**Cop faces brutality charges**



**Michigan Quarterly Review**

[See all results for this publication matching your search terms](http://www.highbeam.com/Search?FilterByPublicationID=61690&FilterByPublicationName=Michigan+Quarterly+Review&searchTerm=William+Melendez)

[Browse back issues of this publication by date](http://www.highbeam.com/publications/michigan-quarterly-review-p61690)

December 28, 2002 | [Bukowski, Diane](http://www.highbeam.com/Search?searchTerm=author%3a%22Bukowski%2c+Diane%22&orderBy=Date+DESC)

* Permalink

**Create a link to this page**

Copy and paste this link tag into your Web page or blog:

<a href="http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-79471391.html" title="Cop faces brutality charges | HighBeam Research">Cop faces brutality charges</a>

Bukowski, Diane
Michigan Citizen
12-28-2002
DETROIT -- Detroit Police Officer Robert Feld, Sr. was arraigned on
felonious assault charges Dec. 10 for kicking and beating a motorist with
his handcuffs last month, gashing the victim's head.

Thirty-Sixth District Court Magistrate Charles Anderson III granted Feld a
$50,000 personal bond after attorney Donald Stolberg claimed that Feld, a
32-year veteran of the department, is a "highly decorated" officer with a
record of "exemplary service" to the community.

The charges carry a maximum prison sentence of four years. A preliminary
examination was scheduled for January 16, after the holidays.

Cornell Squires, a citizen with a federal lawsuit against Feld, offered a
different assessment of the officer.

Feld was not under arrest when he presented himself in court.

"The only reason Feld was charged was because his actions were caught on
police videotape," said Cornell Squires. "He's left a long trail of people
with busted heads and other victims of excessive force. It's time that he
be fired and jailed as the criminal he is."

Squires said he was beaten and called a "n--" by Feld in 1998. When
Squires' father intervened, he suffered a massive heart attack that later
caused his death.

In the recent case, according to police records, Feld stopped motorist
Victor Gonzalez on Central Nov. 14, repeatedly kicked him, kneed him in the
back, and then struck him in the head with handcuffs. He then got a blanket
from Gonzalez' car, wiped the blood from the victim's head, and returned
the blanket to the car.

Gonzalez was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital, where he received five
staples to close the head wound. He has been charged with drunken driving.

Feld wrote in his report of the incident that Gonzalez was injured while
resisting arrest. However, Police Department attorney Nancy Ninowski said
at a Police Commission meeting Dec. 5 that the videotape shows that
Gonzalez complied with all of Feld's orders and did not resist.

According to Ninowski, Feld was already on suspension in another
disciplinary matter. He has been suspended without pay in the Gonzalez
case, pending resolution of the criminal charges.

Records show that the Fourth Precinct officer has been sued at least five
times for brutality.

In 1993, according to one suit, Feld shot Andre McCrimmon in the head and
chest as he tried to use the phone in the Ante Room II bar on Gratiot, a
known hang-out for white police officers. McCrimmon, who is Black, suffered
permanent brain damage and a loss of hearing.

Feld and other officers were sued for invading a home on Beniteau the same
year, and falsely arresting and charging members of the Gibson family for
drug trafficking.

In 1994, the Purnell family sued, claiming that Feld and others entered
their home on Maryland without a warrant, "battering, humiliating, and
terrorizing" them.

Another lawsuit, filed in 1999 by Daniel Vasser, says that Feld stopped him
and his fiance, "pulled the plaintiff out of the vehicle, slammed him to
the ground, choked him, handcuffed him, punched him, kicked him, and called
him a `dope-selling n--."

Squires happened on that scene, which took place on Gleason street in his
far southwest side neighborhood, and videotaped Vasser's fiance, Christine
Johnson, directly afterwards. She said that Feld claimed that Vasser was
swallowing drugs. Johnson said they were eating cashews.

Squires has a lawsuit pending in federal court against Feld regarding his
own brutality case, and said he is demanding that Wayne County Prosecutor
Mike Duggan charge Feld in that case as well. He said his case originated
when he observed Feld patting down his 17-year-old son Cornell Emmanuel
Squires in October of 1998 outside their home on S. Electric. Squires said
he asked Feld why he had stopped his son.

Squires said Feld then threw him through a neighbor's front door, kicked
him in the head as he lay on the floor, and called him a "n--."

Feld did not stop until Squires' father and mother ran from their home
across the street and intervened. Squires' father Eugene Squires suffered a
heart attack immediately afterwards, and died nine months later.

Squires said that his son was later framed for attempted carjacking by
Feld's Fourth Precinct co-worker, officer **William** **Melendez**, in retaliation
for his father's work with the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality.
The younger Squires is to be paroled from prison in January.

Squires wrote numerous letters to then Mayor Dennis Archer and Police Chief
Benny Napoleon, as well as President **William** Clinton, demanding that Feld
be charged and imprisoned. No action was ever taken in his case.

Article copyright Michigan Citizen.
V.XXV

Copyright University of Michigan Winter 2009. Provided by ProQuest LLC. All inquiries regarding rights or concerns about this content should be directed to [Customer Service](http://www.highbeam.com/contact_us.aspx). For permission to reuse this article, contact [Copyright Clearance Center](https://www.copyright.com/openurl.do?sid=Highbeam&servicename=all&WT.mc_id=Highbeam&title=Michigan%20Quarterly%20Review).