



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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MPD Detective Sentenced On Charges Stemming From Assault - Incident Took Place in June 2010 in Northwest Washington -

WASHINGTON - William J. Witkowski, 47, a detective with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), was sentenced today to one year of supervised probation and ordered to perform 100 hours of community service on charges of simple assault and fleeing a law enforcement officer, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Witkowski was convicted of the misdemeanor charges in January 2011 following a trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He was sentenced today by the Honorable Judge Anthony C. Epstein. The judge sentenced Witkowski to a total of 21 days of incarceration, but suspended the jail time and ordered probation and community service. In addition, Witkowski was ordered to pay \$500 to a fund for victims of violent crimes.

According to the government's evidence, in the early morning hours of June 26, 2010, Witkowski was off-duty and out of uniform and was driving in his personal truck with another off-duty MPD officer, who was also in civilian clothes. At 14th and Fairmont Streets NW, Witkowski stopped his truck on a sidewalk and got out to confront two men beside a car that was parked in front of a "No Parking" sign. He pushed one of them, and during the confrontation, also placed the man in a chokehold.

Another MPD officer, who was on duty, drove by the scene in a marked car and observed the assault. Soon after her arrival, Witkowski got back into his truck. The officer instructed Witkowski to put his truck in park. Witkowski responded, "I did put it in park." Nonetheless, he then backed his truck off the sidewalk and drove away.

The MPD officer followed him with her squad car's lights and sirens activated, and Witkowski ultimately pulled over at 11th and Girard Streets NW.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen acknowledged the efforts of those who worked on the case, including Assistant U.S. Attorneys James Petkun, Clare Pozos and James Ewing; Paralegals Nicole McGhee, Renee Prather and Harriette Bell; Legal Assistants Tierra Nanches, Tonya Queen and Amoret Vanterpool; the Litigation Technology Unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office, and MPD Officer Tonya Mack.

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