

NOTICE OF CLAIM

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Claimant:

Michael Grassman
11301 W. Lincoln Ave.
West Allis, WI 53227

Date of Incident: October 27, 2014, between 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.

Demand: \$20,000.00

Place of occurrence:

Sound Check Studios
7234 W. Greenfield Ave
West Allis, WI 53214

On the afternoon of October 27th, roughly between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., Claimant Michael Grassman was sitting in his business, Sound Check Studios, at 7234 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, WI 53214, with his girlfriend, Elliott Higbee. Three or four West Allis police officers passed by the open front door with guns drawn, rifles and a riot shield. Grassman slowly looked out the door to his right, and saw the officers exit a neighbor's business, Granny's Flowers. The officers yelled at Grassman to take his hands out of his pockets, exit the doorway and lay down on the cement sidewalk. Grassman complied, as they had their guns pointed at him and he was extremely fearful as to why they were treating him like a criminal. Grassman indicated he owned the business they just pulled him out of, and the officers made him stand up and lift his shirt to show he had no weapons. Higbee was also in the doorway also very scared. After the officers realized Grassman was not the person they were looking for and was obviously not a threat, Grassman attempted to assist them with entering the apartments above the business. They then entered the business without consent and with their guns still drawn. Grassman was removed from his own business and told to stand a few doors down and wait. The officers had no consideration for whether the business had customers, students or was just handling my daily operation of my business. 12 to 15 police squad cars arrived, shut down 73rd street north of Greenfield Ave, occupied Grassman's back driveway and also had more officers arrive with combat gear, bullet proof vests and high powered rifles that looked like machine guns. After about 15 minutes, an ambulance arrived to assist a woman with a bloody hand, and they left.

The above-described actions violated Grassman's Fourth Amendment rights, and have damaged his business. Grassman's customers are primarily children and families, and have been frightened away from the business by the officers' violation of Grassman's rights. Bystanders on the streets commented that they thought "the guy at the music store [Grassman] did something." In addition to loss of profits from the damage to his reputation, Grassman suffered embarrassment and degradation in being treated this way, rather than as an innocent person, minding his own business while trying to operate a business.

Dated this 18th day of February, 2015

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'DZ' with a stylized flourish.

David Ziemer
Attorney for Claimant
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