

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

JANAE SYNDER

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF BELLAIRE,  
CITY OF BELLAIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
& BELLAIRE OFFICER GENE GRIM, AKA  
(GENE GRIMM) and

JOHN AND JANE DOE (Names Unknown), et al.,  
Defendant(s)

Case No. **2: 2 1 C V 3 3 5 1**

COMPLAINT

Jury Trial Demanded

Judge Watson

MAGISTRATE JUDGE JOLSON

FILED  
RICHARD W. JOLSON  
CLERK OF COURT  
2021 JUN - 8 PM 4: 28  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EAST V. COLEMANBUS

Plaintiff, Ms. Janae Snyder, for her complaint against the defendants, alleges as follows:

**Introduction**

1. This is a civil rights action. During February 2021, Janae Snyder inadvertently triggered the alarm on her automobile. Defendant, Belaire Municipality Police Officer Gene Grim approached her vehicle and advised her that he was going to search it. Plaintiff told Defendant Grim there was no probable cause to search her vehicle. Defendant Grim told her that he could search her vehicle based simply on her purported criminal record.

2. Based upon Officer Grim's threat of being jailed, Plaintiff capitulated with respect to Defendant Grim's search. During the search, Defendant Grim turned Plaintiff's purse upside down and a "crack pipe" came out of the purse. Notwithstanding, Defendant Grim told Plaintiff she would *not* go to jail if she would do a *quid pro quo*, sexual encounter with him, (to wit: "*Suck his Dick*"). Although Plaintiff did **not** want to have **sex** with Defendant Grim, neither did she want to go to jail, and therefore, succumbed to his demand.

3. On at least four occasions after the first sexual encounter, Defendant Grim would locate Plaintiff while on duty and demand sex, letting Plaintiff know that he could and would bring Plaintiff up on the “crack pipe” charges, if Plaintiff failed to give in to his demands. Fearing that no one would believe her if she talked about this, Plaintiff made recordings of Defendant Grim and also took a picture of him pumping her gas into her vehicle and while at all times relevant Officer Grim was dressed wearing a City of Bellaire Police Uniform, Badge and Gun.

4. When Plaintiff learned from other women that Defendant Grim had similar pattern and practices with them, she decided to take some type of legal action, especially upon learning that the Defendant City of Bellaire and its Defendant Police Department were aware of various aspects of Defendant Grim’s nefarious conduct and chose not to do anything about what amounted to excessive force and rape, but not limited to.

5. The unconstitutional policies and practices of the City of Bellaire Police Department on the part of Defendant Grim result in the unjustified use of excessive force and rape against women, including Plaintiff Janae Snyder. The City of Bellaire is therefore also liable for the mental and emotional injuries sustained by Plaintiff Janae Snyder.

6. Over periods of time, both prior and subsequent to the illegal search and seizure violation noted in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, Defendant Grim targeted and stalked Plaintiff for the sole purpose stated in paragraph 2.

7. At all times relevant herein, and at **no** time did Plaintiff, Ms. Snyder, consent to being raped and/or having sex with Defendant Police Officer Grim.

#### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

8. The Jurisdiction of the court is invoked pursuant to the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C §1983 et seq; the Judicial Code, §§1331 and 1343(a); and the Constitution of the United States.

Supplemental jurisdiction over the related state law claims is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.

9. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). The parties reside, or, at the time the events took place, resided in this judicial district, and the events giving rise to plaintiff's claims also occurred in this judicial district.

#### **Parties**

10. The Plaintiff, Janae Snyder, is/was a resident of Bellaire, Ohio during relevant times of this complaint.

11. Defendant Grim was, at all times relevant to the allegations made in this complaint, a duly appointed police officer employed by the City of Bellaire, acting within the scope of his employment with the City of Bellaire and under the color of state law. He is sued in his individual capacity.

12. Defendant City of Bellaire, a municipality duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio, is the employer and principal of Defendant Grim. The City of Bellaire is responsible for the policies, practices and customs of its Defendant Police Department. These Defendants are sued in official capacities.

#### **Facts**

13. During February 2021, Janae Snyder inadvertently triggered the alarm on her automobile. Defendant Grim approached her vehicle and demanded to search it. Plaintiff told Defendant Grim there was no probable cause to search her vehicle. Defendant Grim told her he could search the vehicle based simply on her criminal record and that a refusal would result in her being jailed.

14. Not wanting to go to jail, Plaintiff capitulated. Defendant Grim turned Plaintiff's purse upside down and a crack pipe came out of the purse. Defendant Grim told Plaintiff she would not go to jail if she would do a quid pro quo, sexual encounter with him. Although Plaintiff did **not**

want to have sex with Defendant Grim, neither did she want to go to jail, and therefore, she succumbed to his demand.

15. On at least four occasions after the first encounter, Defendant Grim would locate Plaintiff and demand sex, letting Plaintiff know that he could and would bring Plaintiff up on the crack pipe charges if Plaintiff failed to give in to his demands. Fearing that no one would believe her if she talked about this, Plaintiff made recordings of Defendant Grim and also took a picture of him pumping her gas.

**Claim I 42 U.S.C. § 1983 Claim for Unconstitutional Seizure/Excessive Force**

16. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this complaint and includes them in this count as if they were fully set out here.

17. The actions of Defendant Grimm, as alleged in the preceding paragraphs, violated Plaintiff's rights under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution to be secure in her person against unreasonable seizure, and her right to due process under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and caused the injuries alleged in this complaint.

18. The actions of Defendant Grim as alleged in this count of the complaint were the direct and proximate cause of the constitutional violations set forth above and of Plaintiff's injuries.

**Claim 2 42 U.S.C. § 1983 Monell Policy Claim Against Defendant City of Bellaire**

19. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this complaint and includes them in this count as if they were fully set out here.

20. The actions of Defendant Grim were taken under the authority of one or more interrelated *de facto* policies, practices and/or customs of the Defendant City of Bellaire and its Defendant Police Department.

21. At all times material to the allegations contained in this complaint, Defendant City of Bellaire and its Defendant Police Department had interrelated *de facto* policies, practices, and customs which included, among other things: the failure to properly hire, train, supervise, discipline, transfer, monitor, counsel and/or otherwise control Defendant Grim who is alleged to have committed other acts of excessive force and what would amount to rape against women, and particularly against Plaintiff, but not limited to.

22. The *de facto* policies, practices and/or customs alleged in this complaint, separately and together, are the proximate cause of the injury to Plaintiff, because Defendant Grim had good reason to believe that his misconduct would not be revealed or reported by anyone, or that he would be immune from any type of disciplinary action.

#### **Claim 5 State Law Claim for Rape**

23. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this complaint and includes them in this count as if they were fully set out here.

24. The actions of Defendant Grimm created in Plaintiff the apprehension of imminent unwarranted arrests and or causing her to be subject to being repeatedly raped as defined in Ohio Revised Code 2907.02(A)(1)(c) without legal justification.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

The Plaintiff Janae Snyder demands that judgment be entered in her favor on all counts and prays the court to award the following relief:

25. An award of actual or compensatory damages against Defendant Officer Grim, plus the costs of this action, and attorney's fees; and

26. An award of actual or compensatory damages against Defendant City of Bellaire and its Police Department, plus the costs of this action, and attorney's fees; and

27. An award of punitive damages against Defendant Officer Grim; and
28. An award of declaratory and injunctive relief against Defendant City of Bellaire enjoining policies, practices and customs shown to allow such actions on the part of Defendant Grim as complained herein; and
29. An award of declaratory and injunctive relief that the court appoint a Special Master to oversee the Bellaire Police Department relative to its policies, activities, operations (written and/or de facto) and such that its conduct be brought into compliance with both federal and state law; and
30. An award of such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND.** Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,



Sterling E. Gill, II (0034021)  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
1544 E. Broad Street,  
Columbus, Ohio 43203  
614-397-7298 (mobile)  
[sterlinggilllaw@yahoo.com](mailto:sterlinggilllaw@yahoo.com)