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Attorney for Defendants, City of Sea Isle City; William J. Kennedy, Chief of Police; City of Sea Isle City Police Department; James Iannone, Police Commissioner; and, J. Gansert, Patrolman

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY - CAMDEN**

ANEQUA R. JOYCE, a minor by her mother and legal guardian; GLENDON DURHAM, a minor by his mother and legal guardian; and, DORETHA WATERS-RICE, in her own right and on behalf of Anequa R. Joyce And Glendon Durham

v.

CITY OF SEA ISLE CITY; SEA ISLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION; SEA ISLE CITY SCHOOL; JOANN SMITH, individually, and in her official capacity as chief school administrator for the Sea Isle City School; ANGELA DAVENPORT, individually, and as agent, servant, and employee of Sea Isle City School; and, GAIL RODGER, individually, and as agent, servant, and employee of Sea Isle City School; CITY OF SEA ISLE CITY, NEW JERSEY, POLICE DEPARTMENT; WILLIAM J. KENNEDY, individually, and in his official capacity as the Chief Of The Sea Isle City, New Jersey, Police Department, and in his official capacity as the President Of The Sea Isle City Board Of Education; JAMES IANNONE, individually, and in his official capacity as the Police Commissioner Of The Sea Isle City, New Jersey, Police Department; J. GANSERT, individually, and as agent, servant, and employee of the Sea Isle City, New Jersey, Police Department; and, JANE AND JOHN DOES (1-5), individually

Defendants

Civil Action
Number 04-cv-5345 (RBK)

ANSWER

Defendants, by way of Answer to the Complaint, hereby say:

I. INTRODUCTION

(1) The allegations of this numbered paragraph are denied as it pertains to these answering Defendants.

II. PARTIES

The Plaintiffs

(2) Neither admitted nor denied. Plaintiff is left to her proofs.

(3) Neither admitted nor denied. Plaintiff is left to her proofs.

(4) Neither admitted nor denied. Plaintiff is left to her proofs.

The Defendants

(5) Admitted.

(6) Upon the advice of counsel, no answer is required as the allegation does not pertain to this answering Defendant.

(7) Upon the advice of counsel, no answer is required as the allegation does not pertain to this answering Defendant.

(8) Upon the advice of counsel, no answer is required as the allegation does not pertain to this answering Defendant.

(9) Upon the advice of counsel, no answer is required as the allegation does not pertain to this answering Defendant.

(10) Upon the advice of counsel, no answer is required as the allegation does not pertain to this answering Defendant.

- (11) Admitted.
- (12) It is admitted that William J. Kennedy, a white male, is the Chief of Police of the Sea Isle City Police Department. This answer is only made for Defendant William J. Kennedy, in his capacity as Chief of Police for the City of Sea Isle City Police Department. He is elsewhere represented in his capacity as President of the Sea Isle City School Board.
- (13) It is admitted that James Iannone is the Police Commissioner of the Police Department. It is admitted as to the address. The remaining allegations of this numbered paragraph are denied.
- (14) Admitted.
- (15) Upon the advice of counsel, neither admitted nor denied. Plaintiff is left to her proofs.
- (16) Upon the advice of counsel, Defendants lack sufficient information at this time to either admit or deny this allegation. To the extent an answer is required, the allegation is denied.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- (17) Neither admitted nor denied. Plaintiffs are left to their proofs.
- (18) Neither admitted nor denied. Plaintiffs are left to their proofs.

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- (19) Upon the advice of counsel for these answering Defendants, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not appear to allege any act of wrongdoing against these answering Defendants. To the extent an answer is required, the allegations are denied.
- (20) Upon the advice of counsel for these answering Defendants, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not appear to allege any act of wrongdoing against these answering Defendants. To the extent an answer is required, the allegations are denied.
- (21) Upon the advice of counsel for these answering Defendants, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not appear to allege any act of wrongdoing against these answering Defendants. To the extent an answer is required, the allegations are denied.
- (22) Upon the advice of counsel for these answering Defendants, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not appear to allege any act of wrongdoing against these answering Defendants. To the extent an answer is required, the allegations are denied.
- (23) Upon the advice of counsel for these answering Defendants, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not appear to allege any act of wrongdoing against these answering Defendants. To the extent an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

