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Woman's lawsuit claims she was raped by police officer

From CITY NEWS SERVICE 11.OCT.07

LOS ANGELES — A woman has filed a federal lawsuit against the city of Montebello and others, alleging that a uniformed Montebello police officer raped her.

Representatives from Montebello and its police department were not available for comment.

According to the suit, in November 2006, Officer Hugo Flores pulled the woman over on suspicion that she was driving while intoxicated. The woman had failed to come to a complete stop at a stop sign and was intoxicated.

After she was pulled over, Flores instructed the woman to step out of her car and sit on the curb near the vehicle, the lawsuit said. Flores then informed the woman that it was her "lucky day" and he would not arrest her for driving under the influence of alcohol, but issue her a ticket for driving with a suspended license and would follow her home.

The woman then drove home in her car while Flores followed close behind in his patrol car, according to the suit.

When the woman arrived home, Flores then got out of his patrol car and followed her inside the house, "where he sexually assaulted, raped and sexually penetrated" her, the lawsuit said.

The woman was "further unable to resist ... because she was intoxicated, which condition was so obvious that Flores knew or reasonably should have known about it," according to the lawsuit.

As Flores left her home, he said something to the effect that the woman could "consider her ticket gone," the suit said.

The woman then called 911 to report the alleged rape. The investigation was handled by the Sheriff's Department, the lawsuit said. It was unclear if there was an arrest made or charges filed.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages and attorneys' fees.

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