

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

JAMES M. HERNDON, )  
 )  
 Plaintiff, )  
 vs. )  
 )  
 CITY OF HENDERSON, *et al.*, )  
 )  
 Defendants. )  
 )

Case No.: 2:19-cv-00018-GMN-NJK

**ORDER**

Pending before the Court is the Motion for Summary Judgment, (ECF No. 54), filed by Defendant City of Henderson. Plaintiff James Herndon (“Plaintiff”) filed a Response, (ECF No. 71), to which Defendant City of Henderson filed a Reply, (ECF No. 75).

Also pending before the Court is the Motion for Summary Judgment, (ECF No. 55), filed by Defendants M. Gillis, L. Good, A. Nelson, D. Nerbonne, D. Russo, and E. Vega (collectively, “Defendant Officers”). Plaintiff filed a Response, (ECF No. 70), to which Defendant Officers filed a Reply, (ECF No. 76).

Also pending before the Court is Plaintiff’s Objection/Appeal, (ECF No. 73), of the Magistrate Judge’s Order Denying the Motion to Compel, (ECF No. 72). Defendant City of Henderson and Defendant Officers (collectively, “Defendants”) filed a Response, (ECF No. 74).

Also pending before the Court is Plaintiff’s Motion for Leave to File Supplement regarding the Objection/Appeal, (ECF No. 90). Defendants filed a Response, (ECF No. 91), to which Plaintiff filed a Reply, (ECF No. 92).

1 Also pending before the Court is Plaintiff's Motions for Leave to File Supplement,<sup>1</sup>  
2 (ECF Nos. 80–81). Defendant Officers filed a Response, (ECF No. 85), to which Plaintiff filed  
3 a Reply, (ECF No. 88).

4 For the reasons discussed below, the Court **GRANTS** Defendant City of Henderson's  
5 Motion for Summary Judgment, **GRANTS** Defendant Officers' Motion for Summary  
6 Judgment, **DENIES as moot** Plaintiff's Objection/Appeal of the Magistrate Judge's Order, and  
7 **DENIES** Plaintiff's Motions for Leave to File Supplements.

8 **I. BACKGROUND**

9 This case arises out of Defendants' alleged constitutional violations during a suspected  
10 robbery at Sportsman's Warehouse (the "Store") located at 701 Marks Street, Henderson,  
11 Nevada. (*See generally* First Amended Compl. ("FAC"), ECF No. 13). Plaintiff was employed  
12 as an assistant manager at the Store. (*Id.* ¶ 12).

13 On January 14, 2018, Jeremy Hagood, the Store's loss prevention manager, notified  
14 Plaintiff that the loss prevention department was surveilling three patrons at the store for  
15 suspected stealing. (*Id.* ¶ 13). Hagood believed that one of the individuals had attempted to  
16 steal merchandise from the Store the previous day. (*Id.*). While surveilling the patrons, Hagood  
17 witnessed two of the individuals exit the store to wait in the parking lot while one of the  
18 individuals (the "Suspect") remained in the store. (*Id.* ¶ 15). The Suspect stole various items  
19 from the store, including a belt, boxes of ammunition, a handgun, and a wallet. (*Id.*). After  
20 witnessing a handgun fall out of the Suspect's pants, Hagood called 911 to report a theft in  
21 progress involving a firearm. (*Id.* ¶ 16). Using the outdoor CCTV, Hagood told the 911

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24 <sup>1</sup> The motions are docketed as a Motion to Amend/Correct Plaintiff's Responses to Defendant City of Henderson  
25 and Defendant Officers' Motions for Summary Judgment. (*See* Mots. Leave, ECF Nos. 80–81). To the extent  
the Motion for Leave requests to modify the Motion for Summary Judgment briefing, the Court finds a  
supplement unnecessary as the Court looks to the sufficiency of the current allegations and evidence to resolve  
the Motion for Summary Judgment. The allegations would be unaffected by further briefing. The Court  
accordingly denies Plaintiff's Motions for Leave, (ECF Nos. 80–81).

