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## North Port Police officer arrested, suspended

By [Michael Scott Davidson](#)

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A North Port Police officer who allegedly battered his fiancée late Sunday night after she tried to end their relationship has been suspended without pay, the police department reported.



North Port Police Officer Michael Dietz.

Michael Dietz, 39, was arrested by Sarasota County Sheriff's Office deputies on a misdemeanor domestic battery charge about 2:30 a.m. Monday morning, according to arrest records. He posted a \$5,000 bond that afternoon, Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Wendy Rose said.

Part of the incident was recorded by a home surveillance camera, according to arrest records.

An internal investigation has been initiated and will be completed by civilian police inspector Steve Uebelacker, Police Chief Kevin Vespia said.

"The North Port Police Department has zero tolerance for domestic violence," Vespia said. "The status of the employee will be determined upon completion of an internal investigation."

Dietz is a 12-year veteran of the police department, Vespia said. He has been a police dog handler on its canine unit since 2011, according to record keepers.

The alleged battery case began late Sunday night after Dietz's fiancée sent a text message to the officer that their relationship was over, according to arrest documents.

At 11:30 p.m., Dietz returned to the home where they had lived together for more than a year, the woman told Sheriff's Office investigators. She told deputies Dietz had been "out drinking all day" and was upset about her decision to break up, according to arrest records.

The woman said Dietz came to the bedroom where she was sleeping and broke a bedpost, according to arrest records. When she tried to exit the room, Dietz allegedly grabbed her arms and tried to pull her back.

The woman ran out the back bedroom's sliding door, into the backyard, where Dietz put her in a "bear hug," according to arrest records.

Once again, the woman said she broke free and walked around the house to the front

driveway, according to arrest records. Dietz followed her, she said, punching out the master bedroom's glass window on his way.

Dietz allegedly pushed the woman inside his truck and climbed on top of her, according to arrest records. When she exited the truck, Dietz allegedly pushed her inside again.

The woman said Dietz used the back of his hand to push her across the face, causing her to fall inside the truck, according to arrest records.

The home's surveillance camera was pointed at the truck and recorded what happened, according to arrest records.

The woman told investigators that she then walked back inside the home's master bedroom. She said Dietz came inside and broke the master bathroom mirror and another bedpost.

The woman called 911 about 12:15 a.m. Monday, according to arrest records. While North Port Police were on scene, Dietz reportedly punched at least one hole into a bedroom wall.

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