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8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT								
9	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA								
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11	KARL PHILIP JOHNSON,	CASE NO. 08cv887 WQH (WMc)							
12	Plaintiff, vs.	ORDER							
13	CITY OF SAN DIEGO, et al.,								
14	Defendants.								
15	HAYES, Judge:								
16	The matter before the Court is the Motion to Dismiss and Motion to Strike the First								
17	Amended Complaint (Doc. # 18).								
18	Background								
19	This action arises out of an incident which occurred on May 20, 2006, when Defendants								
20	Jamie Fitzpatrick and Frank Wilson, police officers of Defendant San Diego Police								
21	Department, arrested, handcuffed, and placed Plaintiff in the back of their patrol vehicle.								
22	Plaintiff alleges that he was placed in the patrol vehicle without a required seatbelt or other								
23	safety restraint; that the patrol vehicle was involved in an accident with another vehicle; and								
24	that Plaintiff sustained injuries as a result of not being placed in a seatbelt or restraint system.								
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	-	1 - 08cv887 WQH (WMc)							

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On November 13, 2007, Plaintiff filed a "notice of petition and petition for order 1 2 relieving petitioner from provisions of Government Code, section 945.4¹ and allowing the 3 filing of a late claim" ("Petition") in the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego (Doc. #18, Exhibit C). Plaintiff attached to the Petition a copy of a Claim for Damages ("State 4 5 Complaint"), which Plaintiff filed in the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego on May 16, 2007.² The State Complaint alleged the following causes of action: (1) negligence; 6 7 (2) false imprisonment; (3) illegal search and seizure; (4) invasion of privacy; (5) negligent 8 infliction of severe emotional distress; (6) negligent entrustment; (7) permissive use; (8) 9 violation of due process and equal protection; and (9) violation of federal and state 10 constitutional and statutory rights. On December 19, 2007, the California Superior Court denied the Petition on grounds that Plaintiff failed to establish that the failure to timely present 11 12 a government tort claim to the City of San Diego was through mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect; and that the application presented to the City for leave to present a late 13 claim was not presented within a reasonable time. Id., Exhibit E. On February 13, 2008, 14 Plaintiff appealed the denial of the Petition to the California Court of Appeal. Id., Exhibit F. 15 16 On June 24, 2008, the California Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal on grounds that Plaintiff failed to file a brief after notice was given. Id., Exhibit G. 17

On May 19, 2008, Plaintiff initiated the action presently before this Court by filing a
complaint against the City of San Diego, the San Diego Police Department, and San Diego
Police Officers Jamie Fitzpatrick and Frank Wilson (Doc. # 1). On May 8, 2009, Plaintiff filed
a first amended complaint ("FAC") (Doc. # 16). The FAC alleges the following causes of
action: (1) illegal search and seizure; (2) invasion of privacy; (3) cruel and unusual
punishment; and (4) violation of federal and state constitutional and statutory rights.

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² The Court will refer to the Petition and State Complaint collectively as the "State Action."

 ¹ Section 945.4 of the California Government Code requires that a party file a government tort claim prior to initiating a lawsuit against a public entity for causes of action for which a claim is required.

In support of the first cause of action for illegal search and seizure, the FAC alleges that 1 2 Fitzpatrick and Wilson, "under color of law and in deliberate indifference to plaintiff's health, 3 safety and rights, and without a warrant and without probable cause, unlawfully stopped and detained plaintiff, searched his person, clothing and belongings, and improperly placed and 4 5 held him handcuffed in a moving police vehicle without lap and shoulder belts." FAC, ¶ 12. The FAC alleges that Plaintiff did not consent to any such search, seizure or transport. The 6 7 FAC alleges that Defendants "deprived plaintiff of the following clearly established and well-8 settled constitutional rights:" (1) "[f]reedom from illegal and warrantless searches and seizures;" (2) "[f]reedom from summary punishment;" (3) "[f]reedom from the use of illegal, 9 10 excessive, unreasonable, unnecessary and/or outrageous search procedures;" and (4) "[d]ue process and equal protection in handling, treatment and transportation." FAC, ¶ 13. 11