1 operator the pickup truck's license plate and advised that the other two individuals in the  
2 parking lot had not committed any theft. (*Id.*). While Hagood monitored the store, another  
3 store employee opened the back door for Defendants Gillis, Good, Russo, Nelson, Nerbonne,  
4 and Vegas. (*Id.*).

5 The officers decided to detain the Suspect, who was in the center of the store. (*Id.* ¶ 19).  
6 Defendants Nerbonne and Good planned to approach and detain the Suspect with Defendant  
7 Gilis, who was armed with a rifle, as backup. (*Id.*). Defendants Russo and Vega were to  
8 maintain their position at the front of the store to prevent customers from entering and to  
9 intercept the Suspect if he tried to flee. (*Id.*).

10 Defendants Nerbonne and Good approached with their guns drawn, pointed at the  
11 Suspect, and ordered him to show his hands. (*Id.* ¶ 20). The Suspect initially complied;  
12 however, began sidestepping and eventually ran toward the store entrance. (*Id.* ¶ 21).  
13 Defendants Good and Nerbonne chased the suspect as he ran through the clothing department,  
14 grabbing and throwing merchandise onto the floor. (*Id.* ¶ 21). The Suspect, in the process of  
15 fleeing from the officers, ran into a store mannequin and lost his footing. (*Id.* ¶ 22).

16 While Defendants Good and Nerbonne chased after the Suspect, Plaintiff ran towards the  
17 scene from the front of the store, where he was observing the situation. (*Id.*). Plaintiff then  
18 jumped on top of the Suspect to prevent him from getting up and continuing to escape. (*Id.* ¶  
19 23). After Plaintiff jumped on the Suspect, Defendants Nerbonne and Good also jumped on top  
20 of Plaintiff and began punching at both him and the Suspect. (*Id.* ¶ 23). At this time, Plaintiff  
21 was sandwiched between the Suspect and Defendants Nerbonne and Good, who were trying to  
22 control the Suspect. (*Id.*). Plaintiff alleges that, while he was stuck between the officers and the  
23 Suspect, Defendants Nerbonne and Good delivered several closed-fist strikes to Plaintiff's  
24 head. (*Id.* ¶ 23). Defendants Russo and Vega also approached the scene and purportedly  
25 delivered several closed-fist strikes to Plaintiff's head. (*Id.* ¶ 25–26). Additionally, Defendant

1 Gillis also approached the scene with a rifle. (*Id.* ¶ 27). Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Gillis  
2 hit him in the head with the rifle butt, punched him, and attempted to Tase him. (*Id.* ¶¶ 26–27).  
3 After being Tased, Plaintiff finally was able to roll on his side and communicate that he was a  
4 store employee and retired law enforcement officer. (*Id.* ¶ 28). Plaintiff suffered significant  
5 injury, including, but not limited to, bloody nose, bruising of his face and body, fractured  
6 orbital floor of the left eye/cheek, concussion, blurry vision, difficulty focusing on distant  
7 objects, unusual sensation in the teeth and palate, possible nerve damage, headaches, and  
8 cognitive difficulty attributed to concussion symptoms. (*Id.* ¶ 29).

9 On January 8, 2019, Plaintiff filed the instant action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (*See*  
10 Compl., ECF No. 1). Defendants then filed the instant Motions for Summary Judgment, (ECF  
11 Nos. 54–55). On December 16, 2020, Magistrate Judge Nancy J. Koppe denied Plaintiff’s  
12 Third Motion to Compel, (ECF No. 53), as untimely. (*See* Order Denying Motion to Compel,  
13 ECF No. 72). Plaintiff thereafter filed an Objection/Appeal of her Order. (*See*  
14 Objection/Appeal of Order Denying Mot. Compel, ECF No. 73). The Court addresses the  
15 pending motions in turn.

