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New Evidence

## Evidence released in ex-cop's rape case

**Roderick Johnson faces charges of sexual battery.**

January 30, 2013 | By Jeff Weiner, Orlando Sentinel

Prosecutors on Wednesday released a batch of new evidence in the sexual battery case against Roderick Johnson, a former Orlando officer accused of having sex with an arrested woman in a police substation while on duty.

The new records include sworn statements from important witnesses in the case. Johnson arrested the woman Oct. 16 at a local Citgo gas station after discovering the vehicle she was driving had been stolen. The victim says he took her to a police substation, where they had sex on a desk.

Although the woman says the sex was not forcible, Johnson implied she could face additional charges if she wasn't cooperative. Johnson, who has since retired, denies having sex with the woman.

Among the statements released Wednesday was a one made by a nearby resident who said she saw Johnson and the alleged victim enter the substation.

A detective also noted that the victim's description of the station matched its layout.

"Because several days had passed, there were other chairs in the room," the detective wrote in a report. "However, the desks were arranged as [the victim] had described."

Police also discovered a 13-minute discrepancy between the time that Johnson left the Citgo and the time he reported that he was en route to the jail, the evidence shows.

Records show Johnson repeatedly changed his story about what happened at the substation: He said he didn't go inside, then said he did but the woman didn't. Then he said she did go inside, but only so she could use the restroom.

After Johnson's arrest, an attorney representing the victim in the case sent a letter to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, alleging that police had engaged in intimidating contact with the victim against prosecutors' objections.

Attorney Whitney Boan wrote that after prosecutors asked police to cease questioning the victim, they interrogated her again, including "whether or not she had told the truth in her prior statements."

The FDLE declined to intervene, and OPD has denied any wrongdoing.

The new records confirm OPD investigators were skeptical of the victim's account: A detective wrote that elements of her written statement "differed slightly" from a recorded interview. The same detective later penned a memo warning that the victim may have provided a false address.

Police also obtained calls the victim made while she was in jail. Most of the calls involved arranging a bondsman, a report states, though in one the victim referred to Johnson as "crooked."

In a Oct. 30 letter she wrote that was among the new evidence, the woman said she was "too scared" to fight Johnson's sexual advances. She added that she hoped coming forward against the officer would protect future potential victims.

"Maybe I'm saving another innocent female from being victimized too," she wrote. "He should be held responsible for his actions just like I'm being held accountable for mine."

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