

Minneapolis Officer Tyrone Barze Investigated Again for Police Brutality

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About 1,000 people gathered in downtown Minneapolis this winter in protest of police shootings.

In the latest excessive force lawsuit filed against Minneapolis Police Officer Tyrone Barze, a doctoral student alleges Barze swiped her phone out of her hands when she tried to record him and then punched her in the face, knocked her out, and left her bleeding in the street.

Madelyn Milton says she sustained a traumatic brain injury when her head struck the pavement.

[See also: Minneapolis Paying Dontae Thomas \\$25K and His Lawyers \\$115K to Settle Cop Chokehold Suit](#)

The police won't comment on pending litigation, but they do promise to do a thorough investigation of what actually happened the night of June 1, 2014.

According to the lawsuit, Milton and a bunch of friends were arguing with a cabbie over their fare when Barze arrived to sort out the dispute. He ordered the group to pay up, but they refused.

A couple people then pulled out their phones to start recording Barze, Milton among them. The suit alleges that at this point, Barze confiscated all the phones and started making arrests. When Milton took a couple steps forward in protest, Barze allegedly threw his fist into her face.



Officer Tyrone Barze Jr. making a peace sign for the cameras in September 2014.

This is all pretty difficult to fathom, but it turns out Barze isn't new to accusations of misconduct. The city just recently agreed to settle with Dontae Thomas, a Patrick Henry High School student whom Barze put in a chokehold. Barze's version of that incident accuses Thomas of trying to incite a fight between black and Hmong students. Thomas maintained that Barze choked him until he passed out because he wouldn't stand up for a search. Either way, the city of Minneapolis is \$140,000 poorer for the altercation.

Then, Barze was accused of tackling Navell Gordon, a voting rights canvasser, while he went door to door in north Minneapolis asking people to sign a petition. Witnesses with the nonprofit Neighborhoods Organizing for Change said Barze threatened to shoot them for protesting Gordon's arrest.

According to the [Star Trib](#), Barze has also been sued for pepper spraying the general manager of an Uptown bar. The city settled that one for \$34,000.

Send news tips to [Susan Du](#).