



Detroit Native Sun **Press Release**

Written by :

Valerie D. Lockhart



About the Detroit Native Sun

The Detroit Native Sun (DNS) is a free community newspaper that was founded in October 2005. It transitioned into a 501c3 in January 2024 to help boost literacy among local youth through the formation of Journalism Clubs. The paper is published the second Friday of each month and is distributed throughout metro-Detroit. Since its inception, DNS has never missed publishing an issue. They attribute their longevity to being powered by Holy Spirit. The paper is supported by advertising and its writers are made up of community and religious leaders, non-profit organizations, educators, and entrepreneurs.

About the Publisher

Valerie D. Lockhart is an award-winning journalist. Her gift for writing was discovered as a child by her grandmother, Bertha Barnes, who was a labor activist and a member of the Service Employees International Union local 79. At around 9 years old, her grandmother taught her how to write union grievances that became her first writing job.

After graduating from the University of Detroit, Lockhart started free-lancing for the Detroit News. She became a regular education and community reporter, taking responsibility for a column covering teacher and student of the week. Many of her articles were republished in the Detroit Free Press under the joint operating agreement. She later served as Associate Editor of the Michigan Chronicle writing front page news stories and editing the writings of staff members.

When Lockhart is not busy writing, she loves reading to children in the Read To A Child Program, which she has been participating in for the last five years. She is also a licensed foster care provider, and adopted two little boys who are the love and joy in her life. She also enjoys writing press ready press releases that are often published in local newspapers.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPSCD police officer files \$1 million sexual harassment and retaliation lawsuit against the district

A \$1 million lawsuit has been filed against the Detroit Public Schools Community District and members of its police department accusing them of covering up incidents of sexual harassment, putting student safety at risk and retaliating against the whistle-blower.

Kelley Mays, who was previously the highest ranking female officer on the force, was demoted from sergeant to patrol officer and denied privileges needed to carry out her duties for reporting several incidents of sexual harassment allegedly inflicted by the district's former chief, Ronald Johnson, and exposing acts violating security policies and jeopardizing student safety.

Copies of the complaint and videos will be shown during a press conference scheduled for Saturday, April 6 at 6 pm at the Law Office of Eric Frankie, 3000 Town Center, Suite 1820 in Southfield, Mi 48075.

Johnson is accused of making sexually offensive comments toward Mays and insinuating she was sexually involved with several male officers on the force.

Although the incidents were reported to high ranking officers, DPSCD administrators, and members of the school board, no action was taken.

When it comes to student safety, disturbing images of a cognitively impaired student taking a loaded weapon from an officer and then waving it into the air was captured on a video surveillance system and reported to Chief Labrit Jackson. No disciplinary action was taken toward the officer involved.

Another video shows civilians, who are reportedly Chief Jackson's friends, dressed like officers making a video in areas off limits to the general public.

Mays was terminated during a 2-hour closed door session at the school board meeting on March 20. Her attorney said the action was another act of retaliation cited in the Michigan Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.2701(a).



Parent files \$1M lawsuit against DPSCD over beating and choking by school security

The family of a Northwestern High School student beaten and choked by a school security guard has filed a \$1 million lawsuit against the Detroit Public Schools Community District.

A press conference will take place today, October 13 at 4 pm at Spectrum Legal Services, P.C. 24100 Southfield Road, Suite 203 Southfield, MI 48075. Attorney Michael Fortner is handling the case.

Ashley Johnson, the teen's mother, said her 17-year-old son was attacked after words were exchanged between him and the officer.

"It's a certain way as a professional that you should handle students," Johnson said. "You're not a child. You're an adult."

Disturbing footage of the incident that took place earlier this month was captured on a cell phone and shows the student being beaten by the guard and restrained using a triangle choke-hold.

Following the incident, the teen was taken to the hospital and treated for minor injuries. However, the teen currently suffers from soreness and emotional distress as a result of the altercation.

The suit accuses the district of negligence in failing to respond to an incident report submitted by the teen several weeks in advance of the scuffle that cited threats to do bodily harm made by the guard. The district also failed to notify the teen's parent of the report and did not investigate nor took immediate action to protect the student.

The family is calling for the guard to be terminated and prosecuted for assault. They hope this lawsuit will prompt the district to make changes in its policy to ensure the safety of students in their care.

Ultimately, the guard was arrested and placed on administrative leave. The incident is reportedly being investigated by the district.



