



## **Civil rights group 'outraged' over resolution of lawsuit in alleged racial profiling case**

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The leader of a local civil rights group said Friday that he was "outraged" when he heard the resolution of a lawsuit against Wilkes-Barre police alleging racial profiling.

Ron Felton, president of the Wilkes-Barre branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, took issue with the terms of a settlement between the city and former Wilkes University employee Andita Parker Lloyd disclosed earlier this week.

The city agreed to pay Parker Lloyd \$1,000 and another \$10,000 for her attorneys fees. The five police officers allegedly involved with the February 2006 traffic will not admit any wrongdoing, but the department agreed to require all officers to review the racial and ethnic profiling policy each year.

Felton said the settlement pales in comparison the travails faced in the last year and a half by Parker Lloyd, who alleged in another case that the lawsuit led to her firing at Wilkes.

"I want my outrage as president of the local NAACP to be expressed vehemently," said Felton, who contacted The Citizens' Voice on Friday morning. "I'm very disappointed with the outcome."

Parker Lloyd and her attorney, Barry Dyller, said the terms of the settlement prevented them from commenting. Parker Lloyd alleged in the lawsuit police pulled over a groups of students under her supervision for no reason while they were driving home from a black history month event.

She approached police to ask why the students had been stopped, Parker Lloyd said. But the city officials said Parker Lloyd, who is black, interfered with the officers and did not return to her car when asked. She was arrested, but a charge of disorderly conduct was later dropped.

The police officers involved were never identified, and that fact frustrates Felton the most.

"I know the majority of the Wilkes-Barre officers are professional and carry out their jobs well," he said. "But I can believe in this day and time, this kind of stuff is going on. There is no way these cops should be able to avoid having their names out there. Ms. Parker Lloyd's name has been all over the paper."

Had the case made it to trial, the officers' names likely would have been revealed during the discovery process, but the settlement came prior to the suit ever reaching that point. The officers names weren't revealed because they were never part of a public record and they were never found to have done anything wrong, said city attorney William Vinsko.

"They resolved the case without any acknowledgement of wrongdoing, so it isn't relevant and not a public record," he said. "Both parties wanted to move on and move forward. That's why we were able to reach an agreeable settlement,"

Wilkes fired Parker Lloyd from her position as director of multi-cultural affairs for her "lack of professional judgment" following a weekend retreat that offended some students. A tolerance-building exercise

encouraged some students to use insults and racial slurs, students who attended the retreat have said.

Parker Lloyd later filed a complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Rights Commission accusing the school forcing her out because she brought the lawsuit.

The case was closed March 30 before it reached a public hearing, with neither side saying whether that was the result of a settlement.