

FEATURED

\$685K settlement authorized in Amsterdam excessive force lawsuit

Ashley Onyon
Dec 4, 2024



Amsterdam police car

File photo

AMSTERDAM — The city has authorized a \$685,000 settlement of a federal lawsuit filed by a man who alleged police used excessive force and caused him permanent partial disability while responding to a noise complaint at his home in 2021.

The Common Council on Tuesday authorized the settlement following an executive session to discuss the pending litigation. The city will pay a \$25,000 deductible.

All claims will be settled under the agreement reached through mediation mandated by the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of New York.

Mayor Michael Cinquanti on Wednesday confirmed he signed the resolution following its approval by the council, but said he could not comment on the settlement until it has been finalized.

Recommended for you



Elderly Montgomery County resident scammed, alleged scammer caught in sting

THE DAILY GAZET

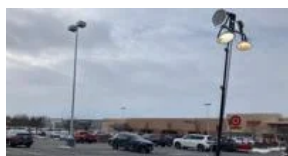
Dorothy Kwiatkowski

Corporation Counsel Anthony Casale and Police Chief Joseph Spencer likewise declined to comment when reached regarding the matter.

James Knox, an attorney with the Hacker Murphy law firm, representing the plaintiff, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday.

David Teal originally filed the lawsuit in federal court against the city and the Amsterdam Police Department in November 2021. The complaint was amended just over a year later.

Officers Raymond Renzi, Aurelio Fiorillo and Vjay Rathore were additionally named in the lawsuit.



National Grid: Electrical equipment failure caused outage at some Amsterdam Commons stores Monday

Ashley Onyon

Teal alleged police violated his rights by entering his home without legal cause or a warrant and used excessive force while unlawfully arresting him during the response to a noise complaint in July 2021.

A noise violation is not an arrestable offense under city code, according to the lawsuit.

During the encounter, Teal claims officers “slammed” him to the ground, fracturing his left tibia, dislocating his knee, tearing several ligaments and causing a traumatic injury to the blood vessels and other tissue of his leg.

At the time, Teal allegedly heard one of the officers say, “I heard it pop.”

Teal was subsequently placed in handcuffs before being transported by ambulance to St. Mary’s Healthcare. He was later transferred to Albany Medical Center, where he underwent emergency surgery to repair vascular damage to his left leg, according to the lawsuit.

As part of the procedure, blood vessels were harvested from Teal’s right leg, which left open wounds that later had to be closed by skin grafts. He was hospitalized for eight weeks and has permanent scars.



Sheriff: Amsterdam woman repeatedly gave false names in stops

By Steven Cook

Teal has used a wheelchair since being released from the hospital and has been partially disabled after sustaining the injuries. He is unable to work and will require future knee surgeries, according to the lawsuit.

Police allegedly filed false charges against Teal, including that he resisted arrest. The charges were later dismissed in City Court, the lawsuit states.

The complaint described the incident as part of a pattern of “false arrests, unlawful imprisonment and uses of excessive force” by the department.

Teal had sought unspecified damages, attorney’s fees and any relief deemed appropriate by the court.

The city denied all of the allegations while asserting an affirmative defense in a response to the lawsuit filed in federal court.

Mayfield eyed as top pick for Upstate Ice Plex

By Tyler A. McNeil



“All damages suffered by plaintiff, if any, were caused in whole or in part by plaintiff’s culpable conduct,” the response states in part. “The arrest, detention and/or imprisonment of the plaintiff was legitimate, lawful, privileged and/or constitutional.”

Amsterdam had sought the dismissal of the complaint and any relief deemed appropriate by the court.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

DAVID TEAL,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF AMSTERDAM, CITY OF
AMSTERDAM POLICE DEPARTMENT,
CITY OF AMSTERDAM POLICE OFFICER
RAYMOND RENZI, CITY OF AMSTERDAM
POLICE OFFICER AURELIO FIORILLO and
CITY OF AMSTERDAM POLICE OFFICER
VJAY RATHORE,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:21-cv-01256 (BKS/DJS)

**42 U.S.C. § 1983 AMENDED
COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

MONELL LIABILITY

**FALSE ARREST & UNLAWFUL
IMPRISONMENT**

USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

E. STEWART JONES HACKER MURPHY, LLP
James C. Knox, Esq.
Bar Roll No. 517109
Attorneys for Plaintiff
28 Second Street
Troy, New York 12180
Telephone: (518) 274-5820

A copy of the amended lawsuit filed by David Teal against the city of Amsterdam, Amsterdam Police Department and three officers.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DAVID TEAL,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF AMSTERDAM, CITY OF
AMSTERDAM POLICE DEPARTMENT,
CITY OF AMSTERDAM POLICE OFFICER
RAYMOND RENZI, CITY OF AMSTERDAM
POLICE OFFICER AURELIO FIORILLO,
AND CITY OF AMSTERDAM POLICE OFFICER
VJAY RATHORE,

Case No. 1:21-cv-1256 (BKS/DJS)

Defendants.

ANSWER TO FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

As and for their Answer to Plaintiff's December 13, 2022 Amended Complaint in the above-referenced action (ECF No. 29), Defendants, the City of Amsterdam, (also sued herein as the City of Amsterdam Police Department), Raymond Renzi, Aurelio Fiorillo and Vjay Rathore (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants" or "answering Defendants"), by and through their counsel (Johnson & Laws, LLC), sets forth as follows:

BACKGROUND AND JURISDICTION

1. As to the allegations contained in paragraph "1" of the Complaint herein: acknowledge that Plaintiff purports to invoke the Court's subject matter jurisdiction; refer all questions of law to the Court; and deny all remaining allegations, statements, and inferences contained herein.

2. Deny all allegations, statements, and inferences contained in paragraph "2" of the Complaint herein.

A copy of the response to a lawsuit filed in federal court against the city of Amsterdam and Amsterdam Police Department.

More:



National Grid: Electrical equipment failure caused outage at some Amsterdam Commons stores Monday

Ashley Onyon



Sheriff: Amsterdam woman repeatedly gave false names in stops

By Steven Cook



Mayfield eyed as top pick for Upstate Ice Plex

By Tyler A. McNeil

Reach Ashley Onyon at aonyon@dailygazette.net or [@AshleyOnyon](https://twitter.com/AshleyOnyon) on X.

MORE INFORMATION



Amsterdam codifies ban on smoking, vaping in city parks

Ashley Onyon

Reporter