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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ERVIN RAPADA, MELISSA RAPADA,  
EPHRAIM RAPADA, CRYSTAL  
RAPADA,

No. C 12-04893 WHA

Plaintiffs,

v.

**ORDER DENYING MOTION  
FOR LEAVE TO FILE AN  
AMENDED COMPLAINT AND  
VACATING HEARING**

CITY OF SAN BRUNO, a municipal  
corporation; SAN BRUNO POLICE  
DEPARTMENT, a municipal corporation;  
NEIL TELFORD, in his capacity as CHIEF  
for the CITY of SAN BRUNO; DOES  
1–100, inclusive; individually and in their  
capacities as OFFICERS for the CITY OF  
SAN BRUNO,

Defendants.

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**INTRODUCTION**

In this civil rights action, plaintiffs move for leave to file an amended complaint. To the extent stated below, plaintiffs' motion is **DENIED**. The hearing on March 13, 2014, is hereby **VACATED**.

**STATEMENT**

All facts are taken from the proposed first amended complaint. On July 4, 2011, the Rapada family was gathered at Melissa Rapada's apartment in San Bruno, California, to celebrate the holiday. Many residents from the apartment complex were lighting fireworks and

1 barbequing. Ervin Rapada and Wendell Rapada were among a group of people standing in front  
2 of the apartment complex when a firecracker was tossed into the street, an unmarked police car  
3 pulled up in front of the complex, and the firework exploded underneath the car. People began  
4 to scatter. Wendell began to run up the stairs towards Melissa's apartment. San Bruno Police  
5 Officer Valiente and Daly City Police Officer Brennan exited the vehicle and began to chase  
6 Wendell. Officer Brennan ordered Wendell to stop. Wendell complied, stopping on a walkway  
7 at the top of the stairs with raised open hands facing away from the pursuing officers. Officer  
8 Brennan placed Wendell in a carotid chokehold (First Amd. Compl. ¶¶ 24–28).

9 The incident attracted attention. Witnesses reported that after a few seconds in the  
10 chokehold, Wendell's body appeared limp and unresponsive. One of the witnesses was Ephraim  
11 Rapada who approached Officers Valiente and Brennan and requested that they release Wendell  
12 from the chokehold (*id.* at ¶¶ 29, 30).

13 Officer Valiente began to push Ephraim away from the area and a struggle ensued. San  
14 Bruno Police Officers Wong and Perkins arrived on the scene. Officer Wong struck Ephraim's  
15 legs with a flashlight and Officers Wong and Perkins pushed Ephraim against a metal railing on  
16 the walkway while continuing to hit him. Upon seeing her father being hit repeatedly, Crystal  
17 Rapada attempted to wedge herself between Ephraim and the officers (*id.* at ¶¶ 31, 32).

18 Several more officers arrived on the scene. Officers jumped on Ephraim and Crystal and  
19 struck them repeatedly. San Bruno Police Officer Harper punched Ephraim in the face twice.  
20 Officer Harper knocked Crystal to the ground and stepped on the back of her neck. Ervin ran to  
21 help his family. He was tackled by Officer Perkins. Ervin was struck repeatedly by San Bruno  
22 Police Officers Perkins and Baker and Daly City Police Officer Lycett and ultimately  
23 handcuffed. After being handcuffed, Ervin was struck again and tasered multiple times by  
24 Officer Wong (*id.* at ¶¶ 33–34).

25 San Bruno Police Officers Blundell, Noakes and Rios entered Melissa's apartment and  
26 used control holds on her. Melissa was handcuffed and charged with California Penal Code  
27 violations. The Rapadas were sent to San Mateo General Hospital for treatment of their injuries.  
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1 They were released to the Redwood City County Jail where they remained for two days before  
2 being released (*id.* at ¶¶ 35–36).

3 In September 2012, plaintiffs brought the present action against the City of San Bruno,  
4 the San Bruno Police Department, San Bruno Police Chief Belford and Does 1–100. Plaintiffs  
5 allege Section 1983 violations; assault and battery; false arrest and imprisonment; intentional  
6 infliction of emotional distress; negligent infliction of emotional distress; violations of California  
7 Civil Code Section 52.1; and negligence.

