

Grill ripped from man's teeth at Metro jail

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Lawyers in Nashville have reached a settlement after a Davidson County sheriff's lieutenant ripped the grill off a man's teeth at the Metro jail.

Anthony McCoy was arrested in November and brought to the jail for not paying child support.

McCoy was told to remove the jewelry from his teeth but said he couldn't as the grill was cemented on.

McCoy's attorney, David Raybin, told News 2 Lt. Tanya Mayhew "put on some rubber gloves, reached into his mouth and yanked and pulled out the grill along with the enamel off of four of his teeth."



Raybin said the grill was yanked out of his client's mouth in front of 20 other inmates and half a dozen staff members.

"He then started spitting up blood, bits of teeth and tissue and they told him just to get back in line," Raybin said of McCoy, adding his client suffered unnecessarily inside the Davidson County jail for 10 days before he received proper medical treatment.

"It was hell. The man was suffering," Raybin told News 2 Tuesday. "Everyone has had problems with their teeth. Can you imagine being in jail with no help, no medical attention and having the enamel of four of your teeth destroyed? It was an agony for him. The medical people didn't do zip for him."

Raybin said Lt. Mayhew violated a number of sheriff's department policies and hopes the nearly \$100,000 settlement the city will pay McCoy prevents something similar from ever happening again.



"People have rights while they're in jail," Raybin continued. "This man was in there on child support misdemeanor child support, but it doesn't matter what he was there for. He's a human being and didn't deserve to be brutalized in that fashion. It was totally unnecessary."

Mayhew, who has worked at the sheriff's department since 1996, was suspended without pay for five days and demoted following the incident.

The Metro City Council voted in favor of the \$95,000 settlement that includes pain and suffering at Tuesday night's council meeting.

Ronnie Steine, chair of the council's Budget and Finance Committee, said they trust that the city's legal department has thoroughly investigated the issue and has reached a fair settlement.

"Anybody in the jails deserve basic human rights, and I think this is perhaps one of those instances where the line was stepped over, and unfortunately it's going to cost the city money we could spend on other things," he said.

Councilman Charlie Tygard said the finance committee discussed the issue at length but, "We do have a legal obligation. I'm very reluctantly voting in favor."

He also said, "I am confident that Sheriff Hall and his staff will take the appropriate measures to ensure that this type of incident does not happen again."

According to Raybin, \$20,000 of the settlement will be paid by Correct Care Solutions, the subcontractor the sheriff's department uses to provide medical care. The rest will come from taxpayers' pockets.



McCoy is waiting for the settlement money before he can get his teeth fixed.