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He accuses the Police of excessive use of force



after being shot several times by the officers while he was unarmed and kneeling

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American Timothy Caraway, who survived after being shot several times last

year by police officers from the city of Pineville, North Carolina, filed a lawsuit against the officers on Thursday, informs The Charlotte Observer.

According to the document, when he was on his way to his grandmother's house on February 1, 2020, the man received a series of orders from the agents – who had been warned of a black male pointing a gun while walking – after who knelt down. Two officers opened fire on him while he was on the ground, following orders to leave the weapon he was carrying in his coat pocket. Caraway stated that the cops **they kept shooting at him despite being wounded and defenseless on the sidewalk** and then they conspired to justify what they had done by fabricating evidence to imprison him.

A video, recorded by the body camera of an agent and shared last March by authorities, it shows how officers approach Caraway, who is temporarily paralyzed, and order him to raise his hands. In the clip you can hear how the injured man explains that he cannot obey because he feels nothing. "I only did what they told me to do. They told me to drop [el arma]"he says, crying." I threw myself to the ground. **Why did they shoot me?** Please don't let me die,

“he adds, as heard in the recording.



The Charlotte Observer

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Charges were dropped quickly against Timothy Caraway, the man on the ground, for insufficient evidence, a court filing shows.



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The man, then 23 years old, survived after suffering gunshot wounds to the shoulder, chest, neck, wrist and at least one finger, and when he was discharged, **he was charged with eight crimes**, including four charges of assault against the authority for having allegedly pointed his pistol at the four officers. However, the charges were quickly dropped by the Mecklenburg

County Prosecutor's Office, due to insufficient evidence.

Caraway's attorney, Micheal Littlejohn, noted that his client found himself caught in a "deadly game" in which armed policemen pounced on him, gave him multiple and contradictory orders, and then opened fire within seconds and continued firing until that one of their colleagues yelled at them to stop.

According to the lawsuit, Sergeant Nicholas French, the highest ranking officer, who was at the scene that day, explained to state investigators that he had not fired his weapon because **Caraway never raised or extended his pistol in a threatening manner**. Meanwhile, a witness also said that the young man did nothing to trigger the use of lethal force by the authorities, the document reads.

"The excess of the police force is unspeakable" Littlejohn stressed this Friday to the media. "My client did not commit any crime that day. Point. And this is what happened," he added.

The new lawsuit accuses the city of Pineville and officers Adam Roberts and

Jamon Griffin, who fired the shots, as well as Leslie Gladden and Nicholas French, of excessive use of force, malicious pursuit, **fabrication of evidence and false arrest**, among other claims.

So far, authorities have not commented on the allegations. In March, Police Chief Michael Hudgins confirmed that Caraway initially raised his hands when asked by officers. He also admitted that agents initially mistook the young man's mobile phone for a gun. He said officers opened fire when he reached into his pockets, where he was actually carrying a weapon.

US federal and state laws allow Police to use deadly force only if they reasonably perceive an imminent threat of death or serious injury to themselves, other officers, or bystanders.

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