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Brooklyn Man Claims Police Beat and Taunted Him

By [COLIN MOYNIHAN](#) Published: January 17, 2013

A Brooklyn man who was arrested on Sunday on a variety of charges accused the police on Thursday of beating him in the entryway of his building without provocation while shouting antigay slurs.



[Police Turn Camera Away Prior to Arrest](#)

The man, Jabbar Campbell, 32, held a news conference on Thursday at which he showed videotaped images captured by security cameras that he had installed inside his apartment and in front of his building as a deterrent to thieves.

The videos did not show any beating. But one camera, aimed at the building's front stoop, showed a police sergeant reaching up and turning it around, toward a wall. A second set of images, recorded several minutes later, showed several police officers walking through Mr. Campbell's apartment, on the second floor of the building; Mr. Campbell and his lawyer, [Herbert S. Subin](#), accused the officers of conducting an illegal search without a warrant.

[Mr. Subin](#) said that he thought the police had "targeted" Mr. Campbell because he was hosting a party whose guests included transsexuals and transvestites, and contended that the presence of the officers at Mr. Campbell's home was very likely a result of "homophobic concerns and not for any legitimate police purposes."

Paul J. Browne, the Police Department's chief spokesman, said that the department's Internal Affairs Bureau was investigating Mr. Campbell's claims.

Mr. Campbell said that his contact with the police began about 3 a.m. when two officers arrived at his building and asked him to turn down the music inside his apartment, where about 80 people had gathered for what his lawyer described as a gay pride party.

Mr. Campbell, who said he went downstairs to speak with the officers, said he agreed and told some friends who had been on the sidewalk in front of his building to leave or go upstairs with him.

About five minutes later, Mr. Campbell said, he looked at a video monitor in his apartment and saw that the two officers downstairs had been joined by others. A videotape showed the officers appearing to rattle the handle of the front door. After one officer appeared to point to a video camera, a sergeant was seen reaching toward the camera's lens and apparently turning it away from the stoop.

At that point, Mr. Campbell said, he became concerned and went downstairs to speak with the sergeant. As he approached the front door, he said, he could hear people banging on it from outside. When Mr. Campbell opened the door, one officer pushed the door all the way open and several others poured into the entryway, with one officer shouting "get him," he said.

“I didn’t have a chance to say anything, do anything,” Mr. Campbell said. “I got bum rushed.” For up to a couple of minutes, Mr. Campbell said, several officers pummeled him in the hallway, adding that he “blacked out” briefly and was “leaking blood.” As they punched him, Mr. Campbell said, officers repeatedly yelled “stop resisting,” although he said he was not struggling against them.

Mr. Campbell said that the officers also shouted antigay epithets as they struck him. Mr. Campbell’s roommate, Dante Singleton, 21, said that he looked into the entryway from the top of a staircase and saw several officers pinning Mr. Campbell against a wall.

“A few of the officers started whaling on him,” Mr. Singleton said.

The Brooklyn district attorney’s office charged Mr. Campbell with attempted assault, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and possession of marijuana and Ecstasy.

A criminal complaint included a statement by Officer Michael McManus, who said that Mr. Campbell pushed a sergeant, Juan Morero, then attempted to flee. Officers who arrested Mr. Campbell found contraband in his pockets, Officer McManus stated, though Mr. Campbell denied having any drugs.

Mr. Campbell, who was treated at Kings County Hospital while in custody, said that he suffered a mild concussion and bruises and that a gash on his lip required nine stitches.

He filed a notice of claim on Wednesday, naming the city, the Police Department and “Police Officers ‘John Doe’ one through nine,” saying that he had suffered “severe personal injuries.” Mr. Subin said that he was planning to file suit on Mr. Campbell’s behalf.