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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JAMAICA HAMPTON, an individual)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 v.)
)
 CHRISTOPHER FLORES, in his)
 individual capacity as a police officer for)
 the CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN)
 FRANCISCO)
)
 Defendant)
)
)
)
)
)

Case No.:
COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES
(42 U.S.C § 1983)

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

INTRODUCTION

1
2 1. On the morning of Dec. 7, 2019, Jamaica Hampton was in the midst of a mental
3 health crisis when he crossed paths with veteran San Francisco Police Department Officer
4 Sterling Hayes and his trainee, Defendant Officer Christopher Flores. The officers were
5 responding to reports of an attempted burglary. When they stopped to speak with Mr. Hampton,
6 a brief altercation ensued in which Defendant Flores was knocked to the ground. The officers
7 began pursuing Mr. Hayes.

8
9 2. After a short pursuit, Officer Hayes shot Mr. Hampton multiple times causing Mr.
10 Hampton to fall to the ground. Mr. Hampton was severely injured, bleeding out and unarmed.
11 Mr. Hampton pushed himself from the ground slightly and Defendant Flores shot the helpless
12 Mr. Hampton. Defendant Flores’ decision to shoot was so egregious that Officer Hayes shouted
13 for him to stop shooting and shortly after began crying himself.

14
15 3. Defendant Flores was criminally charged for his shooting of Mr. Hampton. Mr.
16 Hampton had to have his left leg amputated and suffered significant damage to his arm as well.

JURISDICTION

17
18 4. This action arises under Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 1983.
19 Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court by Title 28 of the United States Code, Sections 1331
20 and 1343. The unlawful acts and practices alleged herein occurred in the City and County of San
21 Francisco, California, which is within this judicial district.

PARTIES

22
23 5. Plaintiff JAMAICA HAMPTON (hereinafter “Plaintiff”) is an adult. He is a
24 resident of California and a citizen of the United States.
25

1 force of the gunshots dropped Plaintiff the ground leaving him unarmed, bleeding profusely and
2 severely injured.

3 10. A significant amount of time elapsed while Plaintiff laid in the street and
4 bleeding. Meanwhile Ofc. Hayes called for medical emergency services through the radio and
5 lowered his weapon. Some time later, Plaintiff wearily lifted his face from the ground when
6 Defendant Flores made the bewildering and grossly unlawful decision to shoot Plaintiff. So
7 egregious was the decision to shoot that Officer Hayes shouted for Defendant Flores to stop and
8 tried to intervene.
9

10 11. As a result of the gunshot wounds, Plaintiff suffered life-threatening injuries that
11 ultimately resulted in the amputation of his left leg and major injuries to his right arm.

12 **DAMAGES**

13 12. As a consequence of Defendants' violations of Plaintiff's federal civil rights
14 under 42 U.S.C. §1983 and the Fourth Amendment, Plaintiff was physically, mentally,
15 emotionally, and financially injured and damaged as a proximate result of Defendants' wrongful
16 conduct.
17

18 13. Plaintiff found it necessary to engage the services of private counsel to vindicate
19 his rights under the law. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to an award of attorneys' fees and/or costs
20 pursuant to statute(s) in the event that he is the prevailing party in this action under 42 U.S.C. §§
21 1983 and 1988. Plaintiff is also entitled to punitive damages under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988.
22

23 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

24 **(Fourth Amendment – Excessive Force under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983)**
25 *(PLAINTIFF against Defendant CHRISTOPHER FLORES)*

1 14. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every
2 paragraph of this Complaint.

3 15. When Defendant CHRISTOPHER FLORES shot Plaintiff, he did not have a
4 reasonable belief that Plaintiff still presented a threat to officers or anyone else. Plaintiff had
5 already been shot to the ground, no longer had the bottle in his hand, and was struggling to
6 push himself onto his knees. Defendant FLORES did not attempt any less lethal alternative
7 uses of force before unjustifiably shooting Plaintiff. Defendant FLORES' conduct was
8 excessive and unreasonable, which violated both his training and Plaintiff's constitutional
9 rights under the Fourth Amendment.
10

11 16. As a result of his misconduct, Defendant is liable for Plaintiffs' injuries and/or
12 damages.

13 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as hereinafter set forth.
14

15 **JURY DEMAND**

16 Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial in this action.

17 **PRAYER**

18 Wherefore, Plaintiffs pray for relief, as follows:

- 19 1. For general damages in a sum according to proof;
20 2. For special damages in a sum according to proof;
21 3. For punitive damages against Flores and DOES 1-25;
22 4. All other damages, penalties, costs, interest, and attorney fees as allowed by 42
23 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988, and as otherwise may be allowed by California and/or
24 federal law against Defendant CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO and
25 its employees;

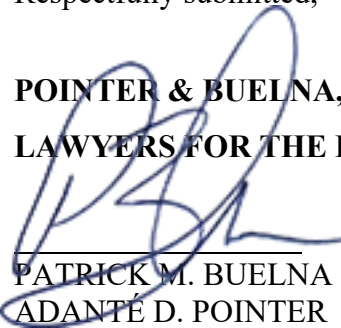
1 5. For cost of suit herein incurred; and

2 6. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

3
4 Date: December 6, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

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6 **POINTER & BUELNA, LLP**
7 **LAWYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

8 
9 **PATRICK M. BUELNA**
10 **ADANTÉ D. POINTER**
11 **COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS**