

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
242 E. Warren Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48201

DETROIT BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_ 831-5525

COMPLAINT FORM

Date of Complaint October 14, 1965 Age 24 Each

Type of Case Police Brutality

Name Emmorell Legett Phone 925-4039  
Pauline Goodner 923-2383

Address 9326 Traverse City, State Detroit  
6300 Helen Place of \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation Housewives Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Incident October 10, 1965 Approximate Hour 2:00 A.M.

Arrest Record Of Complainant: \_\_\_\_\_

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT:

After leaving a reception at 9327 Traverse and taking a girl-friend's sister home, subjects states that they were on their way back to Emmorell's house when a police car stopped them on McCellan and Barker streets. The policeman asked Donald, the driver, to get out of the car. Then put him into the police car and drove him to a call box on McCellan and Chapin streets. Then a fellow that was in the car with Donald drove

DISPOSITION:

(Summary-Con't-Over)

WITNESSES

ADDRESS

PHONE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

" I have read the foregoing summary of complaint as typed by the interviewer. She (or he) has typed the information correctly according to the facts and information that I have given her (or him) pertaining to this incident".

Interviewed by C. J. Maynard

/s/  
Signature of person making complaint



(2)

the car to the call box. His name is Ernie Stringer. When he got to the call box, one of the policemen snatched him out of the car and asked him, "Give me your license, you are drunk." Ernie gave the policeman his license and the two of them started arguing. Then the people in the car that Ernie was driving, Bobby Stringer, Al, Pauline Goodner, Rosie Stringer, Emmorell Legett and Eli Legett got out of the car to quiet Ernie. Everybody rushed to him to stop him from doing anything. Then, the officer Badge #300 hit Emmorell in the back with his fist and then pushed her. She said, "Oh, you hit me in the back and I'm pregnant." The officer said, "You're not pregnant." Then, six squad cars and two detective cars came. Emmorell asked one of the policemen in the car to take her to the hospital. The policeman said, "Okay lady." She got into the car and the next thing she knew, she was at the St. Jean Police Station. As soon as she entered the police station she passed out. She fell and hit her head on something that felt like iron. A knot appeared on her head. Her husband, Eli, put her on the bench. She wanted him to get her some cigarettes. After going for them, the officer dragged her husband back into the room, without allowing him to get the cigarettes. Then she got up to get them and one of the officers slammed her up against the wall. Her husband sat her down on the bench. Her girlfriend, Pauline Goodner, tried to fix her strap where the police had broken it and put her coat around her shoulders. Then, the police pushed Pauline and tore her dress and threw her into a cell. Then a officer asked Emmorell did she want cigarettes and she said, "I sure would like to have some." He said, "Well follow me." He led her to a



cell and locked her up. Emmorell said she felt as though she was threatening a miscarriage. She is four months pregnant. She laid on a bench in the cell for about three hours before they took her to Receiving Hospital. As soon as she got there, they put her on a stretcher and handcuffed her by chains until about 12 noon Sunday, October 10, 1965 before they examined her. After this, they took her to 1300 Beaubien and she stayed there until October 11, 1965 when they had the trial about 2:00 P. M. The trial was postponed until November 2, 1965 at 9:00 A. M. Pauline and Emmorell are both out on personal bonds of \$500.00 Ernie got out on a \$150.00 Bond. Donald is charged with \$239.00 for tickets. They said the charges on Emmorell were obstructing and resisting an officer from his duty and they dropped the charges to assault and battery on an officer.



Statement: Donald Rowell

Phone: 923-3215

Address: 9327 Traverse

Age: 18

Subject states that police stopped him and said he was speeding. They took him to a call box. They were calling to see if he had any tickets. Then they said they were going to check to see if Ernie had any tickets. Donald said that he saw the policeman hit Emmorell when she was on the street. She was trying to quiet Ernie down when the policeman hit her. While at the police station, he said he saw the policeman take his body and push it up against Emmorell. Then, Pauline got up to ask the policeman why he pushed a pregnant woman and he tore her dress. Then one of the policemen told the officer to put Pauline in jail. He picked her up and threw her in a cell. After this, they put Emmorell in the cell with her. They took his fingerprints. Then locked him up. They charged him with tickets. He got out on a \$200 Bond. They're trying to change the charge to reckless driving.



