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Stress Pension For Sex-abused Cop

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BY JOHN MARZULLI DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Monday, May 01, 2000

In a rare move, the NYPD pension board has granted a tax-free pension for post-traumatic stress disorder to a female cop who was sexually assaulted by another officer, the Daily News has learned.

A panel of police doctors initially balked at designating the incident and resulting psychological disability as "line of duty."

But after pension board representatives from the city controller's office and the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association expressed outrage, the doctors approved the line-of-duty pension for the 28-year-old victim, whose name is being withheld by the Daily News because of the nature of the crime.

"She was attacked by a perp, only the perp just happened to be a cop," said a high-ranking NYPD official familiar with the case. "If she wasn't on the job, it wouldn't have happened."

The victim will receive a tax-free annual pension of about \$37,500 for the rest of her life.

NYPD doctors and the pension board have generally been reluctant to approve line-of-duty disability pensions for cops who claim psychological damage due to job stress.

"It's extraordinarily rare" to award such a pension, the police official said. "I think they're generally distrustful of that [post-traumatic stress] diagnosis."

On Aug. 14, 1997, the victim was forced to perform a sex act on Officer Randy Thomas in a transit room at the Livonia Ave. station on the No. 3 line. The Transit Bureau cops were on a break at the time of the attack. Thomas was arrested and pleaded guilty to sexual abuse. He quit the force on June 16, 1998, with disciplinary charges pending against him.

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