12 In support of the second cause of action for invasion of privacy, the FAC alleges that Fitzpatrick and Wilson "invaded plaintiff's right of privacy" by "stopping, arresting, searching 13 14 and otherwise interfering with plaintiff without probable cause, a warrant, excuse or justification." Id., ¶ 17. The FAC alleges that plaintiff did not consent to the search or other 15 16 acts by Defendants, and "submitted to said defendants' acts only because he was afraid, was 17 ordered to submit by said defendants who were acting under color of their authority and under color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, customs and practices of the State of California, 18 19 the City of San Diego and the San Diego police department." Id., ¶ 18. The FAC alleges that 20Defendants' "conduct constituted illegal and warrantless searches and arbitrary intrusions by 21 defendants, and each of them, upon plaintiff's belongings, privacy and body, thereby depriving plaintiff of life, liberty, and property without due process of law." Id., ¶ 20. 22

In support of the third cause of action for cruel and unusual punishment, the FAC alleges that Fitzpatrick and Wilson "handcuffed plaintiff, over tightened said cuffs so as to hurt plaintiff, and placed plaintiff in the rear of their police vehicle without a lap and shoulder belt in deliberate indifference to plaintiff's rights, health, safety and well being." *Id.*, ¶23. The FAC alleges that plaintiff "suffered injury and damage to his face, jaw, neck, back, mind, body, arms, legs, and nervous system, embarrassment, severe emotional distress and as yet additional unascertained injuries and damages" as a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct.
 Id., ¶ 24.

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In support of the fourth cause of action for violation of federal and state civil, constitutional and statutory rights, the FAC alleges: "This action is brought pursuant to the 4 5 provisions of 42 U.S.C. [s]ections 1981, 1983, 1985 and 1986, pursuant to The Americans With Disabilities Act and pursuant to California Civil Code, Sections 51, 52 and 52.1." Id., 6 7 ¶ 29. The FAC alleges that "[b]y reason of being handcuffed plaintiff was effectively rendered 8 disabled and could not care for or protect himself," and that "by reason of handcuffing and 9 disabling plaintiff, placing him in a moving vehicle without the safety of seatbelt restraints and 10 otherwise improperly transporting plaintiff, defendants, and each of them, deprived plaintiff of his rights as secured by the Americans With Disabilities Act, the Fourteenth Amendments 11 12 of the United States Constitution and as further secured by the California Constitution and 13 statutes." *Id.*, ¶ 32.

On May 28, 2009, Defendants filed the Motion to Dismiss and Strike the FAC (Doc.
#18). Defendants move to dismiss the FAC pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of
Civil Procedure, and strike portions of the FAC pursuant to Rule 12(f) and (g). On July 1,
2009, Plaintiff filed a Response in Opposition to the Motion to Dismiss and Strike (Doc. # 19).
On July 7, 2009, Defendants filed a Reply (Doc. # 20).

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Standard of Review

20 A motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure tests 21 the legal sufficiency of the pleadings. See De La Cruz v. Tormey, 582 F.2d 45, 48 (9th Cir. 1978). A complaint may be dismissed for failure to state a claim under Rule 12(b)(6) where 22 23 the factual allegations do not raise the right to relief above the speculative level. See Bell 24 Atlantic v. Twombly, 127 S. Ct. 1955, 1965 (2007). Conversely, a complaint may not be 25 dismissed for failure to state a claim where the allegations plausibly show that the pleader is entitled to relief. See id. (citing Fed R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2)). In ruling on a motion pursuant to Rule 26 27 12(b)(6), a court must construe the pleadings in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, and 28 must accept as true all material allegations in the complaint, as well as any reasonable

inferences to be drawn therefrom. See Broam v. Bogan, 320 F.3d 1023, 1028 (9th Cir. 2003); 2 see also Chang v. Chen, 80 F.3d 1293 (9th Cir. 1996).

Analysis

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I.

