforementioned unconstitutional customs, policies, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and New York City Police Department Plaintiff was wrongfully and maliciously subjected to a criminal proceeding as previously alleged in violation of his constitutional rights.

GENERAL DAMAGE

47. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 46.

48. As a result of the actions and inactions of the Defendants set forth herein, the plaintiff was caused to incur a violation of his civil and constitutional rights and a loss of liberty including but not limited to spending several hours incarcerated.

49. As a result of the actions of the defendants set forth herein, the Plaintiff was caused to sustain shock, embarrassment, humiliation, and fear that prevents the plaintiff from engaging in and enjoying ordinary daily activities, nervousness, anxiety and stress. As such, the plaintiff seeks damages in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00).

50. This action falls within one of the exceptions set forth in C.P.L.R. Article 16.

PUNITIVE DAMAGES

51. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 50.

52. The defendants actions as set forth herein rise to a level of wanton, reckless, malicious and intentional disregard of the plaintiffs civil and constitutional rights and as such the plaintiff herein requests that this court impose punitive damages as a result of said actions

SPECIAL DAMAGES

53. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 52.

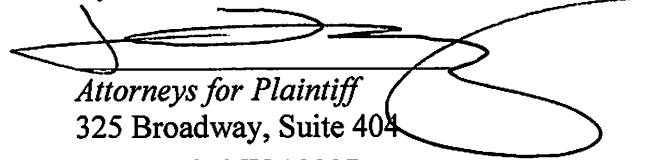
54. Plaintiff seeks to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs associated with the prosecution of this civil action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants for the amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of the Court together with attorney's fees, interest, costs, and such other relief as the court may deem appropriate.

Dated: New York, NY
July 22, 2018

LAW OFFICE OF JASON LOPEZ

By: JASON L. LOPEZ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason L. Lopez", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends to the right of the line.

Attorneys for Plaintiff

325 Broadway, Suite 404

New York, NY 10007

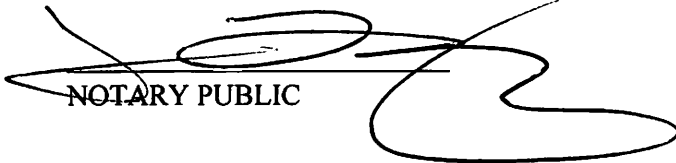
(212) 964-4144

I, Horace Curry am the plaintiff in the annexed action and as such am fully aware of the facts and circumstances that give rise to my claims. I have read the foregoing Complaint and believe the contents thereof to be true to the best of my knowledge other than those of matters stated to be upon information and belief which I believe the same to be true.



HORACE CURRY

Sworn before me this
22nd day of July 2018



NOTARY PUBLIC

JASON L. LOPEZ
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 02LO6087319
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires February 18, 2019

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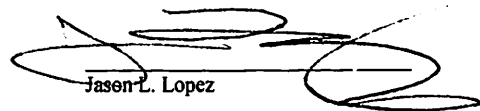
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SUMMONS & VERIFIED COMPLAINT

LAW OFFICE OF JASON LOPEZ
Attorney for Plaintiff
325 Broadway, Suite 404
New York, NY 10007
(212) 964-4144

The undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of the State of New York, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, the contentions contained in the annexed document are not frivolous.

Dated: July 22, 2018


Jason L. Lopez

Service of the within is hereby admitted
Dated:

Attorney(s) for