## 16 **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

### 17 **A. Motion for Summary Judgment**

18 The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provide for summary adjudication when the  
19 pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with the  
20 affidavits, if any, show that “there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant  
21 is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a). Material facts are those that  
22 may affect the outcome of the case. *See Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248  
23 (1986). A dispute as to a material fact is genuine if there is a sufficient evidentiary basis on  
24 which a reasonable fact-finder could rely to find for the nonmoving party. *See id.* “The amount  
25 of evidence necessary to raise a genuine issue of material fact is enough ‘to require a jury or

1 judge to resolve the parties' differing versions of the truth at trial." *Aydin Corp. v. Loral Corp.*,  
2 718 F.2d 897, 902 (9th Cir. 1983) (quoting *First Nat'l Bank v. Cities Serv. Co.*, 391 U.S. 253,  
3 288–89 (1968)). "Summary judgment is inappropriate if reasonable jurors, drawing all  
4 inferences in favor of the nonmoving party, could return a verdict in the nonmoving party's  
5 favor." *Diaz v. Eagle Produce Ltd. P'ship*, 521 F.3d 1201, 1207 (9th Cir. 2008) (citing *United*  
6 *States v. Shumway*, 199 F.3d 1093, 1103–04 (9th Cir. 1999)). A principal purpose of summary  
7 judgment is "to isolate and dispose of factually unsupported claims." *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*,  
8 477 U.S. 317, 323–24 (1986).

9 In determining summary judgment, a court applies a burden-shifting analysis. "When  
10 the party moving for summary judgment would bear the burden of proof at trial, it must come  
11 forward with evidence which would entitle it to a directed verdict if the evidence went  
12 uncontroverted at trial. In such a case, the moving party has the initial burden of establishing  
13 the absence of a genuine issue of fact on each issue material to its case." *C.A.R. Transp.*  
14 *Brokerage Co. v. Darden Rests., Inc.*, 213 F.3d 474, 480 (9th Cir. 2000) (citations omitted). In  
15 contrast, when the nonmoving party bears the burden of proving the claim or defense, the  
16 moving party can meet its burden in two ways: (1) by presenting evidence to negate an  
17 essential element of the nonmoving party's case; or (2) by demonstrating that the nonmoving  
18 party failed to make a showing sufficient to establish an element essential to that party's case  
19 on which that party will bear the burden of proof at trial. *See Celotex Corp.*, 477 U.S. at 323–  
20 24. If the moving party fails to meet its initial burden, summary judgment must be denied and  
21 the court need not consider the nonmoving party's evidence. *See Adickes v. S.H. Kress & Co.*,  
22 398 U.S. 144, 159–60 (1970).

23 If the moving party satisfies its initial burden, the burden then shifts to the opposing  
24 party to establish that a genuine issue of material fact exists. *See Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v.*  
25 *Zenith Radio Corp.*, 475 U.S. 574, 586 (1986). To establish the existence of a factual dispute,

1 the opposing party need not establish a material issue of fact conclusively in its favor. It is  
2 sufficient that “the claimed factual dispute be shown to require a jury or judge to resolve the  
3 parties’ differing versions of the truth at trial.” *T.W. Elec. Serv., Inc. v. Pac. Elec. Contractors*  
4 *Ass’n*, 809 F.2d 626, 631 (9th Cir. 1987). However, the nonmoving party “may not rely on  
5 denials in the pleadings but must produce specific evidence, through affidavits or admissible  
6 discovery material, to show that the dispute exists,” *Bhan v. NME Hosps., Inc.*, 929 F.2d 1404,  
7 1409 (9th Cir. 1991), and “must do more than simply show that there is some metaphysical  
8 doubt as to the material facts.” *Orr v. Bank of America*, 285 F.3d 764, 783 (9th Cir. 2002)  
9 (internal citations omitted). “The mere existence of a scintilla of evidence in support of the  
10 plaintiff’s position will be insufficient.” *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 252. In other words, the  
11 nonmoving party cannot avoid summary judgment by relying solely on conclusory allegations  
12 that are unsupported by factual data. *See Taylor v. List*, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989).  
13 Instead, the opposition must go beyond the assertions and allegations of the pleadings and set  
14 forth specific facts by producing competent evidence that shows a genuine issue for trial. *See*  
15 *Celotex Corp.*, 477 U.S. at 324.

16 At summary judgment, a court’s function is not to weigh the evidence and determine the  
17 truth but to determine whether there is a genuine issue for trial. *See Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 249.  
18 The evidence of the nonmovant is “to be believed, and all justifiable inferences are to be drawn  
19 in his favor.” *Id.* at 255. But if the evidence of the nonmoving party is merely colorable or is  
20 not significantly probative, summary judgment may be granted. *See id.* at 249–50.

