



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**FEDERAL COURT JUDGE DISMISSES RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CASE  
BROUGHT BY “100 BLACKS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT” AGAINST NYPD**

**JUDGE CALLS ALLEGATIONS “BASELESS” AND SAYS SUIT WAS “TOTALLY MISCAST”**

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New York, April 18, 2003 – Calling several of the allegations “baseless,” Manhattan Federal Court Judge Thomas P. Griesa dismissed a case brought by the group “100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care” and some of its members in which they alleged that the City violated their rights by investigating them and illegally wire tapping their phones. Verizon was also named as a defendant.

In throwing out the case, the Court stated that the “plaintiffs’ complaint is totally miscast.” The Court noted that the plaintiffs’ case was based upon premises that “have absolutely nothing to do with the circumstances that actually occurred, as shown by conclusive documentation.” The Court also agreed that there was no evidence of wiretapping, stating that the “allegation was put into the complaint without any basis, along with the other baseless claims.”

Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo said, “We are very pleased with this ruling, which reaffirms the professionalism with which the Police Department conducts itself.” William Fraenkel, an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Law Department’s Labor and Employment Law Division and the chief attorney on the case, added: “The Court’s ruling validated the NYPD’s position that it had done nothing improper and that its investigations of plaintiffs were undertaken in good faith for purposes of insuring the Police Department’s integrity.”

The case involved two investigations of the plaintiffs by the NYPD:

- The Police Department received a report that plaintiff Eric Adams may have violated NYPD procedures by associating with a known felon, Omowale Clay, who had previously been convicted of two counts of Federal firearms violations. An investigation followed, in which the NYPD “issued administrative subpoenas to Verizon requesting information about certain specified telephone numbers” in compliance with federal statutes.
- The second investigation came about after an African-American NYPD police officer filed a complaint with the Nassau County Police Department, which in turn was referred to the NYPD’s Internal Affairs Bureau. The officer alleged that members of the plaintiff organization, One Hundred Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, had harassed him with an inappropriate phone call to his home.

The City’s motion to dismiss the complaint was granted by Judge Griesa, noting: “The basic problem with the plaintiffs’ action is that it is based upon theories that have absolutely nothing to do with the circumstances that actually occurred, as shown by conclusive documentation.”

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