

MOTHER BLAMES POLICE FOR SON'S DEATH - TEEN DIES AFTER BEING IN DEARBORN POLICE CUSTODY; LAWSUIT FILED

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When EMS workers arrived at the Dearborn jail Oct. 12, they found a 16-year-old boy face down in a pool of blood. His front teeth broken or missing, **Quantrell Pryor** was convulsing and had no heartbeat, according to a medical report.

The Detroit teen was rushed to Oakwood Hospital, but died four days later on Oct. 16.

Now, his mother says that Dearborn police allowed the teen to die while in their custody. Her attorney, Arnold Reed, filed a lawsuit against the city's Police Department on Monday.

"What went on in the Dearborn jail cell?" asked Reed. "The logical inference that one can draw from the facts is that **Quantrell** endured a beating prior to his death." Reed also maintains that police ignored the teen's health after he swallowed crack cocaine.

But Dearborn police tell a different story.

According to a statement from city officials, Dearborn police faced a belligerent suspect who was under constant observation. Police said they contacted EMS immediately after the suspect started to convulse inside a Dearborn cell. And the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has said that there is no evidence of any police misconduct in the case, said Maria Miller, a spokeswoman for Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

Mary Laundroche, a spokesperson for the City of Dearborn, said the prosecutor's decision shows that the city is not at fault. Laundroche also suggested that **Pryor**'s injuries may have resulted from his own actions, not from those of police.

"His convulsions were quite violent," Laundroche said. "Perhaps his convulsions led to any injuries he may have suffered."

The incident started at about 5 p.m. Oct. 12 in the parking lot outside JCPenney at Fairlane Town Center in Dearborn. **Pryor** was about to park his car to go shopping with a friend at a cell phone store, Reed said.

According to the city, police stopped **Pryor** when they noticed that the rear window of his car was broken. Police also said the car was stolen from another state. Reed said that "if the vehicle was stolen, **Quantrell** did not know about it."

"He borrowed the car from a friend," Reed said.

At one point, **Pryor** fished out some crack cocaine from his pocket and swallowed it, according to both police and Reed. The teenager was then handcuffed and placed in the back of a police car. The city says that police arrested Reed on suspicion of driving a car stolen in Tennessee and being in possession of suspected narcotics.

According to Reed, **Pryor** began to shake violently and a white foam issued from his mouth, at which point some officers pointed at him and said: "This is what happens to you when you swallow crack." Reed said that the boy should have been taken to a hospital at that point. Reed said he based his account on what witnesses at the scene have told him.

A woman passing by who happened to be **Pryor** 's neighbor called **Pryor** 's mother, LaTanya **Pryor** . The mother spoke to police and told them to take her son to a hospital.

But the teenager was taken to the Dearborn police station. According to city officials, he was under constant observation and was repeatedly checked on by police personnel after being placed in an observation cell. The city maintains that **Pryor** made continued denials that he ingested narcotics. After his denials, **Pryor** "experienced convulsions and officers immediately called an ambulance," according to the city's statement.

A copy of the Wayne County EMS report says that emergency personnel found the teen lying face down in the cell, with "copious amounts of blood on floor" around his face and head. It also noted he had lacerations to his chin.

The city said the suspect had been aggressive and uncooperative with police after his arrest. According to the city statement, he repeatedly said he wasn't going to tell police anything.

Police also said **Pryor** had a history of drug-related arrests.

LaTanya **Pryor** said that many teenagers make mistakes, but they shouldn't have to pay with their lives.

"He's a human being that made a mistake," she said. "He was only 16. He was a child."

Reed said the case was the worst case of negligence he's seen. The city said that an investigation into the incident continues.

Meanwhile, LaTanya **Pryor** says she sorely misses her son.

" **Quantrell** was my only child," she said. "He meant everything to me."

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