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BROOKLYN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS BENEFIT FROM STATI

Video of detective hitting woman prompts NYPD investigation

September 2, 2022 Michael R. Sisak, Associated Press



This still image from New York City Police Department body camera video, shows an incident Tuesday, Aug. 30. 2022, in which a detective shoved a woman to the ground after she struck him while he was helping officers arrest an attempted murder suspect in New York's Harlem neighborhood. The woman was one of three people involved in the incident who were arrested for interfering with police and charged with obstructing governmental administration, a misdemeanor. New York City Police Department via AP

Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell said the department's Internal Affairs Bureau's Force Group is investigating. Advocates called for Detective Kendo Kinsey's firing after a bystander captured video of the clash, which occurred Tuesday. As of Thursday, there was no change in his duty status.

Sewell also authorized the release of body camera footage, which shows the woman approaching Kinsey, asking "What's the problem?" and hitting the detective in the chest. Officers were arresting a man wanted in a shooting on Aug. 12, which police said involved several suspects firing at multiple people.

Kinsey is then seen striking her with an open hand, knocking her flat on the ground. She remained conscious and was taken to a hospital at her request, Sewell said.

Mayor Eric Adams defended Kinsey, saying he and other officers showed "great restraint" and "did what the system called for." A crowd had gathered around the officers and attempted to disrupt the arrest, said Adams, a former New York City police captain.

"I am not going to tell police officers to go out, apprehend dangerous people, and then come later — when they did what they were supposed to do — and not say 'You protected the people of this city,'" Adams said.

National Action Network, the Manhattan-based civil rights organization founded by the Rev. Al Sharpton, held a press conference Wednesday calling for better police training and utilizing tools like body-worn cameras.

"There must be accountability for the bad policing that we saw yesterday," said Ashley Sharpton, Al Sharpton's daughter. "That is not how police should be handling young people — anybody — in our community."

The woman, Tamani Crum, 19, was one of three people involved in the Harlem incident who were arrested and charged with obstructing governmental administration, a misdemeanor. She was released without bail. A message seeking comment was left with her lawyer.

Kinsey became an NYPD officer in 2005 and earned 10 commendations for excellent police duty and meritorious police duty, according to police records. He was promoted to detective last December and assigned to the Harlem

The suspect in the attempted killing, Elvin James, had an illegal "ghost gun" in his waistband at the time of his arrest, a loaded semiautomatic Polymer 80, Sewell said. James was charged with criminal possession of a weapon, criminal possession of a controlled substance and resisting arrest.

James is being held on \$300,000 bond and is due back in court on Friday. A message seeking comment was left with his lawyer.

The head of Kinsey's union suggested that, in approaching James as he was being arrested, Crum could have "grabbed the illegal firearm or have helped the man use it against police."

Detectives' Endowment Association President Paul DiGiacomo said via Twitter that the union is exploring the possibility of suing Crum, a tactic it endorsed last year when Detective Vincent Cheung sued a protester he said berated him with racist anti-Asian epithets. Cheung is appealing after a judge dismissed the case on free speech grounds.