

PRESS RELEASE

Date: October 23, 2011

Re: Lawsuit Filed Against Aurora Police For Assaulting Unconscious Man Whose Family Had Called 911

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A press conference is scheduled for tomorrow, Monday, **October 24, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.** in front of the **Aurora Police Department Headquarters, 15001 E. Alameda Parkway**, to announce the filing of a federal lawsuit by Rickey Burrell against the City Aurora and the three police officers involved in his assault on December 18, 2010.

On December 18, 2010, Mr. Burrell suffered a seizure. A family member called 911 and Aurora Police Department ("APD") officers Brandon Rinnan, Darren P. Chamberland, and Darryl D. Huntsman were the first to arrive. Upon entering the house, these APD Officers went to Mr. Burrell's bedroom where they found him lying face down and unconscious on the bed. Inexplicably, one of the APD Officers jumped Mr. Burrell, forcibly drove his knee into the center of Mr. Burrell's back then jerked Mr. Burrell's wrist, bringing it behind him and to the center of his back. A second APD Officer forcibly grabbed Mr. Burrell's other wrist and wrenched it behind his back. Despite the fact that Mr. Burrell was still laying face down and motionless on the bed, the two APD Officers used excessive physical force to handcuff him. Mr. Burrell, in great pain, wearing nothing but soiled underwear from his seizure, and in shock at the events that were occurring, regained consciousness and cried out in pain. Mr. Burrell implored for the officers to stop hurting him, as he had done nothing wrong. Still wearing only his underwear, Mr. Burrell was dragged downstairs in front of his daughter, niece and grandchild causing him further pain and great humiliation. Once downstairs, the APD Officers took Mr. Burrell outside, in the middle of winter, where he was displayed almost completely naked and in handcuffs for the whole neighborhood to see. Thus, rather than provide Mr. Burrell with needed medical care, these APD Officers attacked Mr. Burrell, fracturing his right wrist and worsening preexisting injuries to his right shoulder and back.

Sadly, the APD's Officers' brutal treatment of Mr. Burrell was pursuant to an APD custom, policy, and/or practice of unconstitutional detention and use of illegal excessive force. Although there have been numerous instances of brutality in Aurora over the last several years, the City has fostered a culture where such unconstitutional behavior is allowed to continue and recur.

Mr. Burrell is represented by the Denver civil rights law firm of Killmer, Lane & Newman, LLP. Mr. Burrell and his legal counsel will be available to further explain the legal bases and goals of this lawsuit and to answer inquiries from the public and the media.