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Former Kern county deputy held on 2011 sexual assault

Apr 26, 2012

OW Staff

The alleged victim was an Antelope Valley woman

A former Kern County Sheriff's Detention Deputy, a five-year veteran of the department, has been arrested on sexual assault charges.

The officer, Ralph James Kress, was assigned to the Mojave Substation. According to reports, two days before Christmas, an Antelope Valley woman, who as a sexual-assault victim was not identified, was booked and fingerprinted on a domestic violence charge. She had no prior record of violence and, said her attorney Marc A. Legget, "what should have been a simple process, beginning at 10:30 a.m., turned into a 16-hour nightmare."

According to Legget, the victim was upset, crying and requesting to make a phone call to check on her children. The single mother of two was left alone and unsupervised without the presence of a female officer, when Kress encountered her.

The attorney said Kress began making comments about her clothing, which led to comments about part of her body and fondling. Still left unsupervised, Kress then began demanding the woman perform a sexual act. Forced to comply, the woman was later shackled and left bound without a top covering for three hours, receiving repeated threats from Kress of what would happen if she told anyone about the incident, said the attorney.

Transferred to the Bakersfield Substation to complete her processing, she was released in the early hours of the following day around 3 a.m. The victim, said Legget, was left without transportation, a phone or money, but managed to make her way back to the Antelope Valley where she sought medical attention from a woman's crisis center, reporting the assault.

Shortly before Kress was arrested for sexually assaulting an inmate, the district attorney dismissed all charges stemming from the domestic violence case, when further investigation revealed the majority of injury inflicted during the incident, was received by the woman. The investigation also exposed the

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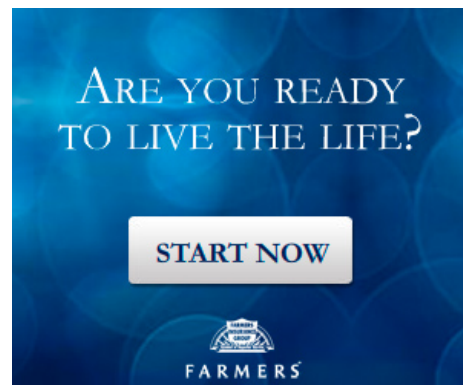
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alleged victim to possess a history of domestic violence as an aggressor, including several instances involving the woman as the victim.

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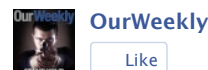
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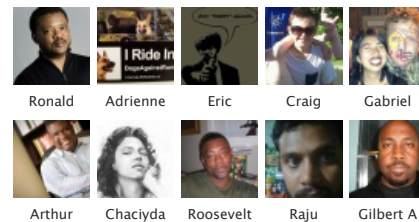
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