

Internal probe absolves officers of wrongdoing

Employee charged with insubordination

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel-Voice

A Las Vegas police investigation, completed Friday, has exonerated four officers accused in a pair of incidents where a civilian police employee claimed he was assaulted and verbally harassed.

In a surprising twist, the investigators have now charged the employee, Dave Wallace, with insubordination for his part in a June 27 confrontation.

Deputy Chief Mike Zagorski will

decide the fate of the 32-year-old youth diversion specialist who has had his job probation extended as a result of the incident, police spokesman Sgt. Will Minor said.

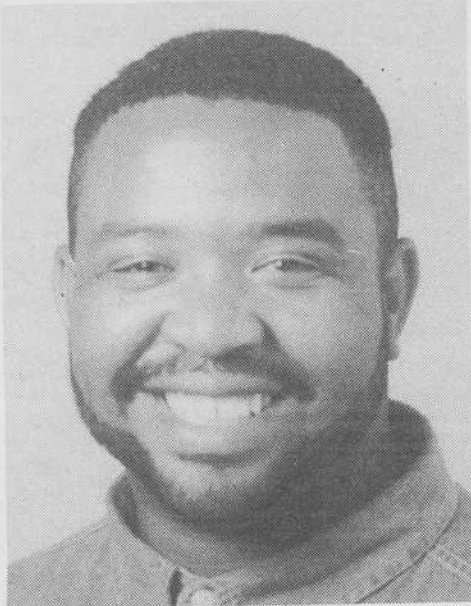
Wallace said he will appeal any disciplinary ruling - which could range from a letter of reprimand to termination.

"Insubordination!!?" Wallace asked incredulously. "What did I do?"

"A man threatened and assaulted me; this is a big disappointment," Wallace said Tuesday.

A police Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) investigation absolved Capt. Frank Barker, of the downtown area command, of an assault charge filed by Wallace who had accused the captain of shoving him into a wall earlier this summer.

Wallace accused Barker of becoming incensed after an argument over a copy of a police report. The report exonerated three other officers Wallace had accused of holding him and three clients at gun point June 7 at Wallace's 214



DAVE WALLACE

Seventh Street entertainment firm.

Responding to a call about a possible burglary, Sgt. Paul Osborn and two officers harassed the group and refused Wallace the opportunity to identify himself as a police department employee, Wallace alleged in his complaint.

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— Wallace*

Since this incident, Wallace said the department has taken a retaliatory stance against him.

According to personnel records obtained by the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, Wallace, a four-year Metro employee would have

completed his probationary status July 26. A personnel action file stamped "employee copy," dated July 26 and signed by Zagorski indicates that Wallace completed his probation and earned an annual merit increase.

Another personnel action file has since surfaced. That document mandates that Wallace's pay raise and probation period be suspended, "until current investigation is completed," the file said. A final personnel action file reinstated the raise but upheld the six-month probation extension.

Wallace is befuddled that his probation has been extended given exemplary performance evaluations as well as several appreciation letters, including one from Undersheriff Richard Winget and Las Vegas Mayor Jan Jones. He called the internal investigation "one-sided."

"We went above and beyond our duty in this investigation," said Internal affairs Lt. John Alamshaw. "We interviewed everyone and got to the truth in this matter. (Dave) Wallace may not agree (with our decision), but we got to the truth."

Alamshaw said police code stipulates that probationary status can be extended if for poor performance evaluations or pending the outcome of internal investigations.

Wallace said the truth will eventually come out. "This is God's battle and I will be vindicated," Wallace said.

Regardless of the final ruling, Wallace said: "I am going to survive and stay active in the community."

Metro promotes first black women sergeants

By John Stephens
Sentinel-Voice

While North Las Vegas last Saturday heralded Nevada's first black police chief, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department scored firsts of its own, appointing Las Vegas' first two black woman sergeants.

"It excites me to know that I am

directly responsible for the shaping and guidance of my officers so that one day they too can be future sergeants," said new sergeant Juanita Goode.

Goode, 28, and Priscilla Green are Metro's newest top cops.

"It's really a good feeling to affect peoples lives and work with the community," the 34-year-old Green said.

As sergeants, they will supervise seven-officer crews during 10-hour shifts. Their duties will include monitoring, evaluating and training staff as well as reviewing staff performance. Goode and Green will also work to ensure the competency of preliminary investigators - usually to first officers to



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Juanita Goode and Priscilla Green tested in the top 12 out of numerous officers eligible for the positions.

respond to calls.

"Both of them bring a strong background to law enforcement," Lt. Mike McClary said.

Police spokesman Sgt. Will Minor praised the new sergeants for working hard to achieve their goals.

A Portsmouth, Va., native, Goode began her law enforcement career 10 years ago in the Air Force's military police. Before her promotion, she worked as project coordinator for the Kids in Action program and was the first black woman to be an undercover vice detective and police recruiter.

The mother of a nine-year-old, Goode is also a student at the Community College of

(See Sergeants, Page 16)



Poets Tracey D. Harris, right, and Norma Harris-Hagan.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER TO SIGN BOOKS

Their poetic voices are filled with despair, hope, comfort and empathy. The book, *Meanderings Through the Soul of a Mother-Daughter*, is the combined effort of a mother, Norma Harris-Hagan, who has been writing poetry for years, and the pleasant discovery that daughter Tracey was also writing poetry while a high school student. The result for Harris-Hagan, an art teacher at Tobler Elementary School, and Tracey, a vocalist with the Moments at New York-New York, is a creation of light, wit and honesty. Books will be signed Friday, August 15 at 7 p.m.

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