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More Allegations Against Mount Rainier Police Officer Gene Gillette

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By SHERRI LY/myfoxdc

WASHINGTON - There are more allegations are surfacing against a Mount Rainier Police officer charged with attempted murder. Twice before, he has been accused of assault and excessive force while on the job.

Court documents show just last year, the city settled two lawsuits from 2008 against officer Gene Gillette. The accusers in those lawsuits portray the officer as someone quick to lose his temper and quick to use force.

In January 2008, Gillette responded to a disagreement at a gas station. According to court documents, William Frederick's Chevy Tahoe ran out of gas. He and his nephew pushed it to the gas station pump, but didn't have any money. His nephew ran across the street to get money, but the attendant wanted the vehicle moved and called police.

According to court documents, Frederick's attorney says the officer handcuffed and arrested Frederick, then pistol-whipped him in the back of his patrol car three times in the face unprovoked.

"Officer Gillette then pointed the gun to the plaintiff's head and said 'I should kill your a**,'" according to the plaintiff's pretrial statement.

The victim had to have a metal plate implanted in his face.

In Gillette's statement, the defense said Frederick was belligerent, smelled of alcohol and mouthed off to the officer. The lawsuit was settled out of court and Gillette

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admitted no wrongdoing.

Mount Rainier's Police Chief Michael Scott said he was "aware of the case" but is "not at liberty to disclose the details" since the case was settled by the city.

Five months later, the officer was accused of using excessive force on a woman who tried to stop a tow truck driver from towing her car. According to court documents, Uchechukwu Ukpabia says her car was parked in her designated spot in her housing development Seton Square in Bladensburg, but she had lost her permit.

Bladensburg Police initially responded after the tow truck driver called police. Ukpabia says she tried to explain her situation to officers. Gillette was called in for backup when Ukpabia refused to get off the tow truck.

In her pretrial statement, she then said, "A Mt. Rainier police officer (later identified as Gillette) deployed a taser and applied it several times, causing electric shock and severe pain."

That case was also settled out of court with no admission of wrongdoing. Chief Scott said there was "never any finding of excessive force ... and nothing to substantiate the accusations of excessive force" although the case never went to trial. In the meantime, Gillette went on to earn commendations as Officer of the Year twice.

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Then came his arrest this week for attempted murder. Police say he lured a 20-year-old man to his Capitol Heights home earlier this month, promising to make a pornography movie, but instead tried to force the man into a sexual act. When the victim tried to escape in Gillette's truck, investigators say he shot him several times and tried to cover it up as a carjacking.

Sources also say police investigated another 2008 case in which Gillette's service weapon discharged after he brought a man to his home for an afterparty and instead was accused of propositioning the man for a sex act. An investigation by Prince George's County Police found no wrongdoing by the officer and charged the other man with theft of the officer's firearm and reckless endangerment.

The two victims who accused Gillette of assault and using excessive force were also charged. Prosecutors eventually dropped the charges against the man at the gas station and the woman who was tasered was found not guilty by a jury.

Mount Rainier's Police Chief says the fact the two victims were not convicted does not indicate whether Gillette's actions were wrong. In the last incident, the chief said Gillette was cleared of any wrongdoing and the man went with Gillette to his home willingly.

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Steezin Sock

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This guy is sick. He arrested my cousin before and I used to live a block away from him in Capitol Heights. Glad to see he was arrested. If anything cops like him are the real crooks on the streets. I hope he receives life in prison.

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