### 21 **B. Objection/Appeal of Magistrate Judge’s Order**

22 When reviewing the order of a magistrate judge, the order should only be set aside if the  
23 order is clearly erroneous or contrary to law. LR IB 3-1(a); 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A); *Laxalt v.*  
24 *McClatchy*, 602 F. Supp. 214, 216 (D. Nev. 1985). A magistrate judge’s order is “clearly  
25 erroneous” if the court has “a definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed.”

1 *See United States v. U.S. Gypsum Co.*, 333 U.S. 364, 395, 68 S. Ct. 525, 92 L. Ed. 746 (1948);  
2 *Burdick v. Comm'r IRS*, 979 F.2d 1369, 1370 (9th Cir. 1992). “An order is contrary to law  
3 when it fails to apply or misapplies relevant statutes, case law or rules of procedure.”  
4 *UnitedHealth Grp., Inc. v. United Healthcare, Inc.*, No. 2:14-cv-00224-RCJ, 2014 U.S. Dist.  
5 LEXIS 129489, 2014 WL 4635882, at \*1 (D. Nev. Sept. 16, 2014). When reviewing the order,  
6 however, the magistrate judge “is afforded broad discretion, which will be overruled only if  
7 abused.” *Columbia Pictures, Inc. v. Bunnell*, 245 F.R.D. 443, 446 (C.D. Cal. 2007). The  
8 district judge “may not simply substitute [his or her] judgment” for that of the magistrate judge.  
9 *Grimes v. City and Cty. of San Francisco*, 951 F.2d 236, 241 (9th Cir. 1991) (citing *United*  
10 *States v. BNS, Inc.*, 858 F.2d 456, 464 (9th Cir. 1988)).

### 11 **III. DISCUSSION**

#### 12 **A. Motions for Summary Judgment, (ECF Nos. 54–55)**

13 Plaintiff alleges seven causes of action in his Complaint, specifically: (1) violation of  
14 constitutional rights under Section 1983; (2) violation of constitutional rights based on a *Monell*  
15 claim; (3) battery; (4) negligence; (5) negligent hiring and supervision under Section 1983; (6)  
16 negligent hiring and retention; and (7) intentional infliction of emotional distress. (*See* FAC ¶¶  
17 31–85). Defendants seeks summary judgment on each of Plaintiff’s claims. (Def. City of  
18 Henderson’s Mot. Summ. J. (“City of Henderson’s MSJ”), ECF No. 54); (Def. Officers’ Mot.  
19 Summ. J. (“Defendant Officers’ MSJ”), ECF No. 55). Defendant City of Henderson argues  
20 that there is no *Monell* claim because Plaintiff cannot demonstrate a city policy or custom that  
21 caused Plaintiff’s injuries. (City of Henderson’s MSJ 6:1–9:27). Defendant Officers claim that  
22 they did not violate Plaintiff’s constitutional rights and as such, Plaintiff’s Section 1983 claims  
23 fail as a matter of law. (Def. Officers’ MSJ 14:10–21:19). Additionally, Defendant Officers  
24 assert that qualified immunity applies to the Section 1983 claims and discretionary immunity  
25



1 applies to the state law claims. (*Id.* 21:21–27:15). The Court addresses each cause of action in  
2 turn.

3 i. Section 1983 Claims

4 Plaintiff asserts three § 1983 claims against Defendants: (1) deprivation of his Fourth  
5 Amendment right; (2) deprivation of his Fourteenth Amendment right; and (3) a *Monell* claim  
6 solely against City of Henderson. (FAC ¶¶ 31–41).

