

# Cop 'urged end to rap'

A MAN has accused police of trying to get him to drop a complaint against them in exchange for help with a charity event.

Dale Maggs, a former president of the Motorcycle Riders Association of Australia, said he was in Flemington in 2007 when he saw police doing a random breath test.

He said he saw an officer threaten to pull one of the African men in the vehicle out and "beat him senseless", and that when he tried to intervene he was told his word would not be believed over that of a police officer.

Mr Maggs filed a complaint, but said he was later told by an officer investigating the incident that a police escort for his association's charity toy run might be at risk, because police resources were stretched by investigating complaints such as his.

Mr Maggs contacted the *Herald Sun* after reading of a Federal Court discrimination lawsuit against police, and had been due to be called as a witness in the case. The lawsuit was settled earlier this month.

## Mark Dunn

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Mr Maggs, who said he had previously worked with the force's Blue Ribbon appeal, said discrimination was "demeaning to the force and it's demeaning to all that good police stand for".

"Discrimination should be stamped out in all cultures, especially the police force," he said.

Police would not comment on Mr Maggs' allegation specifically.

The force had denied allegations of mistreatment or racial abuse in the Federal Court case, and it was understood it had yet to respond to Mr Maggs' claims in its formal defence.

The discrimination case, launched by six African men, was settled on the basis police would hold an inquiry into police-race relations. The public can make submissions and the results will be released to the public.

Police command has also agreed to a major review of the force's stop-and-question procedures.