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At the time of the incident that happened to me in Manalapan, New Jersey I was 11 years old. I didn't know what was going on when the cops came to us for no apparent reason. We were just having a good time at the park, which was around the corner from where my cousin lived.

There were six of us. Three of us were black and three of us were white. I was scared when I saw the cops searching my cousins for no reason, especially after they told the white boys to go home. I didn't know what they were going to do to us. I was upset and really scared.

The cops made it worse by calling me names like "little punk." I thought that the cops were supposed to protect us, not intimidate us and make us feel scared.

I really didn't like the fact that when my father went to the police precinct to file a complaint about what happened, a police officer put down on the form his race as "Negro".

In this day and time, I was offended by the use of that word, and couldn't believe that someone would talk about people that way.

I hope that you can do something to make sure that what happened to me and my friends doesn't happen to other kids in the future.

Thank you for giving me a chance to talk to you today.

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