7 Section 1983 actions allege a “deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities  
8 secured by the Constitution and laws.” 42 U.S.C. § 1983. To bring a successful § 1983 claim, a  
9 plaintiff must allege (1) a violation of a constitutional right and (2) must show that the alleged  
10 violation was committed by “a person acting under color of state law.” *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S.  
11 42, 49, 108 S. Ct. 2250, 101 L. Ed. 2d 40 (1988). Moreover, § 1983 “‘is not itself a source of  
12 substantive rights,’ but merely provides ‘a method for vindicating federal rights elsewhere  
13 conferred.’” *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 393–94, 109 S. Ct. 1865, 104 L. Ed. 2d 443  
14 (1989) (quoting *Baker v. McCollan*, 443 U.S. 137, 144 n.3, 99 S. Ct. 2689, 61 L. Ed. 2d 433  
15 (1979)). The Court will first discuss the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment claims before  
16 turning to the *Monell* claim.

17 1. *Fourth Amendment Claim*

18 Plaintiff alleges that Defendants “unreasonably use[d] . . . excessive and potentially  
19 lethal force” in violation of the Fourth Amendment. (FAC ¶ 33). Defendants argue that no  
20 Fourth Amendment claim applies because Plaintiff was not seized. (Def. Officers’ MSJ 14:10–  
21 17:20). Without a seizure, Defendants contend that Plaintiff cannot also argue excessive use of  
22 force. (*Id.*).

23 To determine whether a person is seized under the Fourth Amendment, courts consider  
24 whether, “taking into account all of the circumstances surrounding the encounter, the police  
25 conduct would have communicated to a reasonable person that he was not at liberty to ignore



1 the police presence and go about his business.” *Florida v. Bostick*, 501 U.S. 429, 437 (1991)  
2 (quotation marks omitted). However, “[v]iolation of the Fourth Amendment requires an  
3 intentional acquisition of physical control. A seizure occurs even when an unintended person  
4 or thing is the object of the detention or taking, but the detention or taking itself must be  
5 willful.” *Brower v. Cty. of Inyo*, 489 U.S. 593, 596, 109 S. Ct. 1378, 1381 (1989) (citations  
6 omitted). “[N]o Fourth Amendment seizure would take place where a ‘pursuing police car  
7 sought to stop the suspect only by the show of authority represented by flashing lights and  
8 continuing pursuit,’ but accidentally stopped the suspect by crashing into him.” *Cty. of*  
9 *Sacramento v. Lewis*, 523 U.S. 833, 844, 118 S. Ct. 1708, 1715, 140 L. Ed. 2d 1043 (1998)  
10 (citing *id.*).

11 In *United States v. Al Nasser*, the Ninth Circuit determined that no seizure occurred  
12 because the officer did not intend to physically stop or detain the defendant. *Al Nasser*, 555  
13 F.3d 722, 725 (9th Cir. 2009). There, a Border Patrol agent shined a flashlight towards and into  
14 the defendant’s car as he drove by the scene. *Id.* Although the defendant ultimately stopped,  
15 “the lights and the vehicles that caused him to do so were not a roadblock put in place to  
16 accomplish that purpose.” *Id.* at 731. The Ninth Circuit accordingly held that no seizure  
17 occurred for purposes of the Fourth Amendment. *Id.*

18 Likewise, Defendants did not intend to stop Plaintiff when they purportedly grabbed and  
19 hit him. Multiple officers testified that they did not know that the subject individual was  
20 Plaintiff. For example, Officer Nelson stated that “[a]fterwards it was determined that the  
21 subject was a Store employee, James Herndon who is the Plaintiff . . . in this case.” (Nelson  
22 Decl. ¶ 18). Sergeant Gillis similarly declared that “Plaintiff was not the intended object of my  
23 use of force. The Suspect was the intended object.” (Gillis Decl. ¶ 28). Indeed, Plaintiff  
24 admitted he jumped on top of the suspect on his own accord. (Pl.’s Depo. 44:6–9) (“I made the  
25 decision based on what I knew at that moment to jump on [the Suspect] so he couldn’t get

1 up.”). Like the officers in *Al Nassar*, Defendants’ alleged force that caused Plaintiff to stop  
2 “were [not roadblocks] put in place to accomplish that purpose.” *Al Nassar*, 555 F.3d at 731.  
3 Because Plaintiff was not seized, no Fourth Amendment violation occurred. Notably, Plaintiff  
4 does not respond to Defendants’ argument but rather misinterprets Defendant Officers’  
5 argument, asserting that “if there is no seizure under the Fourth Amendment, then there can be  
6 no due process analysis.” (Resp. to Def. Officers’ MSJ 24:21–22). Because Plaintiff cannot  
7 demonstrate that a seizure occurred for purposes of the Fourth Amendment, the Court  
8 accordingly grants summary judgment to Defendants as to Plaintiff’s Fourth Amendment  
9 unlawful seizure claim.<sup>2</sup>

