**Cop faces brutality charges**

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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.  
  
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