UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION

JOSEPH SAAD, INDIVIDUALLY, ZIHRA SAAD, INDIVIDUALLY,	CIVIL CASE NO. 2:11-CV-10103
PLAINTIFFS,	MOTION TO AMEND COMPLAINT
- VS - City of Dearborn Heights, et al., Defendants.	- Honorable Patrick J. Duggan – - Magistrate Judge Mark A. Randon -

HADOUSCO. PLLC

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MOTION TO AMEND COMPLAINT

1	Plaintiffs Joseph Saad and Zihra Saad (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), by counsel, and pursuant				
2	to Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2), hereby submit this Motion to Amend the Complaint to add the				
3	following claims:				
4	1. 42 U.S.C. § 1983 – Conspiracy (Defendants Keller and Cates)				
5	2. 42 U.S.C. § 1983 – Fourteenth Amendment – Brady Violation (Defendants Keller				
6	and Cates)				
7	3. 42 U.S.C. § 1983 – Fourteenth Amendment – Perjury (Defendant Keller)				
8	4. 42 U.S.C. § 1983 – Fourteenth Amendment – Monell Claim: Unconstitutional				
9	Custom, Policy, and Practice (Defendant City of Dearborn Heights)				
10	Plaintiffs sought but did not obtain concurrence in the relief sought herein pursuant to				
11	Local Rule 7.1. In support of this Motion, Plaintiffs rely on the arguments and authorities set				
12	forth in their Memorandum in Support filed contemporaneously herewith.				
13					
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	Respectfully submitted this 21st day of October 2011, <u>HadousCo. [pllc</u> <u>//Nemer N. Hadous</u> By: Nemer N. Hadous [AZ: 027529 CA: 264431] United States District Courts: - District of Arizona - Eastern District of Michigan 835 Mason Street, Suite 150-A Dearborn, Michigan 48124 P: (313) 450-0687 F: (888) 450-0687 E: Nhadous@hadousco.com Attorney for Plaintiffs <i>Joseph Saad and Zihra Saad</i>				
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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

A. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

This Motion seeks an Order by the Court pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2) to permit entry of the Plaintiffs' Amended Complaint on the basis of evidence obtained from the Defendants during discovery. (**Exhibit – 1 Amended Complaint**). Fed. R. Civ. P. 15 provides that leave to amend shall be freely given when justice requires.

In the instant case, Defendants provided a Supplemental Response to Plaintiffs' First Request for Production of Documents No. 3 by correspondence and enclosure dated October 6, 2011. Enclosed with the Defendants' Response were digital copies of the individually-named Defendants' in-car video and audio recording of the incident giving rise to the Plaintiffs' cause of action, which the Defendants initially concealed/withheld during the course of the false and unjust criminal proceedings against the Plaintiffs and did not disclose when Plaintiffs made their First Request for Production of Documents to the Defendant City of Dearborn Heights.¹

The contents of these recordings establish that Plaintiff Joseph Saad did not "physically assault" Defendant Keller prior to his arrest and that Joseph was prosecuted on the basis of Defendant Keller's false and perjured testimony that he was "physically assaulted" by the Joseph Saad when asked Joseph to produce identification. These recordings were <u>never</u> provided to the Plaintiffs or to their defense counsel during the course of the Defendants' criminal proceedings against them.

B. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1.

THE UNJUST CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND PERJURED TESTIMONY AT-ISSUE

The events giving rise to this cause of action occurred at the Plaintiffs' residence on July 10, 2010. Following the Plaintiffs' arrest, Defendant Keller submitted a police report wherein he stated that Plaintiff Joseph Saad physically shoved him.

¹ When Plaintiffs made an identical request for production in Case No. 10-12635 (Saad v. Krause, et al.), which is currently pending on Defendants' appeal of this Court's denial of qualified immunity, Defendant responded, "Defendant has no such recordings." (Exhibit 2 – Defendants' Response to Plaintiffs' First Request for Production of Documents). If such audio/video recordings exist or existed, they would appear to resolve whether Defendant Krause, as alleged, ever engaged in a <u>physical</u> struggle with Joseph Saad after he drew a firearm on Joseph prior to Joseph's entry into his home. A claim Joseph vehemently <u>denied</u>. On October 21, 2011, Mr. Hadous inquired with Mr. Sturdy whether, in light of the existence of the recordings in this matter, similar recordings existed regarding the earlier case. Mr. Sturdy responded that, "it was not relevant" and that he would not "waste his time discussing it."

