All-Star Edison Tech Varsity Basketball Player Who Settled False Arrest Suit With City of Rochester Gets Racially Profiled and Falsely Arrested While Shopping at Macy’s at The Mall At Greece Ridge—Plans to Sue Macy’s and Greece Police

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK – Raliek Redd, the Edison Tech High School student and captain of the Edison Tech Inventors Varsity Basketball Team, and his attorney Elliot Dolby-Shields, announced today that they reached a settlement with the City of Rochester in the civil rights lawsuit they filed relating to his arrest on November 27, 2013. After setting aside the majority of the money to help pay for college, Mr. Redd went shopping at The Mall at Greece Ridge with his girlfriend on February 22, 2016—where he was again falsely arrested by Greece Police after being racially profiled by Macy’s employees who falsely accused him of shoplifting a $100 jacket.

Raliek Redd, 18, plans to file a lawsuit for being targeted by Macy’s employees and falsely arrested by Greece Police because they did not believe a young black man could possibly afford to buy a $100 jacket.

Mr. Redd had been shopping at Greece Ridge mall with his girlfriend for several hours. Approximately an hour before the incident, Mr. Redd put a jacket on hold with a Macy’s employee and went to compare prices at other stores. After purchasing a similar-looking jacket at JC Penny’s, Mr. Redd returned to Macy’s to compare the jacket he put on hold to the jacket he purchased at JC Penny’s.

After returning to Macy’s with the JC Penny’s bag containing the jacket he purchased, Mr. Redd approached the Macy’s employee with whom he had placed the jacket on hold and asked to see the jacket. The Macy’s employee informed Mr. Redd that the jacket had been placed back on the rack and escorted Mr. Redd to where the jacket was located.

Mr. Redd then removed the jacket he’d purchased from the JC Penny’s bag and tried it on. Mr. Redd then took off the jacket he’d purchased at JC Penny’s, put it back in the JC Penny’s bag, and tried on the Macy’s jacket.

After Mr. Redd put on the Macy’s jacket, he was suddenly approached by a Macy’s security guard, who detained Mr. Redd and escorted him to a back room. The security guard accused Mr. Redd of shoplifting the jacket he placed in the JC Penny’s bag and demanded that he pay a $500 fine or else be sued civilly for the money. Mr. Redd told the Macy’s security guard that he just purchased the jacket he placed in the JC Penny’s bag at the JC Penny’s in the mall and offered to show him the receipt. The Macy’s security guard ignored Mr. Redd and again demanded that he pay the $500 fine. Mr. Redd insisted that he had not stolen anything and refused to pay the fine. The Macy’s security guard then called the police.

Several minutes later, two Greece police officers arrived at Macy’s. Mr. Redd informed the officers that he had not stolen or attempted to steal any jacket from Macy’s. Mr. Redd informed the police that he had purchased the jacket in the JC Penny’s bag at the JC Penny’s in the mall, and then returned to Macy’s to compare the JC Penny’s jacket to the
jacket he’d put on hold. Mr. Redd then showed the officers the receipts for the jacket and all of the other items he had purchased that day. Nevertheless, and despite not reviewing any security camera footage from Macy’s, the police arrested Mr. Redd for shoplifting and transported him to the Greece Police Station for arrest processing.

Before leaving the mall, the police informed Mr. Redd that his bail would be $200 and asked him if he had that much cash on him. Mr. Redd informed the officers that he had more than enough money in his savings account—from his prior false arrest settlement—and the officers allowed him to transfer the $200 from his savings account to his checking account using a mobile banking application on his phone, and then escorted him to an ATM to withdraw the $200.

After Mr. Redd arrived at the Greece Police Station, the officers took his mug shot and fingerprints, and forced him to pay $200 cash bail. After approximately an hour in at the police station, the officers drove Mr. Redd back to the mall where his mother was waiting for him (Mr. Redd’s girlfriend had called his mother after Macy’s employees informed her that he was arrested for allegedly shoplifting).

Mr. Redd plans to file a civil lawsuit against Macy’s racially profiling him, falsely accusing him of shoplifting, and for its policy of attempting to force accused shoplifters of paying a $500 fine as an alternative to seeking to collect that amount in civil court. Mr. Redd also plans to file a false arrest lawsuit against the Town of Greece and the individual police officers that arrested him.

In January 2016, Mr. Redd and City of Rochester finalized settlement his lawsuit that arose from an incident that occurred on November 27, 2013, wherein Mr. Redd and two of his Edison Tech Varsity Basketball teammates were arrested by Rochester Police Officers while waiting at their designated bus stop near the intersection of Stone Street and East Main Street in downtown Rochester. The terms of that settlement are confidential. However, Mr. Redd is still litigating claims in that case against the County of Monroe and the individual corrections officers that strip searched him at the Monroe County Jail, where he was transported by RPD officers on November 27, 2013 following his arrest. Mr. Redd also claims that the Monroe County Jail’s written strip search policy is racially discriminatory and unconstitutional in that lawsuit, which is being litigated in the Federal District Court for the Western District of New York, Raliek Redd v. City of Rochester, et al., Index Number 15-CV-6049.