



February 1, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attorneys Ronald Haley, Ryan Thompson, and Dedrick A. Moore have been retained to represent Dr. Threvia West.

On December 28, 2020, Dr. Threvia West was confronted with a bill from a moving company that grossly exceeded their previously agreed-upon price. While the moving company had estimated her task as a three-hour job, it took them *eleven* hours to complete it, subsequently charging her triple the quoted amount. When Dr. West calmly and reasonably protested the excessive charges, the police were inexplicably called to the scene. Upon their arrival, Dr. West fully explained that she had moved this same furniture numerous times quickly and without incident, and that she disputed the exorbitant cost. Rather than quietly and professionally resolving this minor issue and allowing the parties to properly handle it through adjudication, the officers extraordinarily escalated the situation, both yelling at her and attempting to arrest her. Without provocation, Officer Lavergne grabbed her arm in an attempt to handcuff her for “theft of services.” He continued to scream at Dr. West throughout the ordeal while he played judge and jury with what should have been a civil court matter, and Officer Huval stood by as a willing participant to the abuse.

On January 5, 2021, Dr. West filed an official complaint with the Lafayette Police Department detailing the unprofessional and repugnant behavior of these officers, and further outlining her illegal detention and threat of arrest. Just ten days later, Chief Glover sent her a letter assigning her claim as “unfounded,” asserting that the “acts complained of did not occur.” He concluded the letter by saying that he hopes that Dr. West’s next contact with the agency is “under more pleasant circumstances.”

The continuous and unrelenting disrespect of the Black community by the Lafayette Police Department—especially by white officers—is inexcusable and abhorrent. While Dr. West is a beloved and well-respected member of the Lafayette community, that should not matter; our police departments are funded through our tax dollars to protect and serve— not to abuse power and assert dominance over citizens in need. If Chief Glover believes that this type of behavior is acceptable in his department, we are only left to wonder what else he perpetuates and condones through his leadership. We implore him to re-examine Dr. West’s complaint and to hold these officers to account for their actions.

Yours in Justice,
Attorneys Ronald Haley, Ryan Thompson, and Dedrick A. Moore