- (24) Upon the advice of counsel for these answering Defendants, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not appear to allege any act of wrongdoing against these answering Defendants. To the extent an answer is required, the allegations are denied.
- (25) Upon the advice of counsel for these answering Defendants, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not appear to allege any act of wrongdoing against these answering Defendants. To the extent an answer is required, the allegations are denied.
- (26) Upon the advice of counsel for these answering Defendants, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not appear to allege any act of wrongdoing against these answering Defendants. To the extent an answer is required, the allegations are denied.
- (27) Upon the advice of counsel for these answering Defendants, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not appear to allege any act of wrongdoing against these answering Defendants. To the extent an answer is required, the allegations are denied.
- (28) Upon the advice of counsel for these answering Defendants, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not appear to allege any act of wrongdoing against these answering Defendants. To the extent an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

- (29) It is admitted that an arrest warrant was signed against Plaintiff, Doretha Water-Rice for violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-3A. The remaining allegations of this numbered paragraph are denied.
- (30) Denied.
- (31) Denied.
- (32) Upon the advice of counsel, it is neither admitted nor denied as to what Doretha did when she returned home that day. However, it is admitted that she turned herself in and was released on her on recognizance.
- (33) Denied.
- (34) Denied.
- (35) Denied.
- (36) Upon the advice of counsel, these answering Defendants lack sufficient information upon which to either admit or deny the allegations of this numbered paragraph. Plaintiffs are left to their proofs.
- (37) Upon the advice of counsel, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not pertain to these answering Defendants, and therefore no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, it is denied.
- (38) Upon the advice of counsel, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not pertain to these answering Defendants, and therefore no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, it is denied.

- (39) Upon the advice of counsel, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not pertain to these answering Defendants, and therefore no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, it is denied.
- (40) Upon the advice of counsel, the factual allegations of this numbered paragraph can neither be admitted nor denied. Plaintiffs are left to their proofs.
- (41) Upon the advice of counsel, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not pertain to these answering Defendants, and therefore no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, it is denied.
- (42) Upon the advice of counsel, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not pertain to these answering Defendants, and therefore no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, it is denied.
- (43) Upon the advice of counsel, the allegations of this numbered paragraph do not pertain to these answering Defendants, and therefore no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, it is denied.
- (44) Upon the advice of counsel, the allegations of this numbered paragraph are denied only for Defendant Kennedy in his capacity as Chief of Police.
- (45) The allegations of this numbered paragraph are denied only for Defendant Sea Isle City.

(46) Upon the advice of counsel, these answering Defendants lack sufficient information upon which to admit or deny the allegations of this numbered paragraph. Plaintiffs are left to their proofs.

(47) Upon the advice of counsel, these answering Defendants have insufficient information upon which to admit or deny the allegations of this numbered paragraph. Plaintiffs are left to their proofs.

(48) Denied.

(49) Denied.

(50) Denied.

(51) Denied.

(52) Denied.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
42 U.S.C. § 1983

(53) The answers to allegations and averments 1 through 52 above are incorporated herein, as if fully set forth.

(54) Denied.

(55) Denied.

(56) Denied.

(57) Denied.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
42 U.S.C. § 1985

- (58) The answers to allegations and averments 1 through 57 above are incorporated by reference herein, as if fully set forth.
- (59) Denied.
- (60) Denied.
- (61) Denied.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF
NEW JERSEY LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

- (62) The answers to allegations and averments 1 through 61 above are incorporated by reference herein, as if fully set forth.
- (63) Denied.
- (64) Denied.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
NEW JERSEY CONSTITUTION

- (65) The answers to allegations and averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 64 above are incorporated by reference herein, as if fully set forth.
- (66) Denied.
- (67) Denied.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Plaintiff Doretha Waters-Rice v. All Defendants
CLAIM FOR MALICIOUS PROSECUTION

(68) The answer to allegations and averments contained in 1 through 67 above are incorporated herein, as if fully set forth.

