

Port Jervis police searching for men who beat NYPD cop

Group attacked off-duty cop outside of deli

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Witnesses, including the owner of Alice's Deli Marlene Barton, said they saw up to seven young men attack a black man who identified himself as an off-duty NYPD officer early yesterday morning in front of the deli. TH-R/John Sullivan

By [John Sullivan](#)
also by [Ashley Kelly](#)

Times Herald-Record
November 13, 2006

Port Jervis — A day after a New York City police officer was beaten on the streets of Port Jervis, police continue searching for suspects.

Port Jervis Mayor Gary Lopriore said today that the beating is not a reflection of the crime rate in the fourth ward of Port Jervis. "This appears to be an isolated incident," Lopriore said.

At some point during the fight in front of Alice's Deli yesterday morning, Adrean King identified himself to the men surrounding him as a New York City cop.

The information didn't stop his assailants, who kicked and punched him in unison, even after he was on the ground, witnesses said.

"They were beating the living day lights out of this one poor " guy," said Marlene Barton, the owner of the deli. "They were just beating the living (expletive) out of him."

Barton said she ran out to help the victim after she called the police and the assailants scattered. The man, who identified himself to witnesses as a New York City police officer, appeared bloodied and with a broken leg, she said.

"His leg was twisted and shaped funny," Barton said.

When Barton asked if he was all right, the cop replied weakly, "no," she said.

A friend of the victim transported him to Bon Secours Community Hospital, just a block away, where hospital officials said he was treated and released around 10 a.m.

Port Jervis police said yesterday that they still had no suspects in the attack, which locals describe as brutal in a part of town known for its bad seeds.

Police officials said the attack at 7:30 a.m. involved anywhere from four to five assailants and occurred after a brief confrontation between the victim and his attackers in another location.

Police declined to reveal the identity of the victim.

A woman at King's residence in Port Jervis, however, said that her husband was the NYPD officer who was attacked. She said he works for the 44th Precinct in the Bronx, which includes the Grand Concourse and Yankee Stadium. The information was later confirmed by the NYPD.

The woman, who declined further comment, said her husband was recovering at home.

According to Barton and several other witnesses, a group of five to seven young men walked down Ball Street to the deli, just as a trickle of Sunday morning customers started coming in for egg sandwiches and coffee.

Two of the young men — one a tall, stocky man whose identification said he was 24 years old — came into the store and bought two packs of Newports with a \$100 dollar bill just before the fight outside the deli started.

Both the men reeked of alcohol, Barton said.

The stocky man ran out to assist in the assault, and his friend stayed behind to get his change, Barton said. Witnesses said they did not know the motivation for the attack.

At least two witnesses, who requested anonymity, said they saw the fight from a distance. One said he heard the assailants, who were white or Hispanic, scream the "n" word at King, who is black. Barton said she heard no such language and that the assault did not appear racially motivated.

The other anonymous witness, who lives several houses down from the deli, said that he saw two of the assailants leave a nearby Ball Street home to join the attack. The witness identified the two men as people he had seen at the house drinking and partying.

The two were carrying a bucket of white paint, apparently looking to vandalize property, the witness said. Criminal mischief and fighting among groups of young people are common to the 4th Ward, where the assault took place, residents of the area said. Most of the fights, however, usually end as soon as they begin. "It's just usually kids duking it out," said Barton. "When the police come, they leave. "This is the first time that I've seen real damage done to someone."

Final suspect surrenders in off-duty cop's beating

November 16, 2006

Port Jervis – Port Jervis police yesterday arrested the last of four suspects in the Sunday morning beating of an off-duty New York City police officer, Chief Craig Cherry said.

Michael Gurliacci, 24, of Sparrowbush, surrendered at city police headquarters on Hammond Street at about 3:15 p.m. He was charged with gang assault, a felony, and violation of parole.

Police believe Gurliacci was headed to Virginia, where he has family, but changed his mind and returned to New York.

Gurliacci was on parole for selling cocaine last year in Port Jervis.

He and three other men are accused of attacking Adrean King, 33, near King's Front Street home. An Orange County grand jury will begin hearing testimony about the attack today. Police said King, who is black, was a target of racial slurs from the four suspects, who are white.

