

GARNER CLEVELAND RECORD AUGUST 16, 2016 11:09 AM

# Former Garner officer apologizes for domestic violence incident that led to his firing



Silvestre Mendoza courtesy of Johnston County Sheriff's Office

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GARNER — A police officer charged with domestic violence last month has been fired, a spokesperson for the Garner Police Department said.

Silvestre Mendoza, 26, was fired on July 21, after an internal investigation concluded he violated a Town of Garner policy and two department directives, amid allegations he assaulted two women.

One of the women who alleged the assault was his wife, while the other was his sister-in-law.

According to his termination letter, the Town policy he violated was “Detrimental Personal Conduct.” The department policy he violated stated that “Officers are to conduct their private and professional lives in a manner becoming the office they hold.”

Mendoza’s court hearing was Monday. He said he was sentenced to supervised probation and ordered to take domestic violence classes. If he completes the classes and doesn’t get in any trouble, the charges would be dismissed from his record, he said.

The arrest warrant claimed Mendoza assaulted Casey Mary Agnes Mendoza by “biting her in the middle of the right side of her back leaving bite marks.”

Reached by telephone Monday afternoon, Silvestre Mendoza was contrite and said he owned up to his part in the situation. Mendoza said he hated that his situation put negative

attention on the police department and apologized.

“They truly are some amazing men and women who protect that city and they don’t deserve that light,” Mendoza said. “I’ll continue to try to restore what I can restore.”

He said he hoped to serve the community again one day after he rights his wrongs.

“That’s one thing, I loved helping people,” Mendoza said. “Maybe I invested too much of my time into it. It’s a learning experience. I’m only human. Humans make mistakes but we also have choices when we make them.”

Mendoza was a patrol officer for the Garner Police Department. He was hired March 21. As a result of his arrest last month, Mendoza was placed on administrative leave while the Garner Police Department conducted an internal investigation.

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## WHAT THE POLICIES SAY

1. TOG Personnel Policy Part IX- Disciplinary Action, Section 8 - Detrimental Personal Conduct, “Detrimental personal conduct includes behavior, whether on or off-duty, intentional or unintentional, of such a serious detrimental nature that the functioning of the town may be or has been impaired; that safety of persons or property may be or have been threatened; the laws of the government may be or have been violated; or public confidence in government is likely to be undermined. Examples of detrimental personal conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Willful or wanton acts that endanger life or property; and
- Communication of a threat or engaging in threatening behavior.”

2. GPD Directive 610.01, Personnel Rules & Regulations. Specifically, section 610.1.2, which states in part, “Officers are to conduct their private and professional lives in a manner becoming the office they hold. All employees will avoid actions that tend to bring the Department into disrepute to tend to impair the operation of the Department of the efficiency of any officer or employee. Conduct to the contrary action up to and including dismissal.”

3. Section 610.1.3.C.1, which states "Employees will abide by the laws of the United States and the State of North Carolina as well as the ordinances of the Town of Garner."

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