

# Class Action Complaint Filed Against Joseph Garcia, CSAU, and York County



Press Release

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## Prisoners in York County File Lawsuit in Response to Systematic Excessive Force by Joseph Garcia, CSAU, and Governmental Employees

Today, the Chavez-Freed Law Office and Abramson & Deneberg, P.C. filed a class action lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania on behalf of inmates incarcerated at York County Prison (“YCP”). Plaintiffs were, for the most part, pretrial detainees – people who have not been convicted of any crime – who have suffered the consequences of York County’s contract with Mr. Garcia and CSAU to develop militaristic policies and to train its correctional officers. The pretrial detainees have been subjected to military-style weaponry, systematic mental anguish, physical abuse, and an abusive environment of constant terror.

County officials have doggedly refused to address the unconstitutional conditions of confinement at YCP, even in the face of repeated complaints by county residents and warnings from other jails throughout the country. With complete knowledge of the history of Mr. Garcia and CSAU, York County officials have decided to double-down in their endorsement of Mr. Garcia, CSAU, and their trainings and tactics. York County is funneling hundreds of thousands of dollars to an unqualified and fraudulent person and his company whose tactics violate correctional norms, increase hostility between prisoners and guards, and encourage violence within the prison.

No person or entity are above the law. Mr. Garcia, CSAU, and York County will be held to account for violating the United States Constitution, which mandates that people in custody are to be free from cruel and unusual punishment and excessive force. The Chavez-Freed Law Office and Abramson & Deneberg, P.C. are eager to confront the defendants in a federal court of law and to fully and zealously advocate on behalf of the plaintiff class.