		3			
1 2 3	R/O [Keller] walked one more step toward the door and Joe [Plaintiff Joseph Saad] physically shoved R/O back toward the porch step				
4	(Exhibit 3 - Police Report of Defendant Keller dated July 10, 2010).				
5	The police report submitted by Defendant Cates was distinctively different regarding the				
6	alleged "physical assault":				
7 8 9 10 11	Skelton arrived on the scene and advised R/O Keller, after being explained the situation that Joseph needed to be placed under arrest for assaulting R/O Keller by slamming the door on his left foot, and further hindering an investigation.				
12	(Exhibit 4 - Police Report of Defendant Cates dated July 10, 2010).				
13	During a direct examination by Assistant Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney Kal Najjar				
14	at the Preliminary Examination in "The People of the State of Michigan v. Joseph Saad, and				
15	Zihra Saad," Defendant Keller continued to offer perjured testimony:				
16 17 18 19	Keller:	When I asked for his identification after he was done screaming at me, he <u>shoved</u> me back and said he's not giving me shit, to get off his property.			
20 21 22 23	Mr. Najjar:	When you say he shoved you back, tell us exactly— <u>physically</u> what happened?			
23 24 25 26	Keller:	He shoved me in the chest toward the steps to the front porch.			
27	Mr. Najjar : With his hands?				
28 29 Keller : Yes.		Yes.			
30 31 32	Mr. Najjar:	Did he push you with one hand, two hands?			
33	Keller:	Two hands.			
34 35	(Exhibit 5 – Prelimi	nary Exam Transcripts at p. 9)			
36	During the criminal trial in "The People of the State of Michigan v. Joseph Saad,"				
37	Defendant Keller continued to offer perjured testimony which the Assistant Wayne County				
38	Prosecutor Jamil Khuja relied on in attempting to convict Joseph unjustly.				
39 40	Mr. Khuja:	And, Officer Keller's going to say that he then shoved him.			

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Mr. Kh	uja : Officer Keller then says he will not leave because he just assaulted a police officer, so he waits for a supervisor to come.	
(Exhibit 6 – Tr	ial Transcripts, People v. Joseph Saad at pp. 59 - 60).	
And on direct examination Defendant Keller offered the same perjured testimony.		
Keller:	[A]t that point he shoved me backwards towards the step coming up onto the front porch.	
Mr. Kh	uja: When you say he shoved you, where does he shove you?	
Keller:	He shoves me, actually hits me in the chest and pushes me back. Page 85	
(Exhibit 6 – Trial Transcripts, People v. Joseph Saad at pp. 84 – 85).		
2.	THE CONCEALED/WITHHELD EXCULPATORY EVIDENCE	
The Plair	tiffs received the in-car audio and video recordings. During the encounter,	
Defendant Kell	er did not once state that he had been pushed, shoved, or physically touched by	
the Plaintiff Jos	eph Saad. Further, the Plaintiffs explicitly asked on multiple occasions why	
Plaintiff Josep	h Saad was going to be arrested. Again, Defendant Keller did not once state	
that he had been	n pushed, shoved, or physically touched by the Plaintiff Joseph Saad.	
A summa	ry of the encounter is as follows: ²	
Zihra:		
Cates:	Cates: We will not take our foot out of the door.	
Zihra: Why		
Keller:	Keller: Because your son tried slamming the door in my face, that's why.	
Joseph: Oh, "God" said I couldn't shut this door.		
Keller: I'm Officer Keller, not God, close though.		
When Jos	eph asked Defendant Keller whether he had an arrest warrant, Defendant Keller	
responded that	he didn't need one because he was conducting an "investigation." Defendant	

² The Plaintiffs possess an audio/video recording of this encounter in digital format (DVD) which was provided belatedly to the Plaintiffs in October 2011. The Plaintiffs will supplement this Motion with a transcription of the audio evidence once Plaintiffs obtain a transcribed copy of the same.

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Keller then repeated that Joseph tried to "slam the door in [his] face," did not provide his identification, and "hindered an investigation" (though Defendant Keller admits that when he asked Joseph if he was Joseph Saad, Joseph said, "yes").

At approximately 21:27 in the recording, the Defendants decide to arrest Joseph and **Zihra explicitly asks, "Why you want to take him to jail?"** Defendant Keller responds, "He's broken the law When I asked for his I.D. he refused to give me his I.D." At <u>no</u> time during the foregoing encounter does Defendant Keller ever state or imply that he has been physically assaulted by Joseph. At <u>no</u> time during the foregoing encounter do any of the other Defendants who are present state or imply that Defendant Keller was physically assaulted by Joseph. At <u>no</u> time when asked <u>explicitly</u> by the Plaintiffs why the Defendants were going to arrest Joseph do any of the Defendants state that Joseph would be arrested for physically assaulting Defendant Keller.

After Joseph and his mother were arrested, Defendant Keller, assisted by Defendant Cates, prepared a police report, and for the <u>first</u> time, Defendant Keller states that he was physically assaulted by Joseph after he asked Joseph to produce his driver's license. Defendant Keller's puzzling testimony during trial while being cross-examined by Joseph Saad's defense counsel, Mark Haidar, is further proof that the alleged assault never occurred.