## 10 2. Substantive Due Process

11 Plaintiff additionally alleges a Fourteenth Amendment violation, arguing that  
12 Defendants’ actions violated his substantive due process rights. (FAC ¶¶ 32–33). Defendants  
13 argue that Plaintiff cannot alternatively recover under the Fourteenth Amendment because  
14 Defendants’ actions do not “shock the conscious.” (Def. Officers’ MSJ 17:22–19:2).

15 A person injured as a result of police misconduct may prosecute a substantive due  
16 process claim under Section 1983. *Sinaloa Lake Owners Ass’n v. City of Simi Valley*, 882 F.2d  
17 1398, 1408 n. 10 (9th Cir.1989), cert. denied, 494 U.S. 1016, 110 S.Ct. 1317, 108 L.Ed.2d 493  
18 (1990). “To state a substantive due process claim, the plaintiff must show as a threshold matter  
19 that a state actor deprived it of a constitutionally protected life, liberty or property interest.”  
20 *Shanks v. Dressel*, 540 F.3d 1082, 1087 (9th Cir. 2008). Specifically, to assert a substantive  
21 due process claim for police misconduct, the plaintiff must demonstrate that the government’s  
22 conduct was “so egregious, so outrageous, that it may be fairly said to shock the contemporary  
23 conscience.” *County of Sacramento v. Lewis*, 523 U.S. 833, 847 (1998).

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24  
25 <sup>2</sup> The Court does not further discuss whether Defendants’ use of force was reasonable because no seizure occurred. *Bonivert v. City of Clarkston*, 883 F.3d 865, 879 (9th Cir. 2018) (citing *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 388) (“Excessive use of force *in effectuating a seizure* violates the Fourth Amendment.”) (emphasis added).



1 evidence from which a reasonable jury could find that there was an inadequate training  
2 program, and that the [defendant] was deliberately indifferent to whether its officers received  
3 adequate training.” *Herrera*, 298 F.Supp.2d at 1052. There must be actual causation between  
4 the inadequate training and the deprivation of the plaintiff’s rights. *Merritt v. County of Los*  
5 *Angeles*, 875 F.2d 765, 770 (9th Cir.1989).

6 Here, Plaintiff fails to show sufficient facts exists as to whether City of Henderson’s  
7 inadequate training caused Plaintiff’s injuries. Plaintiff provides facts to support a finding that  
8 City of Henderson inadequately trained Defendant Officers. (*See Resp. to City of Henderson’s*  
9 *MSJ 22:6–13*). For example, Defendant Nelson conceded he never had training with an armed  
10 robber. (*Id. 22:6–7*). Additionally, Defendant Vega admitted to never receiving training on  
11 striking with the buff of a rifle. (*Id. 22:8–9*). Such evidence, however, does not present factual  
12 dispute as to whether City of Henderson’s purportedly negligent training caused Plaintiff’s  
13 injuries. Aside from Plaintiff’s broad claim that “[c]ertainly, a reasonable jury could infer that  
14 Henderson’s failure to train the Defendant Officers gave rise to Plaintiff’s injuries in this case,”  
15 Plaintiff provides no other evidence to causally link Defendants’ negligent training to  
16 Plaintiff’s injuries from the incident. Accordingly, the Court also grants summary judgment as  
17 to Plaintiff’s Fifth Cause of Action as to Defendant City of Henderson.

