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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

WAYNE PERRYMAN, *et al.*,
Plaintiffs,
v.
CITY OF SEATTLE POLICE, *et al.*,
Defendants.

No. C17-0274RSL

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS’
MOTION FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT

This matter comes before the Court on plaintiffs’ “Motion for Summary Judgment.” Dkt. # 15. Plaintiffs allege that defendant Justin Ismael and security guards employed by defendant Rhino Room deliberately and intentionally framed plaintiff Sean Perryman for injuries Ismael suffered in a fight outside the Rhino Room on April 4, 2015. Plaintiffs also allege that the police officers who responded to the scene mishandled the investigation insofar as they presumed that the only African American at the scene was guilty and therefore did not review the surveillance tapes that captured the melee.

Summary judgment is appropriate when, viewing the facts in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party, there is no genuine issue of material fact that would preclude the entry of judgment as a matter of law. The party seeking summary dismissal of the case “bears the initial responsibility of informing the district court of the basis for its motion” (Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986)) and “citing to particular parts of materials in the record” that

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS’ MOTION
FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

1 show the absence of a genuine issue of material fact (Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)). Once the moving
2 party has satisfied its burden, it is entitled to summary judgment if the non-moving party fails to
3 designate “specific facts showing that there is a genuine issue for trial.” Celotex Corp., 477 U.S.
4 at 324. The Court will “view the evidence in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party . . .
5 and draw all reasonable inferences in that party’s favor.” Krechman v. County of Riverside, 723
6 F.3d 1104, 1109 (9th Cir. 2013). Although the Court must reserve for the jury genuine issues
7 regarding credibility, the weight of the evidence, and legitimate inferences, the “mere existence
8 of a scintilla of evidence in support of the non-moving party’s position will be insufficient” to
9 avoid judgment. City of Pomona v. SQM N. Am. Corp., 750 F.3d 1036, 1049 (9th Cir. 2014);
10 Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 252 (1986). Factual disputes whose resolution
11 would not affect the outcome of the suit are irrelevant to the consideration of a motion for
12 summary judgment. S. Cal. Darts Ass’n v. Zaffina, 762 F.3d 921, 925 (9th Cir. 2014). In other
13 words, summary judgment should be granted where the nonmoving party fails to offer evidence
14 from which a reasonable jury could return a verdict in its favor. FreecycleSunnyvale v. Freecycle
15 Network, 626 F.3d 509, 514 (9th Cir. 2010).

16 Having reviewed the memoranda, declarations, and exhibits submitted by the parties, the
17 Court finds as follows:


18 Plaintiffs’ claims against the City of Seattle have been dismissed because plaintiffs have
19 failed to allege facts giving rise to a plausible inference that the municipality could be liable.
20 Plaintiffs’ motion for summary judgment against the City is therefore DENIED.

21 With regards to defendants Rhino Room and Ismael, plaintiffs have not identified the
22 nature of their claim(s). It is possible that plaintiffs are asserting a false arrest claim against
23 Rhino Room and/or defamation, assault, battery, abuse of process, outrage, conspiracy,
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1 malicious prosecution, or violations of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against Rhino Room and Ismael.¹ Each
2 type of claim has different elements. To prove a § 1983 claim, for example, plaintiffs would
3 have to show that Rhino Room and Ismael jointly participated with the police in action “under
4 color” of state law. To establish a conspiracy claim, plaintiffs will have to prove the existence of
5 an agreement between the defendants. A defamation claim requires plaintiffs to show that
6 defendants’ statements were not privileged. Without knowing what type of claim is being
7 asserted, the Court cannot determine whether the limited evidence provided establishes each
8 element of the claim(s) as a matter of law.² Plaintiffs have not, therefore, shown that they are
9 entitled to a summary judgment of liability against Rhino Room or Ismael.

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11 For all of the foregoing reasons, plaintiffs’ motion for summary judgment is DENIED.

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14 Dated this 25th day of May, 2017.

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17 Robert S. Lasnik
18 United States District Judge
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24 ¹ The Court offers no opinion regarding the viability of such claims.

25 ² Although plaintiffs make assertions in their motion regarding statements made and specific
26 events that are not captured on the videos, they do not provide declarations or other admissible evidence
in support of those assertions.