

Alleging brutality, family will sue police

BY BART JONES

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A civil rights attorney on Monday filed a notice of claim against the Nassau County Police Department for what he called police brutality against two teenage brothers in Roosevelt who were allegedly beaten and then detained for hours without their parents being notified.

The attorney, Fred Brewington, said at a fiery news conference in his office in Hempstead that the police “took these young boys away from their mother and their father and hid them” for hours. He called it a “kidnapping” and contended the boys were falsely arrested for an assault they did not commit.

But Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder said in a statement Monday that a department investigation found police behaved appropriately.

“An investigation was con-



Civil rights attorney Frederick Brewington sits with Mondy, left, and David Tillery, who say police beat and wrongly held their two sons.

ducted and three juveniles were arrested for this crime,” he said. “One of the juvenile subjects, age 15, was also charged with resisting arrest and obstructing governmental administration. The investigation has revealed that police officers acted within the scope of the law and exercised restraint and professionalism at the time of arrest.”

The case stems from the arrest of three teens in Roosevelt

on Jan. 21. They were riding their bicycles at about noon when police arrested and charged them with assaulting a 32-year-old man in the neighborhood.

At the news conference, Brewington showed photographs of one of the boy’s white hoodie with blood on it.

“Nassau County police: Stop being an occupying force in our community,” Brewington said. “You don’t have the right to

treat our young men as though they are criminals simply because they are black. That is called profiling.”

The two brothers’ parents, Mondy and David Tillery, who attended the news conference, said the oldest one, 15, ended up in Mount Sinai South Nassau hospital in Oceanside for hours that night with cuts to the head, a damaged ankle and other injuries.

Brewington called on police

to fire the officers involved, or have them resign.

Brewington described the two brothers as model teenagers who are members of a local Boy Scout troop, attend a church regularly and sing in its choir, are good students and do extensive community service.

The notice of claim is required before a lawsuit is filed, which Brewington said he intends to do.