

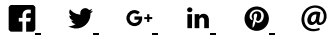


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Attorney: Deputy's shot injured man's eye

By John Toole

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PLAISTOW — A Massachusetts man suffered an eye injury when a shot fired by a sheriff's deputy shattered car glass as he tried to flee officers earlier this month.

The state attorney general's office said it is reviewing the shooting incident March 10 on Newton Road in Plaistow, but that it could take several weeks before findings are released.

The attorney general reviews police shooting incidents resulting in death or serious injury.

Angel Bermudez-Rosario, 28, of Dorchester, Mass., was in Plaistow District Court on Thursday for a probable cause hearing.

Bermudez-Rosario was charged with reckless conduct for allegedly trying to run down two Rockingham County sheriff's deputies. He also was charged with possession and sale of drugs.

"He will be pleading not guilty and contesting every one of the state's allegations," said his attorney, Murat Erkan of Andover. "At the end of the day, we will show that he had a reaction to a large show of force by the police, panicked and attempted to run. There was no intent to hurt anybody."

Besides the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department, Plaistow, Hampstead and Kingston police responded to the incident, according to the Rockingham County attorney's office.

Sheriff's Department Sgt. James Murphy fired two shots. One shattered glass on the Infiniti that Bermudez-Rosario was driving.

"He's got an eye patch on," Erkan said. "When the police officer was shooting at the young man, he shattered the windshield and glass lodged in his eye."

Erkan has not reviewed his client's medical records and would not comment on whether Bermudez-Rosario might pursue legal action against the county because of his injury.

Plaistow detective George Wickson testified Thursday that he didn't know about any injury but was present when Bermudez-Rosario refused medical treatment.

Bermudez-Rosario put Murphy and Deputy George Malgeri at risk of serious bodily injury by using an automobile as a deadly weapon, court documents said.

Sheriff Michael Downing said at the time he could not comment on the details of the case because the circumstances are under review but that his officers "did their jobs."

Erkan said bail was set at \$100,000 cash, but that he will seek to have that reduced.

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