8 On December 20, 2012, a case management conference was held. Plaintiffs’ counsel did  
9 not appear. The case management order set February 28, 2013, as the deadline for the parties to  
10 seek leave to add new parties, amend pleadings, and for plaintiffs to formally identify and serve  
11 all unserved defendants and any Doe defendants. The case management order set March 28,  
12 2014 as the non-expert discovery cut-off date and May 19, 2014 as the trial date (Dkt. No. 16).  
13 On January 30, 2014, almost a year after the deadline had passed, plaintiffs filed the instant  
14 motion for leave to file a first amended complaint in order to substitute named defendants for  
15 Doe defendants 1–10.

16 **ANALYSIS**

17 To amend a complaint by substituting true names of parties for Doe defendants after the  
18 deadline in the case management order to do so has passed, plaintiffs must satisfy Federal Rules  
19 of Civil Procedure 16(b) to modify the scheduling order. The deadlines to seek leave to amend  
20 pleadings and formally identify and serve Doe defendants expired on February 28, 2013. Under  
21 Rule 16(b), any modification to the scheduling order must be based on a showing of good cause.  
22 “Rule 16(b)’s ‘good cause’ standard primarily considers the diligence of the party seeking the  
23 amendment . . . If that party was not diligent, the inquiry should end.” *Johnson v. Mammoth*  
24 *Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 604, 609 (9th Cir. 1992).

25 Defendants argue that plaintiffs’ counsel were not diligent because the identities of these  
26 officers were readily available to plaintiffs’ counsel and their clients prior to the February 28,  
27 2013 deadline. As evidence that plaintiffs’ clients knew the names of several of the Does,  
28 defendants cite that plaintiffs Ervin, Ephraim and Crystal were present in a San Mateo County

1 Superior Courtroom with their attorneys in October 2011 when Officers Brennan, Wong, Baker,  
2 Harper, and Valiente testified about their involvement in the July 4, 2011 incident at the  
3 preliminary hearing on their criminal case. Furthermore, in 2012, Ervin prepared and published  
4 on the internet an audio recording where he specifically identified Officers Valiente, Wong,  
5 Perkins, Harper, Baker, and Brennan as being involved in the incident. Defendants argue that  
6 had there been any communication between plaintiffs' counsel and their clients, and had  
7 plaintiffs' counsel not waited nearly ten months after defendants served their Rule 26 initial  
8 disclosures to request the police reports, they would have known the identities of the officers,  
9 and amended the complaint prior to the case management order deadline of February 28, 2013  
10 (Opp. 2, 3, 7; Master Decl., Exhs. B, C).

11 Plaintiffs argue that they were diligent since they sent letters to defendant San Bruno  
12 requesting documents that would have identified the directly-involved officers, and requested  
13 records from criminal defense attorneys. Plaintiffs' counsel was not provided the file from the  
14 related criminal action until after the deadline set in the scheduling order had passed (Br. 5–6).

15 Plaintiffs' argument is unpersuasive. Plaintiffs clearly knew the identities of the officers  
16 when this lawsuit was filed. Plaintiffs were aware of the December 2012 scheduling order that  
17 specified all Doe defendants must be formally identified by February 28, 2013 (Dkt. No. 16).  
18 They failed to do so. Accordingly, this order finds that plaintiffs have failed to demonstrate the  
19 diligence necessary to comply with Rule 16(b). Since Rule 16(b) is not satisfied, this order does  
20 not reach the issue of whether amendment is proper under Rule 15. Plaintiffs have no one to  
21 blame but themselves. Counsel are ordered to provide a copy of this order to their clients. The  
22 motion is **DENIED**.

23 Defendants seek judicial notice of: (1) the complaint filed in September 2012; (2) the  
24 amended information related to the criminal case; and (3) the case management order. Since the  
25 order does not rely on these documents, defendants' request for judicial notice is **DENIED AS**  
26 **MOOT**.

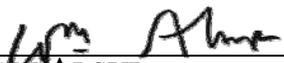
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**CONCLUSION**

To the extent stated above, the motion is **DENIED**. The hearing on March 13, 2014, is hereby **VACATED**.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: February 26, 2014.

  
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WILLIAM ALSUP  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE