

Taylor sued over arrests - Teen claims he was wrongfully held, but city's mayor says police acted properly in murder case.

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DETROIT -- Franklin Smith, one of two teenagers wrongly accused of murdering a **Taylor** mother of six, will file a \$5 million lawsuit today against the city of **Taylor**, his attorney Ben Gonek said Tuesday.

The U.S. District Court lawsuit also names **Taylor** Mayor Cameron Priebe and six arresting officers. The Detroit News obtained a copy of the lawsuit Tuesday that alleges the department's "conduct was lazy, sloppy, deliberately indifferent, reckless and malicious."

Smith, 18, of **Taylor** was charged with driving the getaway car in the July 30 shooting. His charges were dropped Aug. 15. "We are looking forward to a federal court jury holding these officers and this mayor accountable for their outrageous and illegal actions," said Gonek.

So is Priebe, who praised the police's handling of the case. Three suspects have been detained and released, and police say they're still searching for the killer of Wendy Meinke, 38.

"Not only did the police not do anything wrong, they did a particularly good job," Priebe said. "What did the police do wrong in regard to this individual? Nothing."

The case caused a stir in **Taylor** when protestors accused the police force, which has no African American officers, of railroading the black teenagers, who have no criminal records.

Devin Plummer, 17, also of **Taylor**, was accused as one of at least two people to fire at Meinke who came to the aid of her son during a fight at the Coppertree Apartments.

Police maintained they secured a confession. The charges were dropped the same day ballistics tests returned that showed no traces of gunpowder on Plummer the night of the shooting.

A fourth suspect, JuJuan Willis, 22, of Detroit is jailed on two counts of felony assault with intent to murder.

The lawsuit alleges Plummer and Smith's **arrest** was racially motivated, a confession was false and police reports were "intentionally slanted to make it appear as though the plaintiff was actually guilty."

Priebe is named for allegedly telling a television reporter that Smith was involved with gang and drug activity. "Their whole lives have changed," said Adolph Mongo, a family spokesman for Smith.

Caption: Meinke Smith

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