18 ii. Monell Claim

19 Plaintiff’s second cause of action seeks to impose municipal liability on City of  
20 Henderson under § 1983. (FAC ¶¶ 36–41). The Supreme Court has held that a municipality  
21 can be liable under § 1983 if an official policy or custom directly caused the violation of an  
22 individual’s constitutional rights. *See Monell v. Dep’t of Social Services*, 436 U.S. 658, 690-91,  
23 98 S. Ct. 2018, 56 L. Ed. 2d 611 (1978). “It is only when the execution of the government’s  
24 policy or custom . . . inflicts the injury that the municipality may be held liable under § 1983.”  
25

1 *City of Canton, Ohio v. Harris*, 489 U.S. 378, 385, 109 S. Ct. 1197, 103 L. Ed. 2d 412, (1989)  
2 (citations and internal quotations omitted).

3 Pursuant to *Monell*, municipalities can be sued directly under § 1983 for violations of  
4 constitutional rights. See *Monell v. New York City Dep't of Soc. Servs.*, 436 U.S. 658, 690, 98  
5 S. Ct. 2018, 56 L. Ed. 2d 611 (1978). As explained by the Ninth Circuit, a litigant may recover  
6 from a municipality under § 1983 on one of three theories of municipal liability. *Clouthier v.*  
7 *Cnty. of Contra Costa*, 591 F.3d 1232, 1249 (9th Cir. 2010). “First, a local government may be  
8 held liable ‘when implementation of its official policies or established customs inflicts the  
9 constitutional injury.’” *Id.* (quoting *Monell*, 436 U.S. at 708 (Powell, J. concurring)). “Second,  
10 under certain circumstances, a local government may be held liable under § 1983 for acts of  
11 omission, when such omissions amount to the local government’s own official policy.” *Id.*  
12 “Third, a local government may be held liable under § 1983 when ‘the individual who  
13 committed the constitutional tort was an official with final policy-making authority’ or such an  
14 official ‘ratified a subordinate’s unconstitutional decision or action and the basis for it.’” *Id.* at  
15 1250 (quoting *Gillette v. Delmore*, 979 F.2d 1342, 1346-47 (9th Cir. 1992)). These three  
16 theories are sometimes referred to as (1) commission, (2) omission, and (3) ratification,  
17 respectively. See, e.g., *Aranda v. City of McMinnville*, 942 F.Supp.2d 1096, 1109 (D. Or.  
18 2013).

19 Here, as discussed *infra*, Defendants did not violate Plaintiff’s constitutional rights under  
20 the Fourth or Fourteenth Amendments. Without a constitutional violation, Plaintiff cannot  
21 demonstrate *Monell* liability. *Lockett v. Cty. of L.A.*, 977 F.3d 737, 741 (9th Cir. 2020)  
22 (“*Monell* claims thus require a plaintiff to show an underlying constitutional violation.”). Even  
23 assuming that Plaintiff could demonstrate a constitutional violation, Plaintiff’s *Monell* claim  
24  
25

1 fails because Plaintiff otherwise cannot demonstrate causation as to his *Monell* claim.<sup>3</sup> Here,  
2 Plaintiff conclusively states that City of Henderson’s customs, practices, and policies  
3 proximately caused him injuries. (FAC ¶ 39). Neither the First Amended Complaint nor  
4 Plaintiff’s Response to Defendant City of Henderson’s Motion for Summary Judgment,  
5 however, provides additional factual support to demonstrate that City of Henderson’s policy  
6 was the “moving force” behind the alleged constitutional violations. *City of Canton, Ohio*, 489  
7 U.S. at 389–91. Plaintiff thus fails to demonstrate that City of Henderson’s unlawful conduct  
8 in violation of Plaintiff’s Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights caused his injuries. *See Van*  
9 *Ort v. Est. of Stanewich*, 92 F.3d 831, 837 (9th Cir. 1996) (“[w]ithout proximate cause, there is  
10 no section 1983 liability.”). Because City of Henderson cannot be held liable under a *Monell*  
11 claim, the Court accordingly grants summary judgment on Plaintiff’s Second Claim as to  
12 Defendant City of Henderson.

