

Rogue police officer used racial profiling to harass

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - For more than a decade, Whitmarsh Township officials and police commanders looked the other way while a rogue sergeant used racial profiling to illegally arrest Blacks, according to current and former police officers.

They say allegations that Sgt. Guy Anhorn was targeting African-American motorists — mainly Philadelphia residents — were known even in neighboring police departments. And they say Whitmarsh officials were repeatedly warned about him.

"He was protected... by the chief," said former Whitmarsh Police Sgt. Scott C. McElree in a sworn statement in a federal civil-rights lawsuit against the township. "... Even, I guess, up the chain of command to the township manager."

Officers said Montgomery County prosecutors also knew about Anhorn's conduct but did nothing — a contention that the District Attorney's Office denied.

Anhorn's lawyer, Anthony R. Sherr, said his client did nothing wrong. The allegations against him amounted to "rumor and innuendo and nothing more," Sherr said.

In court papers, township

lawyers said there was no evidence that Whitmarsh officials were in any way responsible for Anhorn's alleged misconduct.

Allegations about Anhorn first surfaced in early 2003. In a striking break in what criminologists call the "blue wall of silence," half of the officers on the Whitmarsh force came forward to complain about Anhorn targeting Blacks.

Several said he frequently referred to African-Americans as "critters" or "porch monkeys."

Anhorn retired with full benefits in 2003, shortly after a lawsuit was filed by a group of five African-American men, alleging they were victims of Anhorn's abuse.

U.S. District Judge Anita B. Brody in a February court filing said the record showed that there was "overwhelming affirmative evidence... that Anhorn exhibited racial bias towards African-Americans."

And in sworn statements as part of the ongoing lawsuit, officers have revealed how the problems in Whitmarsh — a nearly all-White Montgomery County suburb — went far beyond one sergeant.

They described a system where racial profiling was

well-known and tolerated by police brass.

"No one did anything but turn a blind eye," said John I. McMahon Jr., one of the lawyers representing the five men.

FBI spokeswoman Jerri Williams said there was an active criminal investigation of officers from the Whitmarsh department, but she did not identify them.

Whitmarsh police officers have made a variety of allegations against Anhorn and others in documents from the suit. Among the allegations:

Officers witnessed Anhorn falsify arrest documents and give perjured testimony in court to frame African-Americans. Eight officers were later reprimanded for failing to report the abuses.

At least two Black men were strip-searched without any legal basis for their detention.

In training subordinates, Anhorn regularly instructed them to arrest Blacks without legal justification, and only later seek evidence to justify charges.

When the allegations surfaced, three officers said, the department's second-in-command improperly attempted to influence witnesses who were testifying in the

township's investigation of Anhorn.

One former officer said he was concerned in the 1970s about why Anhorn searched an African-American man. Other officers said they knew about the profiling for a decade.

Officer Stephen Dolan testified in a deposition that three of Whitmarsh's other sergeants warned him about Anhorn.

"Sgt. [Donald] Bowers even told me he wrote a memo to the chief, forecasting there would be problems in the way Sgt. Anhorn conducted his vehicle stops and searches," Dolan said, adding that Bowers told him about the memo in 1994 or 1995.

"He referred to the way Sgt. Anhorn did some of his stops and searches that at times stepped over the line."

Bowers, who left the Whitmarsh post on Saturday to become police chief of New Britain Borough in Bucks County, said in a separate deposition that he had heard only "complaints in general terms" about Anhorn's illegal searches of Blacks.

However, Bowers said he told a police recruit that "if he received an order from anybody on the police department that he questioned, check with his supervisor or senior officer, and if he had received an order from Sgt. Anhorn, think about it three times."

Anhorn, 59, a husky Vietnam War veteran, worked for the Whitmarsh police for 33 years. An aggressive street cop, he was twice decorated for valor by the county's police union.

