

Ex-officer shot in face in 1993 charged with indecency

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Daniel Vaughan

HOUSTON -

A former Houston police officer who was ambushed and shot in the face in 1993 at a police substation is now facing charges.

Daniel Vaughan was charged with attempt to commit indecency with a child and indecency by exposure.

He is accused of victimizing a 15-year-old who was the daughter of

one of his acquaintances. The investigation took more than a year, but in the end, four people were accused in the sexual abuse case.

The girl made an outcry against her 42-year-old father on May 16, 2013. She said her father was sexually abusing her, and that the abuse went back as far as she could remember. She then identified three more adults accused of harming her.

Investigators executed a search warrant and seized computers, video tapes, cell phones and other items from the father. During processing, they found digital evidence confirming sexual abuse of the victim.

The father pleaded guilty to five counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child on July 23 and was sentenced to serve 50 years in the Texas Department of Corrections. A 36-year-old woman pleaded guilty to aggravated sexual of a child on August 21 and was sentenced to five years in TDC.

A third person, a 23-year-old man, was indicted for aggravated sexual assault of a child and is awaiting trial.

Vaughan was the last to be charged. Investigators said he attempted to induce the girl to touch his private parts and even exposed himself to her.

Vaughan was indicted on August 22 and turned himself in Wednesday at 4:20 a.m. His bond was set at \$25,000 and he remains in custody at the Brazoria County Jail.

Vaughan made national headlines 20 years ago when a gunman walked into the South Central

Substation and shot the sergeant, who was 36 years old, at point-blank range.

Details of that horrific day were outlined on Vaughan's official website.

On March 20, 1993, Vaughan reported to work for a special assignment, but learned it was canceled. The single father of two was given the option of taking the day off, but chose to fill in at the front desk for a sick co-worker. That decision significantly altered his life.

Gilbert Smith, a 22-year-old, walked into the substation and asked for a lieutenant. He was told that none were available and asked if a sergeant would be acceptable. He agreed. Vaughan was walking out to assist when Smith raised a .380-caliber gun and began firing.

The bullet went into Vaughan's right eye and into his skull. Smith fired another shot into Vaughan's right nostril, and two more rounds into his mouth. Smith then fled the scene, but was found hiding a few blocks away.

Vaughan miraculously survived, but lost his right eye, hearing in his left ear and was partially paralyzed.

After six months of intensive rehab and 15 surgeries, he walked out of the hospital and tried to resume a normal life.

He became a motivational speaker and worked in law enforcement training.

Smith was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

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