Statement: Robert Stringer

Phone: 923-2718

Address: 9151 Armour

Age: 18

Subject states they were on their way from a reception and the police stopped them and asked Donald for his license and then pulled him out of the car. Then they put him in a police car and drove off with him. Then everybody in the car said, "Let's follow him." Ernie got in the driver's seat and they followed the police car to Chapin & McCellan. One of the policeman came over to the car and asked Ernie for his license and Ernie said, "What for." Then he pulled Ernie out of the car and acted like they were going to hit him. Then Robert got out of the car and the policeman grabbed him. Another policeman came over and he pulled his gun on him. Then everybody got out of the car to quiet Ernie because the policeman was still arguing with him. After trying to get Ernie quiet down, Emmorell continued to talk to him and then he said he saw the policeman's hand go up as though he was going to hit her. After getting Ernie back to the car, the policeman took the keys and said he had every right to have them. Then he got in the car with Donald and the police told Donald to follow them to the station. They told Emmorell they were taking her to the hospital. Robert, Pauline and Alvin were sitting in the lobby after arriving at the station. "Baldy" he called him, started calling them "Black Muslims". Then he heard a lot of noise in the detention room and he looked and saw the policeman push Emmorell against the wall. He tried to go into the room but one of the detectives pulled a gun on him. He told him he had better not touch the door but Pauline managed to get in. Two detectives asked him if he wanted to make a statement. Then took him into the room to try and get him to sign a statement but he wouldn't. He asked how much was the bonds? Ernie's was \$150, Donald was \$275. There was no bond for Emmorell.



Statement: Rosie Stringer

Phone: 921-8236

Address: 6706 Fischer

Age: 22

Subject states that the policeman stopped them when they were on their way from a reception and told the driver, Donald Rowell, that he was speeding. Then they asked him for his driver's license. Then they put him in the squad car and drove off with him. Ernie drove the car around to the call box where the policemen had taken Donald. The policeman came over to the car and pulled Ernie out. Ernie and the officer started arguing. All of them got out of the car to quiet Ernie down because the policeman had taken out a stick to hit him. Then Rosie said she heard Emmorell say, "Don't hit me no more." After getting Ernie away from the policeman, he continued to "nag" Ernie trying to make him do something. Then she said about three or four police cars came. She said she and Ernie got in a police car and the policeman told Donald to follow him in his car. They thought they were taking Emmorell to a hospital. After they got into the detention room, a policeman called her and asked her what happened. She told him just what happened. She said he asked her if she saw Emmorell get hit and she said, "No." While sitting in the room, Emmorell wanted some cigarettes and she asked one of the officers could she get some and he said, he didn't think so. So she said, "I want some cigarettes" and started to the door and this policeman put his body up against her and pushed her up against the wall. Pauline came in and said she would get the cigarettes and the policeman said, "Get out of here." Pauline said, "Wait a minute." Then the policeman snatched her by the arm and put her in a cell. Another policeman took Emmorell by the collar and put her in a cell. They told Ernie they were taking him to 1300 Beaubien for a balloon test because they believed he was drunk. After sending Ernie to 1300 Beaubien they let Rosie and Eli go.



Statement: Alvin Ward

Age: 19

Address: 6004 Field

Subject states police stopped them on McCellan and asked Donald for his driver's license and registration and then the policeman said, "If you think that's funny, you will appear in court Monday morning." Then he took Donald out of the car and put him into the squad car and drove off with him. Ernie got in the driver's seat and followed the police car and it had stopped at a call box. The policeman came over to the car and asked Ernie for his license and pulled him out of the car. Ernie and the officer argued. The officer acted like he was going to hit Ernie with his stick. Then Alvin said the policeman tried to get Ernie away from the car and he said that Emmorell was standing in front of Ernie and the officer had to hit her in the back to move her out of the way so that he could get to Ernie. He said that Emmorell said to the officer after he had hit her, "Don't you know that I am pregnant." The officer said, "I didn't hit you." Alvin said, "That's a lie, get his badge number which is 300 and we will see him in court." By this time, there were squad cars and detectives there. They got out of the car. Then Donald gave the keys to Pauline to take everybody home and one of the officers snatched the keys out of the car. Then Alvin said he asked one of the detectives what right does the policeman have to take the keys out of the car and the detective said, "He has all the rights in the world to do anything he wants to do." He said during this time, Emmorell continued to complain about her back pain. Then Alvin said they put her in a squad car saying that they were taking her to the hospital. The police had Donald follow them to the police station inspite of the fact that they had his driver's license. Alvin stated that they arrived at the station before Emmorell. Then to their surprise Emmorell came in and they



