

Black female motorist reaches \$800,000 settlement in N.J. trooper assault case - Law & Justice - Brief Article

A Black woman who said she was assaulted by a White state trooper during a traffic stop recently reached an \$800,000 settlement with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

Kindra Wright of Newark was arrested in 1998 by Trooper John Ioia, who apparently mistook her for a person involved in an argument he had responded to near a turnpike rest area.

According to the suit, when Wright attempted to return to her car, ignoring Ioia's orders to stop, the trooper allegedly handcuffed her, lifted her by the hair, and pushed her face first into the ground. Wright claims she suffered a fractured jaw, broken teeth and cuts to her face.

The state police disciplined Ioia for his treatment of Wright. State police spokesman John Hagerty said Ioia was involved in "several incidents" that led to disciplinary hearings against him and a 14-month suspension begun in March 2001.

Charges filed by the trooper against Wright were dismissed.

Wright, 28, said she was glad to settle the matter. "I've been through enough trials with this," reports the Star-Ledger of Newark. "I've had to tell my story over and over again."

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