Mr. Haidar:Okay. After he shoved you and you have called for back-up
what happens?Mr. Haidar:You're saying that Mr. Saad pushes you away to close the
door and the deadbolt prevented the door from closing?Keller:He pushed me back to get me away from the door.Mr. Haidar:Yes.Keller:And then tried slamming the door and it didn't shut all the
way.Mr. Haidar:I see. Okay. And you didn't have anything to do with the
fact that it didn't shut?Keller:Not at that time, no.

(Exhibit 7 – Trial Transcripts, People v. Joseph Saad at pp. 106 - 107).

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Not surprisingly, the Honorable Carole F. Youngblood, the judge presiding over People v. Joseph Saad, categorically admonished this testimony:

Here, I have to say that these officers have <u>all been impeached</u> by the Preliminary Exam transcripts They have stated <u>several</u> times different things in their testimony. If I could go through my notes, I would have a chance to put forth all of those There is - - the evidence is <u>too</u> contradictory. There are just <u>too</u> <u>many</u>, <u>too many misstatements</u> and statements contradicting each other to find Officer Keller's testimony in a light more credible.

(Exhibit 8 – Trial Transcripts, People v. Joseph Saad at pp. 204-206).

The Plaintiffs and defense counsel Mark Haidar have confirmed that neither received the foregoing audio/video recording of the events giving rise to this action. The Plaintiffs will procure an affidavit from Mr. Haidar attesting to this if necessary.

ARGUMENT

1. Leave to Amend is "Freely Given"

After a responsive pleading is filed, parties may only amend a complaint with leave of court or written consent of the adverse party. As Defendants have not consented to entry of an Amended Complaint, and have not otherwise responded to Plaintiffs' multiple telephone calls and email inquiries (EXHIBIT), Plaintiffs seek assistance from this Court.

A district judge should freely grant leave to amend when justice requires. See Fed R. Civ. P. 15(a) ("leave shall be freely given when justice so requires"); Jet, Inc. v. Sewage Aeration Sys., 165 F.3d 419, 425 (6th Cir. 1999) (stating that leave to amend should be freely granted in order to ensure that cases are tried on the merits). The decision whether to grant leave to amend is a matter of court discretion. *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182; 83 S. Ct. 227; 9 L.E.2d 222 (1962).

In *Foman*, the United States Supreme Court set forth the standard regarding whether leave to amend should be granted:

Rule 15(a) declares that leave to amend 'shall be freely given when justice so requires'; this mandate is to be heeded. See generally, 3 Moore, Federal Practice (2d ed. 1948), 15.08, 15.10. If the underlying facts or circumstances relied upon by a plaintiff may be a proper subject of relief, he ought to be afforded an opportunity to test his claim on the merits. In the absence of any apparent or declared reason-such as undue delay, bad faith or dilatory motive on the part of the movant, repeated failure to cure deficiencies by amendments previously allowed, undue prejudice to the opposing party by virtue of allowance of the amendment, futility of amendment, etc.-the leave sought should, as the rules

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require, be 'freely given.' Of course, the grant or denial of an opportunity to amend is within the discretion of the District Court....

Foman at p. 182.

2. Leave to Amend Would Be in the Interest of Justice

Here, Plaintiffs seek to add claims that are based on evidence received on or about October 6, 2011. Evidence which the Defendants failed to timely disclose and of the type which they contended in the earlier action, "never existed." Plaintiffs have not unduly delayed Defendants and Defendants will suffer no prejudice by a Court Order permitting Plaintiffs to file an Amended Complaint. If a party has been unduly delayed and prejudiced, it is the <u>Plaintiffs</u>.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Honorable Court grant Plaintiffs' Motion and enter an Order permitting Plaintiffs to file an Amended Complaint. Plaintiffs further respectfully request an award of attorneys' fees and costs for the filing of this

Motion.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of October 2011

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1	<u>Certificati</u>	E OF SERVICE		
2	I hereby certify that on October 21, 2011, I electronically filed the foregoing with the			
3	Clerk of the Court using the ECF system, which	Clerk of the Court using the ECF system, which will send notice of such filing to all attorneys of		
4	record in this matter. Since none of the attorneys	s of record are non-ECF participants, hard copies		
5	of the foregoing have not been provided via pers			
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9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	BY: Ni Ui 83 D	 MEMER N. HADOUS EMER N. HADOUS AZ: 027529 CA: 264431 NITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS: DISTRICT OF ARIZONA EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN 35 MASON STREET, SUITE 150-A EARBORN, MICHIGAN 48124 P: (313) 450-0687 F: (888) 450-0687 D: (313) 415-5559 E: NHADOUS @HADOUSCO.COM FTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS DSEPH SAAD AND ZIHRA SAAD 		
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