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| Related image | Travis Walton’s accuser speaks up on pub altercation |

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The woman who alleges former Michigan State basketball player Travis Walton hit her at an East Lansing bar, leaving her briefly unconscious, said she wanted to go to the media when the incident occurred in 2010 but was strongly urged not to by an East Lansing city attorney.

“I didn’t think it was morally right to not speak up,” Ashley Thompson, a Grand Blanc native now in medical school in Virginia, told The Detroit News in a recent phone interview. “I was advised by the (lawyer) to not talk to the media, to not talk to Michigan State, to not talk to Travis.

“I absolutely wanted to go to the media, but he basically told me it was going to interfere with the trial.”

In the end, Walton’s case never made it to trial as the original assault-and-battery charge was eventually dismissed, and he instead pleaded to a civil infraction — in this case, littering — which cost Walton $500 out of pocket, but kept a violence conviction off his record.

The case recently came to light as part of a Jan. 26 report by ESPN’s *“Outside the Lines”* on Michigan State athletics and the handling by its high-profile coaches and administrators of assault and sexual-assault allegations over the years.

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| **Derrick Walton** | **Ashley Thompson** |

The story put men’s basketball coach Tom Izzo, the university’s most high-profile employee, on the defensive as reporters have peppered him with questions about what he knew and when he knew it. Izzo has steadfastly declined to answer questions about Walton. But he has said he will cooperate with any investigation.

The assistant city attorney, David Meyers, who handled the case, last week denied Thompson’s assertion that he ever told her or any client to keep quiet.

“At no point have I ever told an accusing witness in any case I’ve prosecuted not to discuss their case with anyone,” Meyers said as part of a lengthy statement to The News in which he vehemently defends his role and decisions in the case.

“All the cases I was involved with were public record anyway.”

The East Lansing Police Department’s report is stamped with “NON-PUBLIC RECORD” on the first page, and The News received a copy of it from Thompson, who doesn’t have an attorney. Thompson’s copy of the report — it’s unclear if it’s the full police report — includes her versions of the events from that 2010 incident, as well as multiple witness statements.

The News, through the Freedom of Information Act, requested the case file from the East Lansing Police Department — which might include Walton’s version of events, as well as photographs of Thompson’s injuries — but the department denied access to the report, stating, “The accused has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any criminal charge, and therefore, the case has been declared non-public.”

A message to East Lansing Police Chief Larry Sparkes was not returned.

Walton, now 30, played four seasons at the guard position for Michigan State’s basketball team, culminating with a 2009 trip to the Final Four at Ford Field in Detroit. He briefly returned to the university in 2010 to continue his studies, at which point he served as an undergraduate assistant on Izzo’s staff and traveled with the team — all the way to another Final Four — while the assault-and-battery charges were working their way through the court system.

Walton, currently on administrative leave from his job as an assistant coach with the Los Angeles Clippers’ G-League team following the ESPN report, has repeatedly denied Thompson’s allegations.