(69) Admitted.

(70) Denied.

(71) Denied.

(72) Denied.

(73) Denied.

(74) Denied.

SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Now come the defendants, jointly, severally, or in the alternative and plead the following separate and affirmative defenses.

1. Any injuries and/or damages sustained by the Plaintiff are the result of the act and/or acts of independent, intervening agencies over which these answering Defendants had no power or control.

2. These answering Defendants did not breach any duty which may have been owed to the Plaintiff in this action.

3. The Complaint fails to set forth a cause of action as to these answering Defendants and these answering Defendants reserve the right to move to dismiss the Complaint on that ground.

4. This action is barred by reason of the Statutory Immunity of the Defendants and these answering Defendants reserve the right to move to dismiss the Complaint on that ground.
5. This claim is barred and/or limited by the Plaintiff's failure to avail herself of administrative remedies and/or arbitration. Plaintiff failed to exhaust administrative remedies.
6. This claim is barred or limited by reason of the New Jersey Joint and Several Liability Act, N.J.S.A. 2A:15-1 et seq. and/or the New Jersey Comparative Negligence Act N.J.S.A. 2A:53A-1 et seq.
7. This claim is barred and/or limited by the New Jersey Collateral Source Rule N.J.S.A. 2A:15-97.
8. This claim is barred and/or limited by reason of the Plaintiff's failure to mitigate damages.
9. This claim is barred and/or limited by way of the Doctrine of Estoppel.
10. This claim is barred and/or limited by reason of the Doctrine of Waiver.
11. Without making any admission as to any of the factual averments by the Plaintiff against these answering Defendants, these answering Defendants assert that no action of these answering Defendants directed to the Plaintiffs were with malice or in any regard other than in good faith and, therefore, these answering Defendants are not responsible to the Plaintiff for any damage.

12. These answering Defendants assert that the actions taken by these answering Defendants were privileged, subject to immunity and/or partial immunity, and/or authorized by law.

13. These answering Defendants assert that the Plaintiffs have failed to plead any Constitutional and/or statutory violation and/or property deprivation with such specificity as to state a cognizable claim under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983.

14. Specifically, Sea Isle City and its Police Department assert that the Plaintiffs are not able to establish acts or omissions by Sea Isle City in the face of persistent, widespread practices so common and well settled as to be imputable to Sea Isle City or its Police Department, constituting a blatant and routine disregard and/or deliberate indifference to the rights of the Plaintiff.

15. Specifically, Sea Isle City and its Police Department assert that the Plaintiff is unable to show any policy and/or procedure and/or act attributable to Sea Isle City which was so inadequate as to amount to a deliberate indifference to the Plaintiff's Constitutional rights and/or to otherwise amount to a cognizable claim by Plaintiff against Sea Isle City under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983.

16. At all times, the acts and/or conduct of these answering Defendants in regard to the Plaintiffs were fair, objective, and in good faith, taking into consideration the essential functions of the Plaintiff's job.

17. All employment decisions of these answering Defendants in regard to the Plaintiffs were made for legitimate business reasons and/or professional considerations and not for any discriminatory purpose.

18. Any and all damages alleged to have been suffered by the Plaintiffs are not causally related to any act and/or omission alleged to be chargeable to these answering Defendants.

19. Insofar as any State law claim by Plaintiffs, other than a claim under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, the claim must be dismissed as the Plaintiff failed to comply with the required notice provisions of the New Jersey Tort Claims Act N.J.S.A. 59:8-1 et seq.

20. Plaintiffs failed to invoke and/or utilize the policies and procedures of the City prohibiting discrimination/harassment and, thus, the Complaint of the Plaintiff must be dismissed.

21. Certain claims are barred by the applicable Statute of Limitations and these answering Defendants reserve the right to dismiss on that ground.

22. The Complaint must be dismissed, as the Plaintiffs failed to obtain a "right to sue" letter, thereby barring Plaintiff's claims.

23. This individually named answering Defendant did not aid, abet, incite or coerce any act of discrimination/harassment.

