



Steven Elloie

Excessive Police Force Post-Katrina

Steven Elloie is the manager of a family owned and operated bar in Central City, a predominantly African-American New Orleans neighborhood. On June 23, 2006, six to ten New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) officers entered Mr. Elloie's bar and forcefully searched the premises without a warrant or permission. In full view of numerous witnesses, and without provocation, the officers severely beat and twice tasered Mr. Elloie. One or more of the officers also drew firearms on the patrons of the

bar and yelled profanities at them. Although aware of the severity of his physical injuries, the officers took Elloie directly to Orleans Parish Prison (OPP). Jail officials refused to admit him in his condition and requested that he be taken to the hospital for treatment. Before being returned to OPP, Elloie was treated for multiple serious injuries and an elevated heart rate and high blood pressure. The charges of resisting arrest and battery against an officer were ultimately dropped.

Mr. Elloie filed a complaint with the NOPD's Public Integrity Bureau (PIB), and provided a taped statement and additional evidence including a list of witnesses. Nevertheless, Mr. Elloie later learned that the PIB classified his allegations as "not sustained," and refused numerous requests for information about their investigation. This finding raises serious questions about whether any effective oversight of the police exists, and exemplifies the city's continued failure to adequately address complaints against police. Apparently the officers were acting in accordance with a new NOPD policy directing them to be "very aggressive" and "proactive" in Central City. In June 2007, the ACLU of Louisiana filed a lawsuit on Mr. Elloie's behalf against the city of New Orleans.⁵⁰⁷