



The family of a 17-year-old girl who suffered severe injuries in a hit-and-run accident in Wicker Park earlier this month is taking legal action. They are suing the purported owner of the vehicle, claiming negligence for allowing an unidentified driver to operate the car. The family is also urging the Chicago police to be more proactive in their investigation.

During a press conference outside Police Department headquarters, Cierra Norris, the family's attorney, emphasized the lack of investigation in this case, particularly when it involves a young Black teenager. She highlighted the concern that the allocation of taxpayer dollars appears to prioritize certain cases over others.

The alleged owner of the car, a resident of Belmont Cragin, has not been charged. A statement from the Chicago Police Department spokesperson, Kellie Bartoli, stated that no one is currently in custody, and detectives continue to investigate the hit-and-run incident, which left Nakari Campbell with critical injuries, including fractured ribs, head trauma, facial fractures, and a broken neck.

Bartoli declined to provide details about the specific steps taken by the police in their investigation and referred to an August 6 community alert, urging the public to provide tips regarding the incident. Efforts to reach the car's owner for comment were unsuccessful.

The incident occurred when, according to a crash report, a driver in a bright red 2008 Mercedes-Benz struck Campbell at around 10:25 p.m. on August 4 while she was crossing Division Street at Ashland Avenue. After hitting Campbell, the driver fled westbound on Division Street at high speed. The car is described as having dark-colored rims, a sunroof, tinted windows, and an Illinois license plate. The police anticipate damage near or around the car's grille.

Lawyers for Campbell shared a graphic video that captures the moment of the collision. It depicts Campbell being dragged along the street, prompting a few individuals to rush to her aid, stop traffic, and check on her condition.

Following the hit-and-run, Campbell was rushed to Stroger Hospital in critical condition. She is currently recuperating at home, but her uncle, Anthony Hargrove, emphasized the challenges she faces. Despite being a bright young woman entering her senior year of high school with aspirations of becoming a lawyer, she must contend with physical and emotional hardships. Hargrove pointed out that Campbell, affectionately known as Sunshine, is dealing with the trauma of head injuries, hair loss, and the disruption of her senior year plans.

Hargrove called for transparency from the police and urged them to use their resources and finances to ensure justice for Campbell. He stressed that the family and their legal representatives have diligently sought answers, including filing a lawsuit, organizing protests, and distributing flyers as part of a community alert campaign.

Regarding the investigation, Norris argued that the police have not made sufficient efforts to obtain a confession from the driver, characterizing their inaction as a disappointment to the family. She suggested practical steps, such as using red-light cameras to track the car through the license plate, similar to how speeding and red light violations are detected.

Norris acknowledged that it's uncertain whether the car's owner was the one driving when the accident occurred. However, she stressed that there is no information suggesting the vehicle was stolen. While the police have reached out to her associates, no meeting has been scheduled to date.

Around five minutes after Campbell's incident, another hit-and-run occurred, where 26-year-old Chloe Engel was struck by a car in the 1400 block of West Augusta Avenue. The crash report states that she was exiting a ride-share vehicle when a red car with tinted windows hit her and sped away. Engel sustained lacerations on the right side of her face and broken ribs and was taken to Stroger Hospital in good condition. She subsequently filed a lawsuit against the driver, seeking damages exceeding \$50,000 due to alleged negligence.

The defendant's name in Engel's case matches the car owner named in Campbell's lawsuit. While police did not confirm any connection between the two incidents, the legal representatives for both hit-and-run victims believe they may be related.

During the press conference, Campbell's mother asked the public to empathize with their situation and consider how they would feel if their own family members had been injured in a similar manner, emphasizing that nobody would be comfortable with such a situation.

**C. Norris Law Group • 900 W. Jackson Blvd, Ste 6E, Chicago, IL 60607  
P: (312) 625-6129 • F: (312) 374-6441 • Cierra@cnnorrislaw.com**