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Ex-Provo officer sentenced to 6 months in jail for fondling motorist

By **Emiley Morgan**, Deseret News

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19 comments

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PROVO — Jeffery Westerman should have known better.

That message was presented loud and clear Thursday when the former Provo police officer was sentenced to 180 days in jail for fondling a woman in exchange for not arresting her.

Westerman was in a position of trust and authority, yet he violated that and should "expect the condemnation of the community," said 4th District Judge David Mortensen.



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Mark Johnston,

Jeffery Westerman, right, a former Provo police officer convicted of fondling a woman, stands with his lawyer before Judge David Mortensen in 4th District Court in Provo during a hearing on Sept. 16, 2010. He was sentenced Thursday to 180 days in jail.

of Westerman's victim. "Where could her protection be found when her perpetrator was a police officer?"

ex abuse, a third-degree felony, and obstruction of justice, a jail time, Mortensen sentenced him to three years of probation and ordered him to pay a \$950 fine and \$1,265 in restitution.

ame not be used, said she now suffers from "extreme anxiety," sees the former police officer in her nightmares and is afraid to drive her car anymore.

ve turned and walked away," she said. "I no longer feel safe in the presence of a police officer. I feel like I'm being stalked whenever I'm with a cop.

"I just hope I never have to call 911."

in the hearing, she told Westerman that she thinks of him every day "in a way that is terrifying and traumatic." But while she cannot forget what happened, she said she hopes to forgive him.

"As much as I feel the sting of your actions, I am a child of God and I hope you turn to Heavenly Father again."

Leslie's father, Patrick, spoke of the rage he had to fight when he heard what had happened to his daughter and the inclement disgust upon realizing Westerman had committed the abuse while in uniform.

"In my mind, he was never a police officer. He was a predator with a badge," he said.

Westerman's actions have impacted police investigations, because they can no longer place him on the stand as a credible witness in cases he investigated, prosecutor Craig

From the archive

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- [Evidence filed against former officer accused of fondling](#) – Aug. 10, 2010
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Johnson said. His actions have also affected the legitimacy of other officers, who now have "people making cracks like: 'I'm ready to flash you, officer. What's the protocol here?'"

"Officers who used to be respected are being seen in a different light because of Mr. Westerman's actions," Johnson said.

The prosecutor said he was "surprised" Westerman had ever been hired by Provo police considering he had a history of assault, criminal mischief and possession of a dangerous weapon as a juvenile. That said, he asked for jail and probation to be consistent with the sentences of other cases.

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