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SPANN WILDER LAW, LLC

SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA'S INJURED

June 25, 2024

The Town of Bluffton
Attn: Stephen Steese, Town Manager
20 Bridge Street
Bluffton, South Carolina 29910

**Re: Bridgette Alicia Frazier and Warren Anthony
Patterson vs. Town of Bluffton**
DOI: March 9, 2024

Certified Receipt #: 7018 1130 0001 9351 3078

Dear Mr. Steese:

Please be advised that I have been retained by Mrs. Bridgette Alicia Frazier and her husband, Mr. Warren Anthony Patterson regarding Bridgette's wrongful arrest, detainment and incarceration of while in the vicinity of Bluffton Parkway and Persimmons Street, Town of Bluffton, State of South Carolina on March 9, 2024. These blatant wrongful actions were performed by Agents of the town of Bluffton via the Bluffton Police Department. Based on the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident, liability is clear on behalf of the Town of Bluffton and the Bluffton Police Department.

The facts bear out that on the morning of March 9, 2024, Ms. Frazier was stopped by Officer Richard M. Ramirez. Officer Ramirez stated that "he identified the defendant by her South Carolina driver's license which he confirmed through dispatch was suspended." Officer Ramirez goes on to say that "after I confirmed through dispatch the license was suspended for failure to pay traffic tickets on multiple occasions, I made contact with the driver to ask about the suspensions. She (meaning Ms. Frazier) stated she didn't know about the suspensions and hadn't been notified by the SCDMV for such." In summation Officer Ramirez states "the suspect's driving record was extensive with an abundance of suspensions for the same violation along with others. These factors coupled with her current suspension aided in my determination to **place the suspect under arrest.**"

It should be noted that my client, Ms. Frazier, was never given her Miranda warnings in violation of her **Fifth Amendment** constitutional right. In addition, before the unlawful arrest was made, you can hear the supervising officer informing Officer Ramirez not to arrest Ms. Frazier. Nevertheless, he disobeyed this directive made by his supervisor and arrested Ms. Frazier. A thorough review of Ms. Frazier's Official 10 Year Driver Record would have revealed that most of the issues Officer Ramirez relied upon to make the arrest

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Bridgette Frazier & Warren Patterson
Town of Bluffton Demand
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were resolved at the time he arrested her. Moreover, the Motor Vehicle Departments for the States of Georgia and Florida indicated that Ms. Frazier's driving privileges were not revoked, suspended or cancelled at the time of the arrest. To this end, the State of South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles also indicated that an error appeared upon Ms. Frazier's driving record at the time of this false arrest. Clearly, poor judgment was used to arrest Ms. Frazier. Officer Ramirez could have simply issued a courtesy summons to Ms. Frazier who was and still serves as a Council Member for the Town of Bluffton. She obviously was not going to flee from the area.

After reviewing the videos provided pursuant to the Rule 5 request, it is obvious that officers were turning their body cameras off and on while discussing the arrest. Such behavior is questionable when you can hear an Officer telling another Officer "You are my hero" and "it is not right" as it pertains to the arrest of Council Member, Frazier.

In this case, liability is obvious and inescapable. It was negligence, negligent supervision, false arrest and false imprisonment that caused tremendous damage to my client. Ms. Frazier & Mr. Patterson suffered great embarrassment, humiliation and harassment because of the false arrest, detainment and incarceration. Mr. Patterson was at work and had to explain to his superiors the reason for leaving as the work day had just begun and now the continued questions as stories of the arrest move about the community online, on the news and in local establishments. Despite finally dropping the charges, now over ninety (90) days later, the photograph of this humiliation are still present on the internet and the charges have not been expunged.



The amount of this demand is based upon the damages which can be substantiated and in line with recent jury verdicts and settlements for similar cases.

You should note the Ms. Frazier & Mr. Patterson wish to resolve this matter in a quick, quiet and amicable manner. Thus, I have been authorized to settle the case for ***Two Million and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,000,000.00)***. This demand is good until 5:00 p.m., on July 8, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanking you in advance for the usual courtesies extended in these matters, I remain,

Yours truly,

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Tiffany R. Spann-Wilder