Family of slain DMC nurse to file \$200 million lawsuit, accusing the healthcare facility of negligence

The family of slain DMC nurse Patrice Latoya Wilson is celebrating her birthday, not with cake and ice cream, but with a \$200 million lawsuit filed against the healthcare facility, and they're wishing for justice.

A press conference is scheduled to take place on what would have been Wilson's 30th birthday on August 1 at 4 pm at the Spectrum Legal Services to announce the complaint.

Tenet Healthcare and Detroit Medical Center is accused of contributing to the death of Wilson by failing to follow active shooter protocol, neglecting to issue a lockdown for the campus, and delaying contacting the Detroit Police Department for over two hours, which might have resulted in Wilson surviving the shooting.

On May 13, Jamere Mykel Miller, an ex-boyfriend, is accused of shooting Wilson multiple times in the parking lot at Detroit Receiving Hospital, where Wilson worked as a nursing supervisor. The 36-year-old Inkster resident is charged with first-degree murder, felony murder, carjacking, armed robbery, felon in possession of a firearm and five counts of possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Security was reportedly informed of an attack prior to the shooting but failed to act.

"I talked to my daughter before she got off work at 7:45 am. When I hung up the phone, 10 minutes later I got another phone call from a number that I didn't recognize. It was a young man on the other end. He said, 'I was on the phone with your daughter and heard her screaming and hollering like someone was attacking her, and then the phone went dead.' He called security, and then he called me," Rosalind Livingston, mother of the victim and a DMC employee, said.

An eyewitness to the incident reported that security was not at their station, when she went into the building to report the shooting.

"Other co-workers were getting off work, and I told them to be careful. They went and found security," Ieisha Williams, a nurse who witnessed the shooting, said. "By the time security came, he had pulled off. They did not place the hospital on lockdown. Police took my statement and someone from dietary statement. The dietary person heard the shot, and he talked to the guy before I came along."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's guideline "Active Shooter How to Respond" recommends that an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) be created, and training exercises conducted.

"During an emergency, managers should be familiar with their EAP, and be prepared to: Take immediate action. Remain calm. Lock and barricade doors. Evacuate staff and customers via a pre planned evacuation route to a safe area," the manual noted.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, there were a total of 50 active shooter incidents in the U.S. in 2022, a 66.7% increase over 2018. These resulted in 100 killed and 213 wounded, excluding the shooters, the highest casualty count in the last five years.

The family hopes their lawsuit will move DMC officials to implement better security policies to ensure the safety of staff and patients.

"I want them to make our employees feel safe. It's too stressful for me to go to a place where my child got killed. It's too stressful for me to go to a place where I groomed my child to work," Livingston said.

Lack of security to patrol the parking lot and broken cameras are also cited as reasons for the suit.

"The system failed her. If they (security) would have been on duty, they would have come out to question why he was standing around. They heard the shot, why didn't nobody come out," Pamela Golden, grandmother asked. "Policies must change. It's not going to bring Patrice back, but maybe it can help someone else."



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 9, 2023

Attorneys for the family of a 27-year-old man beaten and critically wounded by Southfield police file \$20M Lawsuit

SOUTHFIELD, MICH. -- A \$20 million lawsuit has been filed against the Southfield Police Department for brutally beating Clint Willis, a 27-year-old African American man, entrusted with his care while in custody and causing critical injuries.

Attorneys Michael Fortner, Caroletta Sprinkle, Randall Upshaw, and Stephanie Carson will hold a press conference on Sunday, May 13, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., at the Southfield Police Station, located at, 26000 Evergreen Rd, Southfield MI. 48076 to disclose details about the case.

His mother says that the only gift she wants to receive on Mother's Day is the gift of justice for her son.

Southfield police were called to a residence on April 5 around 8 a.m. to assist Willis who was having a mental health crisis. He was restrained and taken into police custody.

The man was able to walk into the police station without assistance. He was carried out on a stretcher and rushed to Providence Hospital a few hours later. The victim's neck was broken during the attack, prompting a need for emergency surgery.

Willis is paralyzed from the neck down and is currently being treated in a rehabilitation center.

The family is demanding a complete and thorough investigation by an outside agency and criminal prosecution of all officers involved.

For media inquiries and to confirm press conference attendance, please contact Michael Henry at (917) 690-0179 or Imari Redfield at (248) 432-7436.