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Evidence in retired OPD officer's rape case details troubled career

Roderick Johnson, 44, faces charges of sexual battery.

February 19, 2013 | By Jeff Weiner, Orlando Sentinel

Newly released public evidence in the sexual battery case against a now-retired Orlando police officer reveal additional details of the officer's troubled 20-year career, and the case against him.

The evidence also includes audio of police interviews with the officer, Roderick Johnson, as well as his fellow officers and the victim in the case, and a recording of Johnson being relieved of duty.

The victim says Johnson had sex with her in a police substation after arresting her Oct. 16. She does not say the sex was forcible but says Johnson implied she could face additional charges if she didn't cooperate with him. Newly released personnel records trace the up-and-down latter period of Johnson's police career.

Johnson received a glowing review in 2004, with a supervisor describing him as a "loyal member" of an OPD midnight squad. The supervisor went on to remark that Johnson had, "time and again, proven himself to be nothing short of a total team player."

But a review in 2006 struck an entirely different tone: Johnson, by then a police liaison for then-City Commissioner Daisy Lynam, was described as "very undependable and uncooperative" as well as "rude and argumentative."

Johnson's 2006 reviewer concluded that Johnson's role required skill "beyond those of a patrol officer. I do not feel that Officer Johnson possesses the skills or desire to properly carry out these duties."

Records previously obtained by the Orlando Sentinel showed Johnson had been suspended twice, reprimanded three times and issued a written censure three times since 2006. He also pleaded no contest to slapping a juvenile suspect while working off-duty for his apartment complex.

Also among the new evidence are photos of the police substation where the woman says the sex occurred, as well as jail calls made by the victim after Johnson arrested her.

Johnson, 44, filed retirement paperwork about a week after his arrest.

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