thought she was in the hospital. They were sitting in the lobby when they heard confusion in the detention room where the door was opened. He heard someone say, "That's a lie, you did hit me." Then he said a officer with a bald head pushed his body up against Emmorell and pushed her against the wall. Pauline saw it and ran into the detention room and the policeman grabbed her and then he ran into the room and two policemen grabbed him and threw him out. Then Bobby was getting ready to go into the room and a detective stopped him and put his hand for his gun. Then the policemen started calling them names. The detectives asked him and Bobby did they want to make a statement and they wouldn't make one. Then he looked in the detention room and didn't see Pauline nor Emmorell. He asked about bond and they said no bond for Emmorell.



Statement: Eli Legett  
Address: 9326 Traverse

Phone: 925-4039  
Age: 31

After leaving the reception, subject states that they were driving on McCellan when a police car stopped them. A policeman came over to the car and told the driver, Donald Rowell, he was driving 50 miles an hour. The policeman asked for his driver's license and took it back to the car and checked it out and then returned to the car and asked Donald to get out. He took Donald to the police car and drove off with him. Ernie Stringer drove the car around the block to where the policemen had Donald at a call box. The policeman came over to the car and asked Ernie for his license. Ernie gave him his license. The officer grabbed Ernie and pulled him out of the car. After getting him out of the car, Ernie and the policeman started arguing. Everybody got out of the car and tried to quiet Ernie because he continued to argue with the officer. Then he and his wife, Emmorell, got out of the car and at that time his wife was standing in front of Ernie trying to reason with him and the policeman said, "Get out of the way" and hit her in the back. I told the officer, "You have done it now because my wife is pregnant." He asked the policeman, "Why you want to hit my wife, she wasn't doing anything." After this, he led Ernie to the car and put him in it. At that time, several police and detective cars came. Then, his wife started complaining about her back. His wife told police officer #300 she wanted to go to the hospital and he told her to get into a car and he got in with her. They thought they were on their way to the hospital. He heard one of the officers mention the St. Jean Station and then he realized that he



was on his way to the station. After realizing this, he told them his wife was hurt and that they should be taking her to a hospital. They continued to drive to the station. After arriving there, they took them into a detention room and as soon as his wife entered the door she fainted. She fell to the floor and he stood there looking for help to sit her on the bench. There were approximately eight or nine policemen looking at him and they laughed. He then managed to put her up on the bench. A policeman called, "Baldy" came over to his wife and took his two fingers and opened up her eyes and said, "You mean she is so delicate that she had to faint." When she came to, she asked him to go and get her some cigarettes. When he walked to the door, it was locked. Then "Baldy" came and grabbed him between the shoulder blade. Then, his wife said, "I'll go." She started to go. Then the policeman, "Baldy" took his body and pushed it against his wife and she landed up against the wall and her head hit the wall. Then Eli said to Ernie, "If he didn't have that badge and a gun he wouldn't be so tough. Then "Baldy" led him out of the room to a small room and closed the door. He opened his hands and stretched his arms out and said, "Now we are in a room by ourselves and I don't have a badge nor a gun, now what are you going to do." He told him he was too old and if he hit him, he would never get out of that police station. The policeman said, "I ought to crack your head." He took him back to the detention room. After returning there, he asked them



where was his wife. At that time, they told him that his wife had been arrested and Pauline was going to 1300 Beaubien and his wife to the hospital. Rosie Stringer asked them, what they were going to do with her husband, Ernie. They said they were taking him downtown to give him a balloon test. Then Rosie asked them could she and Eli go and they told her to sit down and they could go in a little while. They sat down and then he told them they could go.

While at the station, Eli asked them what they were holding his wife for and they told him resisting and obstructing an officer from his duty. He called Receiving Hospital after he got home and asked about his wife. They told him that she was there under police custody and he asked if he could get her out on bond and they said, "No bond."

Out of the four people arrested, his wife was the only one that couldn't get out on bond.