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For Immediate Release

Former Inkster Officer Melendez Charged in Beating Case

Possession of Cocaine Case to be Dismissed Against Floyd Dent

Facts

On January 28, 2015 at approximately 9:45 p.m., former Inkster Officer William Melendez was on duty**,** driving a fully marked patrol car with another officer**.** Melendez pulled over and arrested Floyd Dent, 57, of Detroit**,** at a location near South River Drive and Inkster Road for possessing cocaine and resisting arrest. It is alleged that, during the arrest, Melendez physically assaulted Dent, causing severe injuries that required admission to a local hospital for treatment of his injuries. On January 30, 2015**,** Dent was charged with Possession of Cocaine and Resisting and Obstructing the Police. The preliminary examination was held on March 18, 2015 before 22nd District Court Judge Sabrina Johnson; Dent was bound over on the Possession of Cocaine charge and the Resisting and Obstructing charge was dismissed.

Investigation

On March 23, 2015, the matter was referred to the Michigan State Police (MSP)**,** who conducted an investigation into the matter. When the MSP investigation concluded**,** it was turned over to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and a separate and independent investigation was conducted. WCPO reviewed police and televised video footage leading up to the arrest and assault of Dent, witness statements, police documents, radio and dispatch recordings, photographs of Dent's injuries, statements made by Dent and interviews of officers who responded to the scene where Dent was arrested.

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Conclusions

After a thorough review of the facts**,** the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has determined that in the best interests of justice**,** the Possession of Cocaine case against Floyd Dent will be dismissed.

Today the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office is charging William Melendez, 46, with Misconduct in Office Mistreatment of a Prisoner (five year maximum penalty) and Assault with Intent to Do Great Bodily Harm Less than Murder (10 year maximum penalty). Information regarding the date and time of the arraignment on the warrant will be released at a later date.

"Public confidence in the law enforcement is eroded when police officers abuse citizens. This devalues greatly the work that the majority of police officers in this country perform daily," said Prosecutor Worthy. "The alleged police brutality in this case cannot and will not be tolerated."

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