24. The Complaint is barred by the provisions of the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:1-1, et. seq.

25. These answering defendants are immune from liability pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 59:2-1, et. seq.

26. These answering defendants assert the applicability of the provisions of N.J.S.A. 59:2-1 and 59:2-2, as to the immunities available to the public entity and/or public employee.

27. These answering defendants are not liable to the plaintiff in that there is no liability upon any public employees pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 59:2-2(b).

28. These answering defendants are immune from liability pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 59:3-1, et seq.

29. These answering defendants assert the applicability of the provisions of N.J.S.A. 59:2-3 and 59:3-2 as to the absence of liability from the exercise of judgment or discretion.

30. These answering defendants assert the applicability of the provisions of N.J.S.A. 59:8-3 through 59:8-7 regarding failure to provide adequate and timely notice of claim.

31. These answering defendants assert the applicability of the provisions of N.J.S.A. 59:8-8 through 59:8-11 regarding failure to timely file notice of claim and/or failure to file notice of claim as set forth therein.

32. Any recovery to which the plaintiff might otherwise be entitled is subject to reduction in accordance with the judgments, damages and interest provided in N.J.S.A. 59:2-2.

33. These answering defendants assert the applicability of N.J.S.A. 59:9-3 and 59:9-4 regarding joint tortfeasors and the comparative negligence of the plaintiffs.

34. These answering defendants, by pressing the aforementioned defense(s), does not intend to limit its defense and/or rights under the Act and hereby affirmatively pleads the procedural and substantive provisions of the New Jersey Tort Claims Act: N.J.S.A. 59:1-1, et. seq. which are applicable and have not been previously cited in this Answer.

35. These answering Defendants hereby reserve the right to amend this Answer to assert additional separate defenses as may be revealed and/or suggested by ongoing investigation and/or discovery.

36. There is no cause of action against the City for intentional infliction of emotional distress and no such cause of action can be asserted against a public entity under the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:2-10.

37. The individual Defendants are immune under the New Jersey Tort Claims Act under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 59:3-4 through 3-14.

38. The answering Defendants have not acted willfully, maliciously or wantonly and thus punitive damages are not appropriate.

39. The individually named answering Defendants are entitled to qualified immunity under the State and/or Federal Constitution.

40. The individually named answering Defendants are entitled to supervisory immunity and/or is not a supervisor of the Plaintiff and thus liability cannot be imposed.

41. Plaintiff failed to file a Notice of Tort Claim on Chief Kennedy and therefore, cannot maintain a tort action against him.

42. Plaintiff failed to file a Notice of Tort Claim on James Iannone and therefore, cannot maintain a tort action against him.

43. The Sea Isle City Police Department is not a separate legal entity capable of suing or being sued.

44. Jon Gansert is not a separate legal entity capable of suing or being sued.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL PURSUANT TO RULE 1:8(c)

Please be advised that Defendants, City of Sea Isle City; William J. Kennedy, Chief of Police; City of Sea Isle City Police Department; James Iannone, Police Commissioner; and, J. Gansert, Patrolman, hereby demand a trial by jury as to all issues.

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

The Court is advised that A. Michael Barker, Esquire, is hereby designated as Trial Counsel.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF DAMAGES

It is requested that within five days of service hereof, the Plaintiff furnish a written statement specifying the amount of damages claimed in the above-entitled action.

CERTIFICATION OF COUNSEL

The matter in controversy is not subject to any other known action pending in any other court or if any pending or contemplated arbitration proceeding. There are no other parties known who should be joined to this action.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

The Defendants respectfully request that the Complaint be dismissed and that the Court award costs and reasonable fees, and all such other relief as the Defendants may be entitled to, to the Defendants.

BARKER DOUGLASS & SCOTT

Dated:

20 Dec. 2004

BY:



A. Michael Barker, Esquire
Attorneys for Defendants
City of Sea Isle City; William J. Kennedy,
Chief of Police; City of Sea Isle City Police
Department; James Iannone, Police
Commissioner; and, J. Gansert, Patrolman