



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

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Press Release
CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST
ANDERSON POLICE OFFICER FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT
June 8, 2010

Today, District Attorney Jerry Benito announced the filing of criminal charges against Anderson Police Officer Bryan Benson for crimes occurring on May 29, 2010. Benson is charged with several felonies including Forcible Rape, Rape by Threat of Authority, Sexual Battery by Restraint, Kidnapping, Bribery, and Assault by a Public Officer. Some of these charges are alternative ways of describing the same conduct. Since the early morning hours of 5/29/10 the District Attorney's Office has worked closely with the Redding Police Department on this case. Although we are still awaiting the results from DNA testing, we have determined that sufficient evidence exists at this time to proceed with the filing of criminal charges. The charges stem from an arrest of the victim in the early morning hours of Saturday, 5/29/10. The victim's name is being kept confidential according to her rights under the law.

On May 29, 2010, victim was arrested by Anderson Police Officer Goodwin. Following the arrest, the victim required transport to the Anderson Police Department and then to the jail. Officer Benson acted as a back-up officer and eventually volunteered to transport victim. Benson was on duty, in full uniform and driving an unmarked police vehicle. The victim said she was originally handcuffed behind her back by Officer Goodwin. She was placed in the front passenger seat of Benson's unmarked vehicle and he first took her to the Anderson Police station for further collection of evidence in her misdemeanor case. Officer Benson did not re-handcuff her and she again sat in the front passenger seat of the vehicle.

Officer Benson began driving toward the Shasta County Jail north on Hwy 273. The victim says Officer Benson began talking sexually to her and eventually attempted to have her perform sexual acts while she was seated in the vehicle. The victim says she declined to participate.

Instead of taking a direct route to the jail from Hwy 273, the victim describes Officer Benson pulling into a dirt pull out, a side street and eventually behind a building in the Redding area. At the Redding building location, the victim says Officer Benson picked up the police radio microphone and said something on the radio. The victim asked Officer Benson what he said and he told her he said that he reported that they were at the jail.

The victim says that Officer Benson then sexually assaulted her outside the vehicle in the rear area of the passenger side of the vehicle. During the assault, the victim says Officer Benson grabbed her left thigh area. The victim said the intercourse lasted approximately 20 seconds and then Officer Benson ejaculated near the right side rear tire and on the ground.

Afterward, the victim says Officer Benson told her to get back into the car. The victim says she sat in the front seat, still un-handcuffed, and did not put her seatbelt on. The victim says she sent a text message to her sister that she was just “raped by a cop.”

Once Officer Benson left the victim at the jail, the victim contacted jail staff and was interviewed by Sgt. Champagne. Sgt. Champagne said the victim was alleging that Officer Benson raped her while enroute to the jail, after she had been arrested by a different Officer in Anderson. Sgt. Champagne said he researched the time Officer Benson told dispatch he arrived at the jail and the time Officer Benson physically arrived at the jail. Sgt. Champagne said he found there is a discrepancy in those times (Officer Benson arrived at the jail approximately 10 minutes after he told dispatch he arrived on the radio). Sgt. Champagne immediately reported the matter to Redding Police who have conducted the investigation since then.

The victim took RPD to the areas she described and then submitted to a physical examination for evidence. Redding Police Investigators conducted crime scene identification work on the unmarked vehicle that Officer Benson was driving at the time of this incident. Investigators located a spot of suspected biological fluid on the right rear tire of the vehicle. Investigators swabbed that substance to send to the DOJ lab for analysis. That swab was later analyzed and spermatozoa were located in that fluid. We are currently awaiting further analysis to determine the DNA results on that swab. Investigators also took photographs of the tire tread on the vehicle and of the areas the victim showed us where Officer Benson had pulled off of the roadway (the dirt area and the parking lot area).

Investigators responded to the dirt area where victim said Officer Benson had pulled over at one point. Investigators examined the various tread patterns that were present in the dirt. There was one set of tread patterns that were similar to the tread pattern from Officer Benson’s vehicle.

On 6/1/10 the victim responded to the Investigations Division where investigators observed bruising on the outer portion of her left thigh and her right upper arm.

On 6/3/10 at approximately 0740 hours, Investigators interviewed Officer Goodwin from the Anderson Police Department. Officer Goodwin said Officer Benson met with him after booking the victim into the jail and returning to Anderson. Officer Goodwin said Officer Benson told him that he had sex with the victim on the way to the jail.

Investigators also confirmed a time discrepancy between the reported arrival of Officer Benson at the jail and the actual time of arrival.

Finally, investigators contacted the victim’s sister and confirmed that the sister did receive a text message from victim regarding the sexual assault. The time of text is during the time that victim was being transported by Officer Benson.

At all times during this incident the victim was in the custody of Officer Benson.

The matter will be set for arraignment today. Bail is set at \$500,000.