

THIRD TIME IS THE CHARM: LATEST NYPD RAID ON HELLS ANGELS CLUBHOUSE RESULTS IN THIRD LAWSUIT AGAINST THE CITY, FILED TODAY IN FEDERAL COURT

Actually, the previous two raids on the Hells Angels Motorcycle Clubhouse were charmed as well, just not for the taxpayers of the City of New York. Both of those raids resulted in successful federal civil rights lawsuits against the City of New York. Both of those lawsuits were resolved by transferring over \$750,000 (plus attorney's fees) from the City to members and associates of the New York City Chapter of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club. "For some reason, the City of New York is too busy plotting its next commando style raid of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Clubhouse to stop and read the Constitution," quipped attorney Ronald L. Kuby.

The New York City Chapter of the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club has long been the target of unwarranted intimidation, harassment, surveillance and seizures by the New York City Police Department. On August 5, 1998, the police raided the Clubhouse and the apartments upstairs—explicitly disobeying a search warrant restricting their search to the ground floor. On April 29, 2000, the police again raided the Clubhouse, breaking down the doors of each apartment; this time they didn't bother to get any warrant at all.

Continuing with its pattern of harassment and frustrating inability to comprehend the Fourth Amendment, the NYPD raided the Hells Angels Clubhouse on January 29, 2007, pursuant to a warrant which appears to be based on material misrepresentations and omissions. The NYPD then, as they did in 1998 and in 2000, kicked in the doors of private residences and wreaked havoc in the plaintiffs' homes. With an impressive display of helicopters, special weapons units, hostage negotiators, and other paramilitary armaments, the NYPD closed the entire block of East Third Street, where the Clubhouse is located, for nearly 18 hours and put on quite a show. "The NYPD brought in the guns, the choppers, the tactical units, the swat teams, but they forgot to comply with that pesky Fourth Amendment thing," said attorney Kuby.

In addition to searching the private residences of members and associates of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, the police arrested plaintiff Richard West for no apparent reason. No charges were brought against Mr. West or anyone else as a result of this unlawful search.

"The Hells Angels want to be left alone. Their attorneys want the City of New York to familiarize itself with the Constitution," Kuby said.

The Hells Angels are represented by Ronald L. Kuby, Daniel M. Perez, and David Pressman. A copy of the Complaint filed today is available by contacting Kuby & Perez LLP.