



## Cases in jeopardy as 3rd police victim emerges, officials say

Posted: Jan 05, 2010 4:57 PM EST Updated: Feb 05, 2010 4:54 PM EST

By Brigida Mack - [email](#) & Steve Crump - [email](#)

CHARLOTTE, NC (WBTV) - The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department has identified another victim in the case of an officer who was charged last week with sexually assaulting two female victims.

During a press conference Tuesday afternoon, CMPD Chief Rodney Monroe said former officer Marcus Jackson allegedly stopped the third victim in two different traffic stops. The first traffic stop occurred in early November and the other one happened in late December. During the Dec. 29th traffic stop, the victim had a male passenger in her car.

The passenger tried to intervene while the victim was allegedly being assaulted by Jackson, Monroe said. Jackson arrested and charged the male passenger, but those charges have since been dropped.

CMPD learned about this most recent case from two sources including another CMPD officer who responded to the scene to assist Jackson during the traffic stop and a Mecklenburg County Sheriff's deputy who interviewed the male passenger after he was brought to the jail.

Monroe made it very clear the community should never be afraid to question an officer's actions just because they wear a badge.

"We can't just idly sit back and for the sake of someone being a police officer feel that every action is a correct action," Monroe said. "If people feel that something is done or said that's inappropriate, you have to come forward."

Jackson was arrested on Dec. 30 and charged with sexual battery, second-degree sexual offense, kidnapping, extortion, indecent exposure and two counts of felonious restraint. He is accused of assaulting all three victims during traffic stops while driving a marked CMPD car. Jackson remains in the Mecklenburg County jail on a \$360,000 bond.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office also said Tuesday that charges could be dropped in nearly 50 cases in which Jackson was the arresting officer.

"In these situations where an officer has been fired and is accused of criminal conduct, it is unreasonable for us to pursue cases in which he is the only witness because he is not a believable witness," said Mecklenburg County Deputy District Attorney Bart Menser.

Most traffic cases involving a uniformed officer only have the one officer as a witness Menser said.

"Those cases would be things like speeding or DWI and could not go forward without the officer," Menser said. "We look at all the cases to see whether the discredited officer is the only officer, or is essential to proving the case."

If Jackson is not the only witness, or if he's not essential to the case, Menser said they will proceed with prosecuting it.

Mecklenburg County Assistant District Attorney Bruce Lillie is checking to see if any of former officer Jackson's cases can be tried in court.

"Fortunately, most of those are minor traffic cases, registration violations, driving with no insurance, a few speeding, driving while license is revoked," Lilly said. "Luckily, there aren't too many that are serious cases."

Scott Broyles teaches at the Charlotte School of Law. He says Jackson's name affiliated with any criminal case will weaken the police department's position in the courtroom.

"His credibility is shot and the damage done to your cases is tremendous," Broyles said.

Defense Attorney Chris Connolly says he and his colleagues often check with one another to see if a law enforcement officer's background could have an impact on a fair trial for their client.

"We will compare notes, we will talk to each other, they may know about an officer, if he's in trouble like this or if he's had some other trouble that may not have surfaced," Connolly said.

The district attorney's office, however, is cautioning defense lawyers not rush to judgment just yet about whether all of the cases involving Jackson will be thrown out.

"We're gonna make the final calls on the cases," Lillie said.

Copyright 2009 WBTV. All rights reserved.