The Rooker-Feldman Doctrine

5 Defendants contend that Plaintiff is a state-court loser seeking to re-litigate his case in federal court because the California Superior Court denied the Petition, and the California 6 7 Court of Appeal dismissed Plaintiff's appeal. Defendants contend that this Court cannot "pass 8 upon Plaintiff's claims without reviewing, relying on and/or reversing a California state court decision that rendered judgment in favor" of Defendants. Id. at 8. Defendants contend that 9 10 "[a]ll three requirements for the application of the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine are satisfied in this case" because (1) Plaintiff was a party to the State Action; (2) Plaintiff alleged the same 11 12 claims in the State Complaint and the action presently before this Court; and (3) the two actions did not parallel one another. Mot. to Dismiss, p. 5-7. Defendants move to dismiss the 13 FAC on grounds that the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine bars this action. 14

Plaintiff contends that the FAC "does not invite the federal court to review and reverse 15 16 the state court's ruling." Opposition, p. 4. Plaintiff contends that the claims alleged in the 17 FAC "were not entertained" in the State Action. Id. Plaintiff contends that the Rooker-Feldman doctrine does not apply because this is not an instance where Plaintiff has "filed a 18 19 complaint in district court *appealing* to the district court to review a state court's ruling." Id. 20 (emphasis in original).

21 Rooker-Feldman "is a narrow doctrine, confined to 'cases brought by state-court losers complaining of injuries caused by state-court judgments rendered before the district court 22 23 proceedings commenced and inviting district court review and rejection of those judgments." Lance v. Dennis, 546 U.S. 459, 464 (2006) (quoting Exxon Mobil v. Saudi Basic Industries 24 25 Corp., 544 U.S. 280, 284 (2005)). The "doctrine applies only in 'limited circumstances,' *Exxon Mobil, supra*, at 291, 125 S. Ct. 1517, where a party in effect seeks to take an appeal 26 of an unfavorable state-court decision to a lower federal court." Lance, 546 U.S. at 466. The 27 28 Ninth Circuit follows the following formulation for *Rooker-Feldman*:

If a federal plaintiff asserts as a legal wrong an allegedly erroneous decision by a state court, and seeks relief from a state court judgment based on that decision, *Rooker-Feldman* bars subject matter jurisdiction in federal district court. If, on the other hand, a federal plaintiff asserts as a legal wrong an allegedly illegal act or omission by an adverse party, *Rooker-Feldman* does not bar jurisdiction. If there is simultaneously pending federal and state court litigation between the two parties dealing with the same or related issues, the federal district in some circumstances may abstain or stay proceedings; or if there has been state court litigation that has already gone to judgment, the federal suit may be claim-precluded under § 1738. But in neither of these circumstances does *Rooker-Feldman* bar jurisdiction.

Noel v. Hall, 341 F.3d 1148, 1164 (9th Cir. 2003). The district court lacks jurisdiction under *Rooker-Feldman* if "the federal plaintiff [is] seeking to set aside a state judgment," whereas
there is jurisdiction if the federal plaintiff "present[s] some independent claim, albeit one that
denies a legal conclusion that a state court has reached in a case to which he was a party[.]" *Id.* (quoting *GASH Associates v. Village of Rosemont*, 995 F.2d 726, 728-29 (7th Cir. 1993)).

A review of the record demonstrates that the California Superior Court denied the 12 Petition, and that the California Court of Appeal dismissed Plaintiff's appeal of the denial of 13 the Petition. The FAC, however, does not seek to set aside the denial of the Petition by the 14 California Superior Court, or the dismissal of Plaintiff's appeal by the California Court of 15 16 Appeal. The FAC does not allege "as a legal wrong an allegedly erroneous decision by a state court," or seek relief from a state court judgment based on that allegedly erroneous decision. 17 *Noel*, 341 F.3d at 1164. Instead, the FAC seeks to recover damages for alleged unlawful 18 19 conduct by Defendants, which is "not a basis for abstaining under the Rooker-Feldman 20doctrine." Id. The Court concludes that Rooker-Feldman does not bar Plaintiff's claims.

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II. Collateral Estoppel (Issue Preclusion) and Res Judicata (Claim Preclusion)

Defendants contend that the "issues and causes of action are the same in both" the State Action and the action before this Court; that the "issues were actually litigated and/or there was a final judgment on the merits;" that "Plaintiff was a party in both the [State Action and the action before this Court];" and that "the prior decision was rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction because it was rendered by the state trial court in and for the county of San Diego." *Mot. to Dismiss,* p. 10-12. Defendants contend that the "elements for barring this action pursuant to the doctrines of res judicata and collateral [estoppel] have been established." *Id.* 1 at 12.