Gurliacci was arraigned before City Court Judge Robert Onofry and sent to Orange County Jail in lieu of \$150,000 bail.

3 charged in beating of officer

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Alice's Deli in Port Jervis, where an off-duty NYPD cop confronted his attackers Sunday morning. Three men have been charged.

By Ashley Kelly

Times Herald-Record
November 14, 2006

Port Jervis — Three men were charged yesterday with beating a New York City cop around the corner from his Port Jervis home, police said.

The men are accused of using racial slurs while they attacked Adrean King early Sunday. King is black. The accused attackers are white, police said.

According to police, King confronted Matthew Howell, 25, James Conklin, 24, and Shawn Kurtz, 25, at Alice's Deli on Ball Street at around 7:30 a.m. — shortly after he noticed them breaking off pieces of a wooden fence in front of his house, which is a block away from the deli.

When King, 33, approached the men about the incident, they began to attack him, Port Jervis police Chief Craig Cherry said. Cherry said the men had been drinking.

The three men have prior criminal records, police said. Each was charged with second-degree gang assault, a felony. Police were searching last night for a fourth suspect.

King was taken to Bon Secours Community Hospital with several scrapes and bruises. He is now resting at home. His knee was also injured in the brawl, police said.

"These are little kids trying to make a name for themselves," said Tank Brown, a resident of Ball Street, who moved to Port Jervis from Middletown two years ago.

"What goes on here doesn't compare to what happens in Middletown and Newburgh," Brown said. The beating happened in the 4th Ward — a neighborhood whose small, understated houses sit just steps away from one another.

One resident refused to give her name for fear of retaliation. "I don't feel comfortable letting my daughter walk home from work, even though she works a few blocks away," she said.

Ellen Oliver, 49, has lived in the ward her entire life. Oliver said she has seen a shift in crime in the neighborhood in the past 10 years — with more drug activity and street fights.

"We used to be able to keep our doors unlocked," Oliver said.

The Kings bought their house in Port Jervis in February 2005, according to a deed on file in the Orange County clerk's office. Before that, they lived in the east Bronx.

King joined the NYPD four years ago and holds the rank of patrolman, a department spokesman said yesterday. He's assigned to the 44th Precinct in the Bronx, a precinct with a population of about 125,000. Its best-known landmark is Yankee Stadium.

Beatings like the one that King suffered aren't commonplace in Port Jervis. In 2001, city police handled 60 cases of serious assault. That number fell to 11 last year, according to statistics reported by the police department to the state Department of Criminal Justice Services.

The beating was discussed yesterday on NYPD Rant, an Internet message board that gives cops a place to vent, anonymously and electronically.

"I'd like to wish the officer a speedy recovery, and that I hope he comes back 100%. That story is horrendous! If those thugs could do that to a MOS (member of service), they surely have no respect for anyone! The book needs to be thrown at these low lifes!" one contributor to the site wrote yesterday.

Reporter Oliver Mackson contributed to this report.

Warrant obtained for 4th Port suspect

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Michael Gurliacci Photo provided

By Ashley Kelly

Times Herald-Record
November 15, 2006

Port Jervis — City police obtained an arrest warrant yesterday for the fourth man accused of beating an off-duty New York City cop near his Front Street home.

Michael Gurliacci, 24, of Sparrowbush, has been on the lam since Monday night, when police arrested three other suspects in the weekend beating. Matthew Howell, James Conklin and Shawn Kurtz were each charged with second-degree gang assault, a felony. Police said that the men beat 33-year-old Adrean King, who is black, and shouted racial slurs at him. His accused attackers are white.

All four suspects could face enhanced penalties if they're charged with assault as a hate crime. But the slurs, by themselves, aren't enough to prove that King was the victim of a hate crime.

"The person has to be targeted specifically because of their race," Orange County Senior Assistant District Attorney John Geidel said yesterday, as prosecutors prepared to present the case to a grand jury.

For example, if the attackers were shouting slurs as they came upon their victim, Geidel said, "You can say they targeted him, based on those circumstances."