13 iii. State Law Claims

14 Given that only Plaintiff’s state claims remain,<sup>4</sup> the Court considers *sua sponte* whether  
15 it has subject matter jurisdiction over the surviving claims. *See Augustine v. United States*, 704  
16 F.2d 1074, 1077 (9th Cir. 1983) (“The defense of lack of subject matter jurisdiction cannot be  
17 waived, and the court is under a continuing duty to dismiss an action whenever it appears that  
18 the court lacks jurisdiction.”); *see also Moore v. Maricopa Cnty. Sheriff’s Office*, 657 F.3d 890,

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19  
20 <sup>3</sup> Plaintiff cannot allege a ratification theory at this stage of the litigation. (Resp. to Def. City of Henderson’s  
21 MSJ 19:14–20:11). Plaintiff did not allege a ratification theory in his First Amended Complaint. (FAC ¶ 39)  
22 (“Plaintiff has been damaged as a proximate result of City of Henderson and their HPD’s *customs, practices and*  
23 *policies*, including, but not limited to, a bloody nose, bruising of his face and body, fractured orbital floor of the  
24 left eye/cheek, concussion, blurry vision, difficulty focusing on distant objects, unusual sensation in the teeth and  
25 palate, possible nerve damage, headaches, and cognitive difficulty attributed to concussion symptoms.”)  
(emphasis added). The deadline to amend has now passed. Plaintiff cannot now allege a *Monell* claim on the  
basis of ratification.

<sup>4</sup> As explained above, the Court grants summary judgment as to Plaintiff’s federal claims, namely the Section  
1983 claims based on the Fourth Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment, the *Monell* claim, and the Section  
1983 claim based on negligent training and supervision claim. The state claims of negligence, battery, negligent  
hiring and retention, and intentional infliction of emotional distress remain pending. (*See* FAC ¶¶ 42–54, 73–83).

1 894 (9th Cir. 2011) (noting the court’s obligation to determine *sua sponte* whether it has subject  
2 matter jurisdiction). Plaintiff initiated the instant suit based on federal question jurisdiction.  
3 (*See* FAC ¶ 1) (“Jurisdiction is based upon 29 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343, and 1367). A district  
4 court has jurisdiction to adjudicate a pendent state law claim if there is a federal claim so  
5 related to it that they form part of the same case or controversy. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).  
6 However, “if it appears that the state issues substantially predominate, whether in terms of  
7 proof, of the scope of the issues raised, or of the comprehensiveness of the remedy sought, the  
8 state claims may be dismissed without prejudice and left for resolution to state tribunals.”  
9 *United Mine Workers v. Gibbs*, 383 U.S. 715, 726-27, 86 S. Ct. 1130, 1139 (1966).

10 The state issues of negligence, battery, negligent hiring and retention, and intentional  
11 infliction of emotional distress substantially predominate the issues raised. (FAC ¶¶ 42–54, 73–  
12 83). Because no federal claims remain, the Court no longer maintains subject matter  
13 jurisdiction in this case. *Wren v. Sletten Constr. Co.*, 654 F.2d 529, 536 (9th Cir. 1981) (“When  
14 the state issues apparently predominate and all federal claims are dismissed before trial, the  
15 proper exercise of discretion requires dismissal of the state claim.”). The Court accordingly  
16 finds that it lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the remaining state law claims. Defendants’  
17 Motions for Summary Judgment are thus granted, and the remaining motions are dismissed as  
18 moot for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

#### 19 **IV. CONCLUSION**

20 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Defendant City of Henderson’s Motion for Summary  
21 Judgment, (ECF No. 54), is **GRANTED**.

22 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant Officers’ Motion for Summary  
23 Judgment, (ECF No. 55), is **GRANTED**.

24 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff’s Objection to Magistrate Order, (ECF No.  
25 73), is **DENIED as moot**.

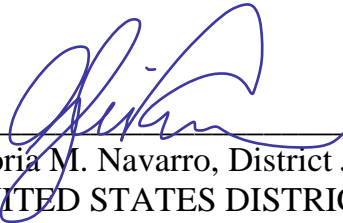


1           **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff’s Motion for Leave to File Supplement  
2 regarding the Objection/Appeal, (ECF No. 90), is **DENIED as moot**.

3           **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff’s Motions for Leave to File Supplement,  
4 (ECF Nos. 80, 81, 90), are **DENIED**.

5           The Clerk of Court is ordered to close the case accordingly.

6           **DATED** this 20 day of September, 2021.

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11           Gloria M. Navarro, District Judge  
12           UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
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