



Donna Miller, a 59-year-old Black woman, is suing Murray City Police Department with claims of racial profiling, wrongful arrest and charges for driving under the influence. (Photo: KUTV)

Utah woman sues Murray City on claims of racial profiling, wrongful arrest

by Ginna Roe

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MURRAY, Utah (KUTV) — A Utah woman is suing Murray City with claims of racial profiling, wrongful arrest and charges for driving under the influence.

KUTV: Ginna Roe reports{ }

Donna Miller, a 59-year-old Black woman, said she was coming home from running errands at the mall in August of 2018 when Murray City Officer Jarom Allred stopped her.

"Officer Allred pulled me over and said to me, 'do you know why I'm pulling you over?' I said to him, 'no,'" Miller said.

According to Miller, the officer told her he ran her license plates and believed she was driving without insurance. Miller said she then showed the officer proof of insurance.

"He said, 'Well, I have probable cause to think you are intoxicated,' and I was like, 'What?'" Miller said.

Miller said she was shocked to hear the officer say that he suspected her of driving under the influence of alcohol. She's a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and doesn't drink alcohol. Miller also said she was on her way home before heading to class where she was studying to be a nurse and midwife. According to Miller, Allred demanded that she exit her vehicle and began performing field sobriety tests on her. In a statement provided by Miller's attorneys, Holland & Hart and the American Civil Liberties Union, she passed four field sobriety tests, including two breathalyzer tests, which showed "0.0" alcohol level in her system.

"Officer Allred came back to me and said, 'I need to arrest you,'" Miller said.

Miller was taken to the Murray City Police Station where several more sobriety tests were performed on her, including a blood test, which came back negative.

“Everything came back negative. They tested me for, I guess, meth and marijuana and alcohol, and everything came back negative,” Miller said.

Heather White, the attorney representing Murray City, said Allred was justified in the arrest of Miller. White claims Miller was swerving while driving and she admitted to taking medication earlier in the day.

Miller’s attorneys said she took Janumet for her Type 2 diabetes, which would not have impaired her driving. “He had the driving pattern, he had the conversation with her, and then he had the performance on the field sobriety tests, which are more than sufficient to have given him that arguable probable cause to arrest her,” White said.

According to White, Miller failed the field sobriety tests and seemed confused, which also gave Allred probable cause to arrest her. But Miller and her attorneys dispute that claim and say Allred had no evidence to arrest her.

Furthermore, a Utah Highway Patrol trooper and drug recognition expert concluded in a statement that it was his “opinion that Miller was not under the influence of any drugs.”

“She was not concluded by the tests... the toxicology test that was performed to have any measurable amount in her blood, but that does not mean she did not have it,” White said.



Miller claims her traffic stop and arrest is an example of racial profiling by Allred and Murray City Police.

“I really believe it’s the color of my skin that caused that,” Miller said. “From the time he asked me to step out of the car, I knew he was racially profiling me, ‘cause he had no reason to stop me.”

The charges against Miller were dropped, but not until she contested them in court. White acknowledged there was not enough evidence to

convict Miller, however, she maintained that Allred had probable cause to arrest her.

Miller said while the charges were dropped, the arrest is still on her record. She wants it expunged and is calling on Murray City to require officers to complete implicit bias police training.

“When the allegations of discrimination came in by Ms. Miller quite some time ago, the city conducted an investigation into those. It determined that officer Allred had acted in accordance of policy. There was no racial discrimination in the arrest of her,” White said.

Both Miller and White stand by their stories and say they plan to take the case to trial.