Sorting out who said what will begin tomorrow, when a grand jury begins hearing testimony in the case. The four suspects have all done state prison time, according to court records. Conklin, 24, pleaded guilty in January to selling cocaine in Port Jervis. He was arrested three weeks after being paroled.

Gurliacci, 24, also sold cocaine in Port Jervis in 2005. Records show that he was paroled in May. Howell, 25, caught a break in 2002 when he pleaded guilty to attempted burglary, was placed on probation and was ordered to go to rehab. But he walked away from the rehab center without telling his probation officer, and wound up getting resentenced to one to three years in state prison.

Kurtz, 25, pleaded guilty to attempted robbery in 2000. He was paroled in 2001.

Officer tells his story of being attacked

By Ashley Kelly

Times Herald-Record
November 18, 2006

Adrean King is a New York City cop. He is from the Bronx, but he moved his family to Port Jervis almost two years ago for two reasons: to escape "the fast-paced life" of the city and because he thinks Port Jervis is a nice town.

On the beat at the 44th Precinct in the Bronx, King has seen his share of senseless violence. But at about 7:30 a.m. Nov. 12 on Ball Street, in front of Alice's Deli — a block away from his front door — King became a victim of such violence in his peaceful, adopted river town.

This is King's story, as told to Ashley Kelly yesterday:

"I was on my way to the police station. A few moments earlier, a group of men were outside my house tearing off parts of my fence. I had never seen them before." (It is unclear to police what the men's motive was.)

"Once I reached Alice's Deli, I saw the men again. The men confronted me.

"I guess they still wanted to prove that they were the tough guys they were pretending to be.

"They hit and kicked me with their fists, boots and sneakers." It lasted for three minutes.

"While on the ground, I wasn't thinking about if I would be injured from this. I hoped to God that I wouldn't lose my life.

"There were onlookers around — no one helped. The men continued to beat me.

"While they hit me, they used the 'N' word. But these guys were just ignorant. They probably would have said that word to anyone. They were ignorant words from ignorant people. I've been called worse.

"I wasn't in uniform. I wasn't carrying an off-duty gun. I didn't feel the need to defend myself.

"When an officer is off-duty, they're just as much of a civilian as anyone else. They can fall victim to the same crimes. No one is above the law, and crime doesn't take any favorites.

"My knee is still injured from the beating, and it's hard for me to stand on my feet. I can move around, but I'm confined to my home.

"I haven't been to work since the incident. I don't know when I will be able to go back.

"I don't regret living in Port Jervis. I actually like it here.

"The people here have been really kind to me and my family. We've been here for about two years now. We moved from the Bronx to escape a fast-paced life. Things like this can happen anywhere.

"I am a religious man. Right is right and wrong is wrong. I probably would have more forgiveness if it was one-on-one, maybe then I could understand, but it doesn't mean I forgive.

"If they could face what they did and face it as men, maybe then I could accept and forgive them."

Matthew Howell, 25, James Conklin, 24, Shawn Kurtz, 25, and Michael Gurliacci, 24, were each charged with second-degree gang assault, a felony, in the beating of King. An Orange County grand jury began hearing testimony about the attack on Thursday.

Howell, Conklin and Kurtz, all of Port Jervis, are in Orange County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 bail. Gurliacci, of Sparrowbush, is in Orange County Jail in lieu of \$150,000 bail.

Reader Reaction

katie7 *November 22, 2006 08:20 AM*

port jervis is not a racial town it depends your likes and dislikes myself i feel if you stick to your own race there shouldn,t be any trouble but when you got idots like this that attack people just for gp they deserve everything they got coming to them,this man and his family has a right to live here just as well as we do,we can all get along clean these hoodlums off the street.the kate

jburger *November 20, 2006 04:33 PM*

I hope they get the maximum sentence for what they've done. This isn't the first time Gurliacci has attacked a black person, and I'm sure it's not the last. He obviously is a very ignorant person to have such hatred for other races. Can't we all just get along.

the_alex *November 20, 2006 02:41 PM*

port jervis is a racail town to live in!!!!!!