
Subject: Police rape woman, gets 21 months
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Quote:An FBI agent testified Wednesday that former Chattanooga Police Sgt. Gerry Davis raped at knifepoint a woman who had filed a complaint against him.

Agt. Tom Plantz said the incident happened in July of last year.

Judge Curtis Collier sentenced Davis to serve 18 months for his conviction for taking bribes from nightclub owners to "look the other way" on offenses at the clubs. He has already served nearly half the term.

At the sentencing hearing, Agt. Plantz told of another rape Davis allegedly carried out. He has been charged on that case and is expected to also be charged in the incident involving a knife.

Agt. Plantz said he interviewed numerous women who said Davis used his position as a police officer to seek sexual favors. He said Davis, who is black, catered to attractive blonde white women.

He told of interviewing a man who said he witnessed Davis in an incident at the Voodoo Lounge at Fourth and Market. He said Davis was off duty and was standing in a corner glaring at patrons. He said there was an attractive blonde woman in the club who was "in a really good mood, was dancing and was mildly intoxicated."

The agent said the man went outside and was sitting in his truck when he saw the woman come out and go to her vehicle and saw Davis follow. He said Davis displayed his badge to the woman, and he said she became very somber. He said he then saw Davis go around to the passenger side, get into the vehicle, and the woman began performing a sex act on him.

Agt. Plantz said in an incident in 1998 that Davis was introduced to a woman at a bar who was extremely intoxicated. He said the woman asked him for a ride to her car, but Davis instead took her to his home. The agent said Davis made advances on the woman, but she said she was not interested. He said Davis proceeded to rape her, and struck her when she resisted. That is the case that has been charged in state court.

On the case involving the alleged rape at knifepoint, the agent said Davis in 1998 stopped her while she was driving on I-75 to work at a local hospital. She said he yelled racial slurs at the white, blonde female. He said the woman stated that Davis stopped her the next two mornings and again threatened her. She said he also began calling her making threats, and her boyfriend listened to the tape.

The woman said she decided to file a complaint with police though Davis told her it would do no good since police officers stand together. The agent said it was this woman who was allegedly raped by Davis last year at her home. She apparently did not report the incident at the time, but told the agent when she was being interviewed on what she knew about Davis.

Agt. Plantz said in another case, a woman who was intoxicated left Bud's on Brainerd Road and Davis followed her. The woman said there was a video camera at the front of the car, but Davis took her out of view of the camera and began patting her down. She said he spent excessive time around her breasts and private parts and rubbed up against her.

The woman said she became frightened and started to resist him, then was taken forcibly into custody.

Davis had been in the range of 10-16 months. Judge Collier boosted that to 16-21 months. Prosecutor Gary Humble said Davis should get an even higher sentence than the 21 months due to his other activities.

Attorney David Wigler, who is handling the appeal for Davis, said he was one of the top officers on DUI arrests.

He said Davis was unable to testify at the hearing because of the upcoming rape case, but he said otherwise "he could tell a lot about these allegations."

The attorney said numerous letters were written in behalf of Davis. "I don't know if I have ever seen such an outpouring of support for a defendant."

Prosecutor Humble said Davis "violated the trust of the public and his fellow officers. He undermined the confidence of the public in the police department."

He cited allegations of "rape, excessive force, repeated gropings and all kind of such behavior."

Judge Collier said when police officers go bad, "it undermines public confidence in the law."

He said officers enjoy extraordinary power. He said they face temptations daily and have to resist the temptations.

The judge said Davis will be on three years of supervised probation upon release.

Is it just more or do the police get off easy for crimes that would send ordinary people to jail for life?