

EX-NYPD DETECTIVE IS CHARGED IN RAPE OF 2 BROTHERS

BY RUSS BUETTNER

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A retired NYPD detective has been charged with raping two brothers he had befriended and treated to gifts and out-of-town trips.

Richard Ford, 55, who retired as a city cop in 1986 after 22 years on the force, turned himself in to New York state police and to the Queens district attorney in March.

A grand jury is scheduled next week to hear charges that Ford, a Queens resident and father of three, raped the boys after a long friendship with their family.

A third boy has also reported attacks by Ford, but no charges have been brought.

The boys' parents concerned about the delays in the case and that the former cop will elude justice told the Daily News that the detective raped the brothers at an upstate summer camp and in the Queens office of his private detective firm.

The third boy was allegedly raped during a trip to Washington, in which he met the nation's FBI chief.

"I trusted that man with my most prized possession, I treated him like family, and he did the worst thing imaginable to my boys," said the brothers' mother.

Reached at Gemini Investigations, his detective agency, Ford referred calls to his attorney, Raymond Aab.

Aab said Ford is married, has "a distinguished, unblemished record" and will plead innocent. Aab refused to discuss the case, saying only: "People have motives for making these kind of complaints."

Ford first came to know the family of the brothers 15 years ago, when he became a Big Brother to the first son, the mother said.

The mother said that on Feb. 17, her son, then 16, came to her scared and wanting to talk. He revealed his secret only after reassurances that she would not tell anyone else.

"He finally said, 'Uncle Richie has a gay problem. He tried to tongue kiss me,' " she said. "I said, 'Hold up, hold up, you tell me the whole story.' "

The boy eventually described how he said Ford had ordered him to submit to sex in his office, the mother said.

"He left his gun on the desk where my son could see it," she said. "He told my son, 'You better not tell. If you tell, I'm going to get you.' "

The mother said she then began questioning her 15-year-old son, who said Ford had crawled into his bed in a Sullivan County hotel where the two were staying while visiting the older brother in a summer camp.

A complaint regarding the Sullivan County allegations was filed with New York state police on Feb. 19, and authorities there obtained an arrest warrant after interviewing the boys, said Edward McKenna, a state police investigator.

Another boy, now 16, was allegedly raped during a September 1994 visit to Washington, said the boy's aunt.

Police in Queens were notified, but charges were never filed. However, the boy's cooperation is expected in the pending case, a law enforcement source said. "This man has been preying on children," said the aunt.

"The things these boys have gone through at such young ages, I can't even imagine," said the brothers' mother.