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Dedelow v. City of Heber

United States District Court, D. Utah, Central Division - November 25, 2013 - Not Reported in F.Supp.2d - 2013 WL 6158953

Plaintiff Ryan Dedelow was cited for speeding in Heber City on April 25, 2004. His citation was additionally filed in Wasatch County. Though Mr. Dedelow paid the citation to the City within the allotted time, the City failed to notify the County that the citation had been resolved. This resulted in an active arrest warrant for Mr. Dedelow.

Mr. Dedelow was stopped for a minor traffic violation where a warrant check revealed an active, eight-year-old arrest warrant. He was subsequently arrested and booked into jail. His pregnant wife was left at the side of the highway in Sardine Canyon and required to find her own way home. Mr. Dedelow alleges that he suffered embarrassment and humiliation as a result of being arrested, booked into jail, and having his new wife's family bail him out and pick him up from jail.

Mr. Dedelow brought an action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claiming the City failed to notify Wasatch County that the citation had been appropriately resolved. He also claims the County failed to inquire into whether the citation had been resolved, keeping an arrest warrant active for eight years. Therefore, Plaintiff alleges that the City and County Defendants negligently failed to ensure their employees followed proper administrative procedures.

The court granted the City's motion to dismiss, finding that Mr. Dedelow's complaint lacked factual allegations to support a plausible claim of relief under § 1983.

"Mr. Dedelow's allegations center on the theory of inadequate training—that the municipal custom or policy itself comprised a failure to act, which was the result of a deliberate indifference to the rights of Plaintiff. However, the Complaint lacks facts supporting the allegation of deliberate indifference. Mr. Dedelow provides no factual allegations of a pattern of unconstitutional arrest and detention resulting from failure to resolve traffic citations that would put Defendants on notice. The Complaint also lacks facts supporting an allegation that Defendants failed to train their employees to follow proper procedures in recurrent situations that present an obvious potential for constitutional violations. Without more, Defendant's failure to act in this instance does not suggest a custom or policy of inadequate training as a result of deliberate indifference to the rights of Plaintiff."