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## TREDYFFRIN POLICE SETTLE BIAS SUIT WITH PHILA. JUDGE

Meredith Fischer, INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

A Philadelphia Common Pleas Court **judge** who said he was harassed during a **police** traffic stop because of his race has settled the federal civil-rights lawsuit he filed against the township and **police** department last year.

**Judge** Rayford A. Means released a joint statement **with** Tredyfrin Township this week. ``All parties have discussed the matters involved and are mutually satisfied **with** the explanations offered relating to the incident and any misunderstanding between the parties," it said. Means' **suit** contended that **Police** Officer James Konieczny followed Means, who is black, through

the predominantly white suburban township, pulled him over twice, and held him for nearly an hour while verifying that the car Means was driving was not stolen.

Township solicitor William Lamb would not comment on whether there was a cash settlement. ``All I can say is that the township and **Judge** Means are happy that the matter has been resolved," Lamb said. ``We appreciate his cooperation."

As part of the settlement, **Tredyffrin police** will receive training regarding issues of concern to African Americans and other minorities in the community, the statement said.

According to the complaint, Means was driving near Routes 252 and 202 at about 1 p.m. on March 8, 1996, when Konieczny began following him.

Konieczny stopped Means for illegally backing onto the road but allowed him to drive off after the **judge** explained that he was on his way to counsel a youth and had made a wrong turn, the **suit** said.

Following the initial stop, Konieczny continued to follow Means before stopping him again and detaining him for 45 minutes while writing a citation for driving **with** an expired license plate that was registered to another car, the **suit** said.

District Justice John Anthony later dismissed the citation.

Means did not return phone calls yesterday.

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