

Queens man settles case, saying police attacked him in bogus bust

He gets 235G for chomp by cop's dog

BY NICOLE BODE
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A QUEENS man who claims cops beat him, and a police dog mauled him during a bogus arrest has won a \$235,000 settlement from the city.

Tyrell Garcia, 24, who works in an animal hospital on Long Island, said he still bears an oozing wound on his left calf from the Aug. 14, 2007, incident.

Garcia charged that police tailed him to the Laurelton home he shares with his grandmother, chased him through the house and into a neighbor's yard and pistol-whipped him.

His suit said the cops sicced a K9 on him — ripping a chunk of flesh from his left leg — and that he was then denied medical treatment.

Garcia and his grandmother, 70-year-old Dorothy Garcia, accused the city, NYPD Detective Sean Ward of the 105th Precinct and six other officers of "excessive and unreasonable force," assault, battery and illegal search and entry, in the suit filed in federal court last year.

While the city admitted no wrongdoing, it agreed to the settlement, which was filed Tuesday.

"The settlement was in the best interest of all parties," said Connie Pakratz, a spokeswoman for the city Law Department.

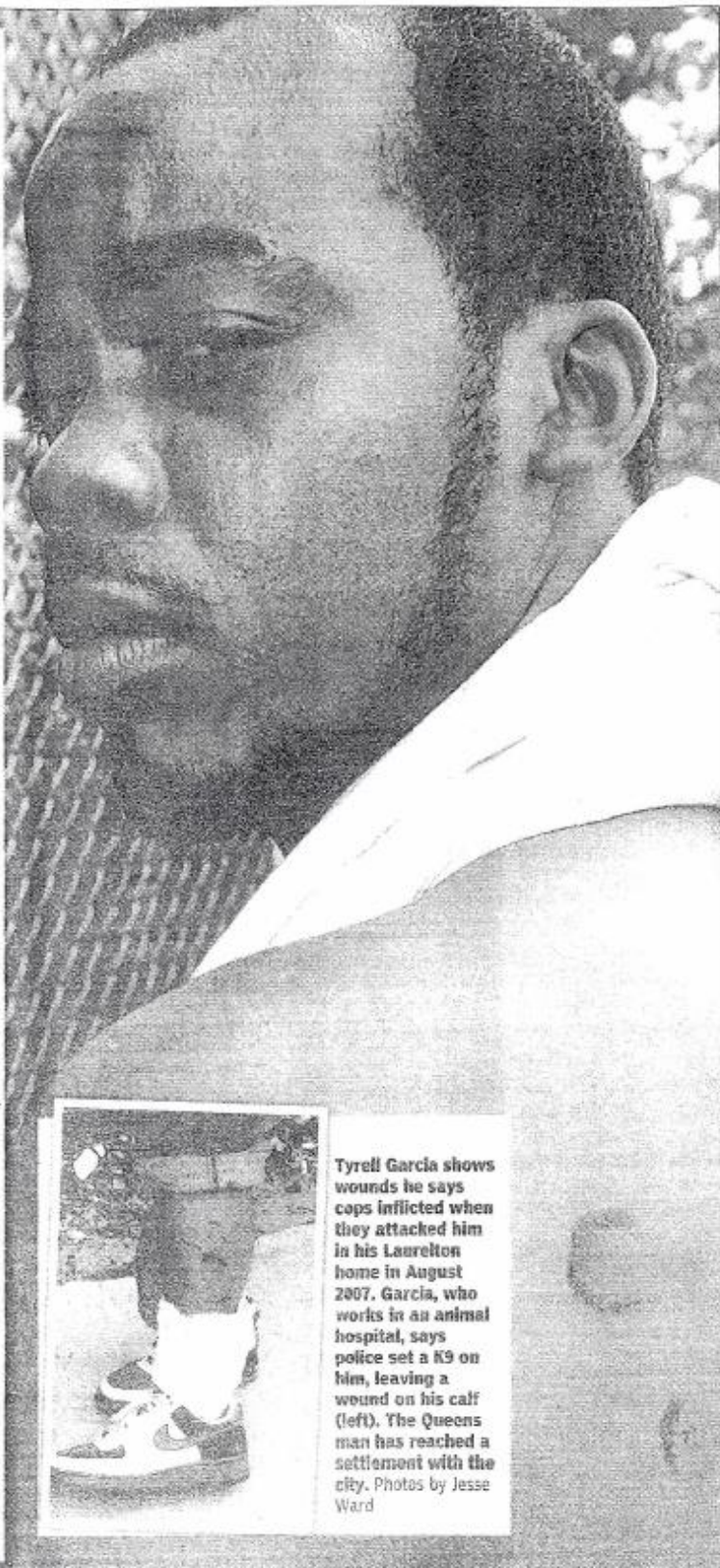
Police said previously they followed Garcia because they were seeking information about his friend, attempted murder suspect Rhian Taylor.

Garcia drove Taylor to his lawyer's office to turn himself in just before the incident, he said.

Garcia, who has no criminal record, was not charged in the murder. He was cited for a broken tail light, not having car insurance and trespassing — charges which were subsequently dropped, his lawyer said.

"This is just another example of the New York City Police Department brutalizing the very people they're supposed to be protecting," said lawyer Robert DiDio who worked with attorney Fred Lichtmacher.

nbode@nydailynews.com



Tyrell Garcia shows wounds he says cops inflicted when they attacked him in his Laurelton home in August 2007. Garcia, who works in an animal hospital, says police set a K9 on him, leaving a wound on his calf (left). The Queens man has reached a settlement with the city. Photos by Jesse Ward