

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 18, 2015

Contact: Andrew D. Freeman
adf@browngold.com
410-962-1030

City Resident Sues “Officer 666” Over Wrongful Arrest and Incarceration in Baltimore Unrest

Branden Owens, a Baltimore resident who was beaten by police officers at the outset of the unrest following Freddie Gray’s funeral, including by one who identified himself as “Officer 666,” and then imprisoned for two days despite never being charged with a crime, filed suit today in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. The suit charges Officer 666, Baltimore Police Officer Philip Meadows, the Baltimore Police Department, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, and the State of Maryland with wrongful arrest, excessive force, false imprisonment, and battery.

On the afternoon of April 27, 2015, following the funeral of Freddie Gray, Mr. Owens, a 30-year-old African-American man, was walking towards Mondawmin Mall with his fiancé and her son to buy groceries. When Mr. Owens saw the officers in front of the shopping center, he asked an officer whether the grocery store was open, but received no answer. Several officers then rushed past Mr. Owens in pursuit of other individuals. One officer struck him with a baton. When Mr. Owens asked for the offending officer’s badge number, he was arrested and beaten further. After arresting him, the officer who had hit Mr. Owens said, “You wanted my badge number? It’s 666. I’m the devil.”

After his arrest, Mr. Owens was taken to Central Booking in Baltimore City, where he was imprisoned for two days before being released. No charges were filed.

Mr. Owens is seeking compensation for his physical and emotional injuries, and punitive damages against the officer who caused them.

###