Anhorn and his defenders say he didn't unfairly target anyone, and they insist the people that he arrested had in fact committed crimes. Two of the men suing Anhorn are currently in prison — one for crimes he committed before he was stopped by Anhorn, and one for drug and gun convictions a year after he filed suit. And some of the incidents in which Anhorn was accused of misconduct involved White subjects.

But others said they were stopped solely because of their race. Anhorn would search their cars without warrants or any real cause; if he found nothing, he would let

them go.

Officer Dolan told investigators about one incident from December 2002:

Dolan came to the assistance of Anhorn, who had stopped a car. The driver was outside the car and complaining that he had simply asked Anhorn for directions and Anhorn started the search.

Anhorn checked to see if the man had a criminal record and asked the motorist if he had a receipt for purchasing cigarettes that Anhorn found during his search. Finding nothing else, Anhorn let the man leave. No citations were issued. But afterward, Anhorn broadcast over the police radio that the man was a "mental case."

Anhorn told investigators he could not remember the incident.

The racial-profiling allegations began to come to light after Whitmarsh's police chief died of heart failure in 2002, and a consultant searching for a replacement began to interview Whitmarsh officers.

The consultant, Charles Hale, got an earful about Anhorn.

(See Profiling, Page 8)

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(Continued from Page 2) there must be a starting point, and Rose Warren, Kirk Adams, Antonello and Paul Culley Elementary Schools will serve as the launching pad for the Superintendent's Schools Region.

Beginning this fall, these educational institutes will develop the Empowerment School model and will be under the direct supervision of Rulfes, thus they will be cleared of obligations to report to their current regional offices.

With the new Empowerment model comes new staff, decreased class sizes and students could even see longer school days.

Rulfes has proposed that "prospective new principals will be offered a 5 percent pay increase to take on the challenge."

With these four initial schools, Rulfes' efforts won't be exhausted with the Empowerment school modifications, he also plans to search for assistance outside of the school district.

"I will be soliciting business partners to assist these

Empowerment Schools, especially in areas we think mentoring will be helpful," Rulfes explained.

In addition to increasing academic achievement, he hopes that by implementing Empowerment Schools he can demonstrate to the taxpayers that when certain school restraints are allevi-

ated, accomplishing student achievement becomes an easier task.

"I'm hopeful that some of these opportunities for schools will yield [positive] results. [This way tax payers] will consider [Superintendent Schools] as a wise investment that will pay off," Rulfes said.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter

Author's Symposium

April 29, 2006
1 o'clock to 4 o'clock p.m.
Las Vegas Library
833 Las Vegas Blvd. No. (near Bonanza)

The symposium features three authors

- Victoria Christopher Murray, author of *Grown Folks Business, Blessed Assurance, Joy and Temptation*
- Dr. Teddy Osantowski, author of *Black Landed Gentry of Montgomery County*
- Linda Dougan, co-author (with Phyllis Beach) of *A Spiritual Guide for the Pregnant Woman*

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CLARK COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLIC IS INVITED

to give input and identify key educational issues related to a
**CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

PURPOSE OF THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW?

- To identify exemplary district programs and practices
- To identify ways the district can save funds, improve management, and increase efficiency and effectiveness to ensure a quality education for all Clark County public school students.

Community participation is needed! Please attend.

Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2006
Time: Drop in between 5-7 p.m. to express your views and/or meet the consultants. You do not have to stay for the entire time to be heard.

Locations*: **Edward Greer Education Center**
2832 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas
Trustees Board Room

Green Valley High School
460 N. Arroyo Grande Blvd., Henderson

Bunker Elementary School
6350 Peak Drive, Las Vegas

Elizondo Elementary School
4865 Goldfield Street, North Las Vegas

Derfelt Elementary School
1900 S. Lisa Lane, Las Vegas

* all sessions will be simultaneous

Commendations, recommendations, suggestions, opinions, and concerns are invited.

Personnel accepting your comments are from MGT of America, a firm under contract with Nevada's Legislative Council Bureau.