2 Plaintiff contends that the California Superior Court "order denying plaintiff's petition 3 for relief from the claims presentation statutes was not a final judgment ... because an appeal was pending" and "there was no judgment on the merits." Opposition, p. 5-6. Plaintiff 4 5 contends that "the state court's refusal to hear state and/or federal claims does not preclude the federal court from hearing federal claims over which it has original/subject matter jurisdiction 6 7 and which were not heard on the merits." Id. at 6.

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A. Collateral Estoppel/ Issue Preclusion

9 The doctrine of collateral estoppel bars re-litigation of issues of fact or law that were 10 litigated in a prior proceeding. Robi v. The Five Platters, Inc., 838 F.2d 318, 322 (9th Cir.1988). For collateral estoppel to apply, the following elements must be satisfied: (1) the 11 12 issue must be identical to that decided in the prior proceeding; (2) the issue must have been actually litigated in the prior proceeding; (3) the issue must have been necessarily decided in 13 14 the prior proceeding; (4) the decision must have been final and on the merits; and (5) preclusion must be sought against a person who was a party or in privity with a party to the 15 16 prior proceeding. Alvarez v. May Dep't Stores, 143 Cal. App. 4th 1223, 1233 (2006). Even 17 where the "minimal requirements" for collateral estoppel are satisfied, "the doctrine should not be applied if considerations of policy or fairness outweigh the doctrine's purposes as applied 18 19 in a particular case." Bostick v. Flex Equipment Co., 147 Cal. App.4th 80, 97 (2007). It is the 20 defendant's burden to demonstrate that the doctrine of collateral estoppel applies. See Schiro 21 v. Farley, 510 U.S. 222 (1994).

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The record demonstrates that the California Superior Court denied the Petition on 23 grounds that Plaintiff failed to establish that his failure to timely file a government tort claim 24 was due to mistake, inadvertence, surprise or excusable neglect; and that application for leave 25 to present a late claim was not presented within a reasonable time. The record demonstrates that the California Court of Appeal dismissed Plaintiff's appeal of the denial of the Petition for 26 failure to file a brief. The record in this case, however, does not demonstrate that the 27 28 California Superior Court addressed any of the issues of fact or law underlying the State

Action. Furthermore, the record does not demonstrate the judgment has been entered in the State Action. The Court concludes that Defendants have failed to demonstrate that the issues in the FAC have been litigated in the State Action; that the issues in the FAC have been decided in the State Action; or that a decision was rendered in the State Action that was final and on the merits. *See Alvarez*, 143 Cal. App. 4th at 1233. The Court concludes that the doctrine of collateral estoppel does not bar this action.

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B. <u>Res Judicata/ Claim Preclusion</u>

8 Pursuant to the doctrine of res judicata, "a valid, final judgment on the merits precludes parties or their privies from relitigating the same cause of action in a subsequent suit." San 9 10 Diego Police Officers' Ass'n v. San Diego City Employees' Retirement System, 568 F.3d 725, 734 (9th Cir. 2009) (quoting Le Parc Cmty. Ass'n v. Workers' Comp. Appeals Bd., 110 Cal. 11 12 App.4th 1161 (2003)). "Thus three requirements have to be met: (1) the second lawsuit must 13 involve the same cause of action as the first one, (2) there must have been a final judgment on 14 the merits in the first lawsuit and (3) the party to be precluded must itself have been a party, or in privity with a party, to that first lawsuit." San Diego Police Officers' Ass'n, 568 F.3d at 15 16 734. The party asserting res judicata has the burden to demonstrate that its requirements are 17 met. Shapley v. Nevada Bd. of State Prison Comm'rs, 766 F.2d 404 (9th Cir. 1985).

18 As previously discussed, the record does not demonstrate that there has been a final 19 judgment on the merits in the State Action, or that the state courts addressed the merits of the 20 claims alleged in the State Complaint. Furthermore, the causes of action and underlying 21 factual allegations in the State Complaint are different from the causes of action and factual allegations in the FAC. The FAC alleges claims for violation of Plaintiff's federal 22 23 constitutional rights; the record does not demonstrate that the state courts addressed 24 Defendants' alleged violation of Plaintiff's federal constitutional rights. The Court concludes 25 that Defendants have not demonstrated that there has been a "valid, final judgment on the merits" that precludes Plaintiff and Defendants "from relitigating the same cause of action in 26 a subsequent suit." San Diego Police Officers' Ass'n, 568 F.3d at 734 (internal quotations 27 28 omitted). The Court concludes that the doctrine of res judicata does not bar this action.

