

Police officers named by citizens in lawsuits

By JACKIE KLEIN

Two Southfield police officers have been named in a \$200,000 lawsuit for alleged false arrest and assault and battery.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Detroit against officers William Middleton and Robert Zimme by a Lansing couple, Donald Frost, 35, and his wife Maxine, 34.

MRS. FROST was arrested for allegedly driving under the influence of liquor and assaulting a police officer. Her husband was arrested for allegedly assaulting Middleton in an altercation between the two. The lawsuit claims the arrests were unjustified and without probable cause. It further claimed the officers physically assaulted the couple without just cause.

Mrs. Frost was arrested by Middleton and fellow officer John Shelton also has been named in a suit filed by Southfield taxcab driver Leonard Lowenstein in U.S. District Court. Lowenstein charges that Middleton and Shelton conspired to deprive him of his constitutional rights through a campaign of harassment and humiliation.

Lowenstein is asking for \$500,000 for loss of earnings and \$5 million in punitive damages.

for driving in an erratic manner," said Phillip Poole, Southfield assistant city attorney. Poole said Mrs. Frost pleaded guilty to driving while impaired and was fined \$75 in 40th District Court Oct. 7, 1975.

"Charges of assaulting a police officer were dismissed for three months with the condition that the Frosts get into no further trouble," Poole said. "There were no arrests for those charges."

Zimme was cited for the scene after Middleton made a routine traffic arrest. Poole said Frost apparently assaulted Middleton while the officer was handling the traffic arrest. Poole said.

The Frosts, however, claim they were deprived of their constitutional rights and suffered humiliation, embarrassment and physical injury. The alleged they were falsely accused and imprisoned by the officers.

IN THE SECOND SUIT, Middleton and Shelton are charged with repeatedly harassing Lowenstein over a period of years.

Lowenstein charges that the two officers began their "unrelenting campaign of harassment" against him in 1970. He cites a number of incidents in which he was stopped by one of the two traffic officers. Two of the incidents resulted in his arrest. Lowenstein said on charges ranging from failing to stop for a stop sign to improper lane usage.

In the past six years, Lowenstein said, he has talked to supervisory personnel in the traffic safety division of the police department in an effort to end the alleged harassment. Lowenstein contends that the commanding officers are either unwilling or unable to control Middleton and Shelton

and end what he claims is "non-professional conduct."

The cab driver is asking the court for a temporary injunction restraining the two officers from interfering in his business.

He is also asking the court to order the police officers to obtain psychological or psychiatric assistance.

In his suit Lowenstein has requested that the matter be heard in a trial by jury.

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Serious crime is down in city

By JACKIE KLEIN

Incidence of serious crime in Southfield dropped 1.8 per cent the first 10 months of this year compared to the same 1975 period.

Through October, 5,351 major crimes were reported according to Southfield Police Department. In the first 10 months of 1975, the number of recorded crimes totaled 5,451.

While the crime rate is climbing in other communities of Southfield's size, the picture here is getting brighter, said Police Chief Milton Sackett. "But the department is continually striving for larger reductions in criminal activity."

"I attribute the decrease to the combined effort of members of the community and police officers. More and more citizens are becoming involved reporting crimes and testifying in court."

Neighbors are watching each other's homes and officers are concentrating on

surveillance of residential subdivisions as well as the business community."

THE BLOT on the otherwise improved crime rate was eight murders committed in Southfield through October compared to two in the same 1975 time span.

Mark Sebbens, a 15-year-old Ferndale youth, was the first murder victim in Southfield this year. His sexually molested body was discovered in February in an office building parking lot on Ten Mile and Greenfield.

Also in February, four persons, including a two-year-old girl, were shot to death in a drug-related incident at Coach House Apartments in the Nine Mile/Providence Drive area. Two suspects have been arrested for the murder.

Dr. Cynthia Meder, of Ann Arbor, a physician at DEBOCO was found dead in her sports car on Northwestern Highway near Inkster in July. The crime remains un-

solved although police are looking for two prime suspects.

DR. GINGOR Guey was discovered murdered on the lawn of his Inkster Road home in Southfield in September. The crime is under investigation.

Police report 10 incidents of rape in the first 10 months of both 1975 and 1976. Robbery was down 11 per cent to 112 reports through October from 127 in the first 10 months of this year.

Police records indicate a significant decline in residential and non-residential burglaries through October. Breakings and entries of homes dropped 31 per cent from 571 to 394 incidents. Office and commercial building burglaries were down 43 per cent from 447 to 253.

Pickpockets were busier than usual this year. The rate of increase is 34 per cent from 11 to 15 incidents. Purse snatchers, however, were less active. The rate de-

clined 41 per cent from 22 to 13 cases. Shoplifting was up 36 per cent. Southfield police, Northland security guards and judges hope to keep the lawyers in check during the holidays by clamping down on offenders.

SHOPLIFTING INCIDENTS rose from 511 through October 1975 to 694 the first 10 months of this year. Thieves from auto, another popular form of shopping centers, showed a 14 per cent drop from 411 to 354. Auto accessories were more popular with thieves, bringing the rate of increase in violations to 60 per cent. Incidents rose from 766 to 1,291.

Bicycle thefts are down 28 per cent from 498 to 359. Larceny from buildings decreased 19 per cent with 484 incidents reported through October. 1975 and 633 reported through this October.

Stein auto reports showed a four per cent hike from 662 to 691.

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Hold the pickle...

With or without the pickle and the lettuce or driven family, developers of a proposed Burger King in Southfield won't be having it their way.

City Council recently turned down the request of BK Southfield Development Co for a new "Home of the Whopper" on the south side of Twelve Mile between Northwestern Highway and Case. The vote was 6-2 with Councilmen Jean McDermott and Philip Peterson dissenting and Martin H. Lander abstaining.

The first request for the restaurant was voted by council members last July because of proposed drive through facilities. Representatives of the chain agreed to eliminate the drive-in, but a council majority Nov. 15 opposed the fast food Burger King.

Rick H. Land, architect-developer and franchisee, maintained the restaurant would be a cut above the typical Burger King and would have added amenities.

The reaction of some nearby homeowners was that "a Burger King is still a Burger King no matter how beautiful. Residents said the restaurant could be joined by Red Barn, Domino's and others

as fast food operations tend to cluster."

Councilman Nelson Chase contended the proposed restaurant would set a precedent and would be unacceptable in the area. Councilman John Matosky added that Burger King would compound traffic on Northwestern and Twelve Mile and is too close to a heavily populated area with 12 restaurants in a half-mile radius.

Mrs. McDermott said Southfield Planning Commission recommended approval for the eating spot and "I have the utmost faith in the expertise of our planners."

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