

Albuquerque judge, police accused in rapes of prostitutes - Border Cafe

typepad.com

By Diana Washington Valdez

ALBUQUERQUE - In recent years, a New Mexico state police officer, an Albuquerque police officer and a Second Judicial District Court judge were among those accused of sexually assaulting women, including two prostitutes, according to court records, adding to the fears of victims' relatives that the city's law enforcement environment may not be conducive to solving the major West Mesa serial murder case.

Here are some highlights of cases gleaned from court and police records and news media accounts:

*2013: A former prostitute alleges in a lawsuit filed in federal court that ex-New Mexico state policeman Timothy Carlson raped her in 2011 in his police vehicle.

"During 2011 through 2012, plaintiff was a prostitute in Albuquerque ... to support her drug addiction, which in turn resulted from post-traumatic stress disorder suffered as a 16-year-old child," according to the filings.

The 2013 lawsuit alleges that the woman reported the rape to police in 2012, and that Albuquerque police "had contacted another female prostitute who had a similar experience with defendant Carlson."

The criminal charge against Carlson, who was arrested in 2012, was dismissed.

Through his lawyers, Carlson has denied the allegations, and contended that the sex was consensual.

*2011: Judicial District Judge Albert Murdoch was arrested after a prostitute accused him of raping her. He was released after posting a \$50,000 bond, and resigned his post. Before the scandal, he had presided over prostitution cases.

* 2010: Civil rights lawyer Mary Han is found dead in her home. Han was known for successfully winning civil rights cases against the Albuquerque police. The law firm she belonged to represents the former prostitute in the current case against Carlson.

Controversy erupted after authorities ruled Han's death a suicide. State Attorney General Gary King issued a statement in 2013 alleging that Han did not kill herself and that Albuquerque police botched the investigation.

*2007: Albuquerque police officer David Maes was arrested after a woman he was tasked to guard at a hospital accused him of brutally raping her at VeteransPark, where he stopped after

he left to transport her from the hospital to the MetroDetentionCenter.

Maes pleaded no contest to the charge in 2010, which means he did not admit guilt, and was sentenced to five years' probation. He resigned from the police department and moved to Colorado. His record will be expunged at the end of his probation. The city settled a lawsuit by the victim for \$575,000.

*2005: Police announced the arrest of Tim Chavez, an Albuquerque vice squad detective, who was accused of kidnapping and having sex with a 14-year-old girl. A jury acquitted him after his trial in 2007.

*2004: Albuquerque police Sgt. Mike Garcia was charged with having sex with a 12-year-old girl. His trial ended after the jury failed to reach a verdict.

*2004: KRQE TV news reported that a state police officer resigned after being accused of raping a domestic violence victim in his patrol car. His name was not disclosed.

*2003: Albuquerque police fatally shot Karen Yontz after allegedly confusing her with a fleeing robber. Yontz, a former investigator for federal and state prosecutors, was helping to investigate a municipal judge in an adjacent county who was accused of trading judicial favors for sex.

Albuquerque police have racked up more than 20 fatalities in police-involved shootings since 2010, and after pleas from the public, the U.S. Department of Justice launched a civil rights investigation into the department's use of force.

"The investigation will focus on allegations that (Albuquerque) officers engage in use of excessive force, including use of unreasonable deadly force, in their encounters with civilians," the DOJ said in a statement Nov. 27, 2012. The findings are expected to be announced early this year.

Ray Schultz was the police chief for eight years until he retired last September. He oversaw a force in "DukeCity" of 1,100 officers until his retirement. Alan Banks, the interim police chief, was unavailable for comment.

Copyright 2014 by the El Paso Times and MediaNews Group and/or its wire services and suppliers. None of the content on this site may be republished or reused in any way without the written permission of the copyright holder.