III. Immunity Pursuant to Sections 820.4, 821, and 821.6 of the California Government Code

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Defendants contend that the FAC "alleges that the law enforcement defendants were at all relevant times officers of the San Diego Police Department; . . . that these defendants were at all relevant times in uniform and acting within the scope of their employment as police officers;" and that "the alleged conduct at issue is the arrest of Mr. Johnson for some unknown charge." *Mot. to Dismiss*, p. 14. Defendants contend that the San Diego Police Department and its officers are immune from liability for all acts alleged in the FAC pursuant sections 820.4, 821, and 821.6 of the California Government Code.

Section 820.4 provides that "[a] public employee is not liable for his act or omission,
exercising due care, in the execution or enforcement of any law." Cal. Gov't. Code § 820.4.
Section 821.6 of the California Government Code provides that "[a] public employee is not
liable for injury caused by his instituting or prosecuting any judicial or administrative
proceeding within the scope of his employment." *Id.*, § 821.6. Section 821 provides that "[a]
public employee is not liable for an injury caused by his adoption of or failure to adopt an
enactment or by his failure to enforce an enactment." *Id.*, § 821.

17 In light of the allegations in the FAC that Fitzpatrick and Wilson acted with deliberate indifference, acted intentionally, and acted either maliciously or with reckless disregard to 18 19 Plaintiff's rights, Defendants have not demonstrated that they are entitled to immunity at this 20 stage of the proceedings under section 820.4 of the California Government Code on grounds 21 that they exercised due care in the execution or enforcement of the law. Defendants are not immune under section 821.6 because the FAC does not allege that Plaintiff's injury was caused 22 23 by a public employee instituting or prosecuting a judicial or administrative proceeding. Defendants are not immune under section 821 because the FAC does not allege that Plaintiff's 24 25 injury was caused by a public employee's adoption of or failure to adopt an enactment, or by his failure to enforce an enactment. In light of the foregoing, the Court concludes that the 26 27 Defendants are not immune from liability for the acts alleged in the FAC under sections 820.4, 28 821 and 821.6 of the California Government Code.

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IV.

First, Second and Third Causes of Action for Violation of 42 U.S.C. Section 1983

42 U.S.C. section 1983 provides a cause of action against any person who, under the color of state law, deprives any citizen of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States. *See Wyatt v. Cole*, 504 U.S. 158, 161 (1992). "The purpose of § 1983 is to deter state actors from using the badge of their authority to deprive individuals of their federally guaranteed rights and to provide relief to victims if such deterrence fails." *Id.*

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The first, second and third causes of action allege that Defendants, acting under the color of state law, violated Plaintiff's federal rights to be free from illegal searches and seizures; from invasion of privacy; and from cruel and unusual punishment.

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A. <u>First, Second and Third Causes of Action Against Defendants City of San Diego</u> and San Diego Police Department

Defendants contend that "[s]tarkly absent from the FAC is any mention of a custom adopted by the City or the Police Department that was responsible for Plaintiff's alleged Constitutional injuries." *Mot. to Dismiss,* p. 13. Defendants contend that the FAC "makes no mention of any policy adopted by the City or the Police Department that would give rise to an injury of Plaintiff's rights by other Defendants." *Id.* Defendants contend that the first, second and third causes of action should be dismissed because "there is not a single allegation in the FAC regarding any custom, policy and/or practice." *Id.*

20 "[A] local governmental body cannot be found liable under § 1983 on a respondeat 21 superior theory; liability may be imposed only if the plaintiff establishes that his injuries were inflicted pursuant to an official county policy or custom." Thompson v. City of Los Angeles, 22 23 885 F.2d 1439, 1443 (9th Cir. 1989); see also Monell v. Department of Social Services, 436 24 U.S. 658, 690-94 (1978). To hold a municipality or a police department liable for the actions 25 of its officers, a plaintiff must demonstrate a constitutional deprivation, and that the deprivation was caused pursuant to a municipality or police department custom or policy. 26 Monell, 436 U.S. at 694; Munger v. Glasgow Police Dept., 227 F.3d 1082, 1087 (9th Cir. 27 28 2000).

