

Detroit cop costs city

■ Violent policeman costs taxpayers more than a \$1 million

By Diane Bukowski
The Michigan Citizen

Detroit Police Officer William Melendez swaggered into court in September, his tall, muscular physique outfitted in a tight-fitting turtleneck shirt. He testified against Cornell Emmanuel Squires with his gun jammed in his belt, on display for the jury.

Melendez swore that Squires, appearing to be armed, attempted to carjack him in 1999. Squires was acquitted of carjacking, but convicted of "assault with intent to rob armed." He will be sentenced in Judge Kym Worthy's courtroom December 18. Last month, Melendez testified against Squires' friend Quintin Baxter at a preliminary exam on the same charges, as well as a felony firearms count.

What did not come out in his testimony is that Melendez ranks among the top ten Detroit police officers for num-

Justice Dept. to investigate police killings

By Allison Jones

Special to the Michigan Citizen

The U.S. Justice Department will conduct an investigation into the Detroit Police Department apolices

bers of lawsuits settled against him, four actions totaling \$1.2 million. More significantly, records show that his superiors have found him guilty of improper conduct, assault and battery, home invasion, false arrest after false reports, and obstruction of justice.

and practices, as well as treatment of jailed prisoners. It is also conducting criminal probes into a number of fatal shootings by officers.

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Melendez, called "Robocop" by some in the Fourth Precinct, helped kill a man in 1996. The city settled that case for \$1 million on behalf of the family of 32-year-old Lou David Adkins, after attorneys Geoffrey Fieger and Ronald Bowling de-

manded the psychiatric records of Melendez' partner, Dominic Gonzalez.

Gonzalez saw a psychiatrist repeatedly after he and Melendez shot Adkins seven times, and eventually sought a disability retirement. Records show that Adkins was shot five times, with two shots at close range to the head administered while Adkins lay on the ground.

The officers said they stopped Adkins on August 3, 1996 at Vernor and Lawndale after Adkins' stepsister Cathy Miller called 911 saying Adkins had a gun. Miller later



Adkins with daughter in undated photo.

testified in a deposition that her claim was only a ruse be-

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