The only allegation in the FAC with respect to a custom or policy is that Defendants 1 2 "were acting under color of their authority and under color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, customs and practices of the State of California, the City of San Diego and the San 3 Diego police department." Complaint, ¶ 18. This allegation, however, is vague and 4 5 conclusory. The FAC does not describe with any specificity the allegedly deficient custom or policy. The FAC does not allege any facts to support a finding that Plaintiff's alleged 6 7 constitutional injury was caused pursuant to a custom or policy of the City of San Diego or the 8 San Diego Police Department. In light of the foregoing, the Court concludes that the FAC fails 9 to state a section 1983 claim against the City of San Diego and the San Diego Police 10 Department. See Monell, 436 U.S. 658. The Court dismisses the first, second and third causes of action against the City of San Diego and the San Diego Police Department. 11

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B. <u>First, Second and Third Causes of Action Against Individual Officer Defendants</u> <u>Fitzpatrick and Wilson</u>

As previously discussed, Defendants Fitzpatrick and Wilson are not immune from suit 14 under sections 820.4, 821 or 821.6 of the California Government Code. The Motion to 15 16 Dismiss does not assert any other basis for dismissing the first cause of action for illegal search 17 and seizure and second cause of action for invasion of privacy against Fitzpatrick and Wilson. With respect to the third cause of action for cruel and unusual punishment, Defendants contend 18 19 that the FAC fails to state a claim on grounds that the Eighth Amendment protection against 20 cruel and unusual punishment protects only those already convicted of a crime, and the FAC 21 does not allege that Plaintiff has been convicted of a crime.

"While the eighth amendment proscribes cruel and unusual punishment for convicted
inmates, the due process clause of the fourteenth amendment proscribes any punishment of
pretrial detainees." *Redman v. County of San Diego*, 942 F.2d 1435, 1441, n.7 (9th Cir. 1991).
The FAC does not allege that Plaintiff was a convicted prisoner; instead that FAC alleges that
Plaintiff was subject to cruel and unusual punishment during his arrest, which does not support
a cause of action for cruel and unusual punishment. The Court concludes that the FAC fails
allege facts to support a claim for cruel and unusual punishment against Fitzpatrick and

Wilson. The Court dismisses the third cause of action for cruel and unusual punishment 1 2 against Fitzpatrick and Wilson.

V. Fourth Cause of Action for Violation of Federal and State Constitutional and **Statutory Rights**

The FAC alleges that the fourth cause of action for violation of federal and state constitutional and statutory rights is "brought pursuant to the provisions of 42 U.S.C. [sections] 6 1981, 1983, 1985, 1986, pursuant to the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act and 8 pursuant to California Civil Code, Sections 51, 52 and 52.1." FAC, ¶ 29.

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42 U.S.C. Section 1981 A.

10 42 U.S.C. section 1981 provides that all persons shall have equal rights under the law, and forbids discrimination on the basis of race in making contracts. See 42 U.S.C. § 1981; 11 12 Karim-Panahi v. Los Angeles Police Dept., 839 F.2d 621, 625 (9th Cir. 1988). To survive a motion to dismiss, a section 1981 claim must allege plaintiff suffered discrimination on the 13 basis of race. Id. (citing Jones v. Bechtel, 788 F.2d 571, 574 (9th Cir. 1986)). The FAC does 14 not allege that Defendants discriminated against Plaintiff on the basis of his race in making 15 16 contracts. The FAC fails to allege sufficient facts to support a claim under 42 U.S.C. section 17 1981.

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B. 42 U.S.C. Section 1983

19 The Court has addressed Plaintiff's claims that Defendants, acting under the color of 20 state law, violated Plaintiff's federal rights by conducting an illegal search and seizure; by 21 invading Plaintiff's privacy; and by subjecting Plaintiff to cruel and unusual punishment. The FAC does not allege any other basis for liability under 42 U.S.C. section to warrant denial of 22 23 the Motion to Dismiss the fourth cause of action.

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C. <u>42 U.S.C. Section 1985</u>

25 42 U.S.C. section 1985 provides a cause of action for conspiracy to interfere with civil rights. See 42 U.S.C. § 1985. A claim under section 1985 "must allege facts to support the 26 allegation that defendants conspired together. A mere allegation of conspiracy without factual 27 28 specificity is insufficient." Karim-Panahi, 839 F.2d at 626 (internal quotations omitted). The

FAC does not allege that Defendants conspired to interfere with Plaintiff's civil rights. The
 Court concludes that the FAC fails to allege sufficient facts to support a claim under 42 U.S.C.
 section 1985.

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C. <u>42 U.S.C. Section 1986</u>

Section 1986 provides that "no action under the provisions of this section shall be
sustained which is not commenced within one year after the cause of action has accrued." *See*42 U.S.C. § 1986. The FAC alleges the arrest occurred May 20, 2006. *FAC*, *¶* 12. The
original complaint in this action was filed May 19, 2008, approximately two years later. The
Court concludes that Plaintiff's claim for violation of 42 U.S.C. section 1986 is barred as
untimely.

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D. <u>Americans with Disabilities Act</u>

12 The ADA states that "[n]o individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, 13 14 advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation." 42 U.S.C. § 1218(a) 15 16 The FAC does not allege that Plaintiff was disabled at the time that the incident underlying this action, or that Plaintiff was discriminated against on the basis of his disability. The Court 17 concludes that the FAC fails to allege sufficient facts to support a claim for violation of the 18 19 ADA.

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E. <u>California Civil Code Sections 51, 52, and 52.1</u>

The Unruh Civil Rights Act, codified at sections 51, *et seq.*, of the California Civil
Code, like the ADA, protects against discrimination on the basis of disability. Cal. Civ. Code
§§ 51, *et seq.* As discussed, the FAC does not allege that Plaintiff was disabled at the time of
the incident underlying this action, or that Plaintiff was discriminated against on the basis of
disability. The Court concludes that the FAC fails to allege sufficient facts to support a claim
for violation of sections 51, 52 or 52.1 of the California Civil Code.

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G. <u>Conclusion</u>

In light of the foregoing, the Court concludes that the FAC fails to allege facts to support a claim under 42 U.S.C. sections 1981, 1983, 1985, and 1986, under the ADA, or under sections 51, 52, or 52.1 of the California Civil Code. The Court dismisses the fourth cause of action for violation of federal and state constitutional and statutory rights against all Defendants for failure to state a claim.

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VI. Motion to Strike Punitive Damages

Defendants request that the Court strike Plaintiff's request for punitive damages.

9 Defendants' request is most with respect to the City of San Diego and San Diego Police 10 Department because the Court has dismissed all claims against the City of San Diego and the 11 San Diego Police Department. To the extent Defendants move to strike Plaintiff's request for 12 punitive damages against the Officers Fitzpatrick and Wilson, the Court concludes that striking 13 the request for punitive damages against Fitzpatrick and Wilson is not proper at this stage of 14 the proceedings. Dubner v. City & County of San Francisco, 266 F.3d 959, 969 (9th Cir. 15 2001) ("Punitive damages are available against individual officers in a § 1983 claim . . . where 16 the officers' conduct is shown to be motivated by evil motive or intent, or when it involves 17 reckless or callous indifference to the federally protected rights of others."). In light of the 18 foregoing, the Court denies the Motion to Strike Punitive Damages.

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VII. Leave to Amend

If Plaintiff wishes to file an amended complaint, Plaintiff may file a motion for leave to file a second amended complaint, which attaches a copy of the proposed second amended complaint.

Conclusion

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Motion to Dismiss and Motion to Strike the First
 Amended Complaint (Doc. # 18) is GRANTED in part. All causes of action against the City
 of San Diego and San Diego Police Department are DISMISSED. The third cause of action
 for cruel and unusual punishment and fourth cause of action for violation of federal and state

1	constitutional	and	statutory	rights	against	Jamie	Fitzpatrick	and	Frank	Wilson	are	
2	DISMISSED.											
3	DATED: August 13, 2009											
4	Willow 2. Hayes											
5						WIL	LIAM Q. HA	YES	2			
6	United States District Judge											
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