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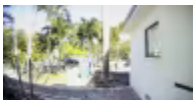
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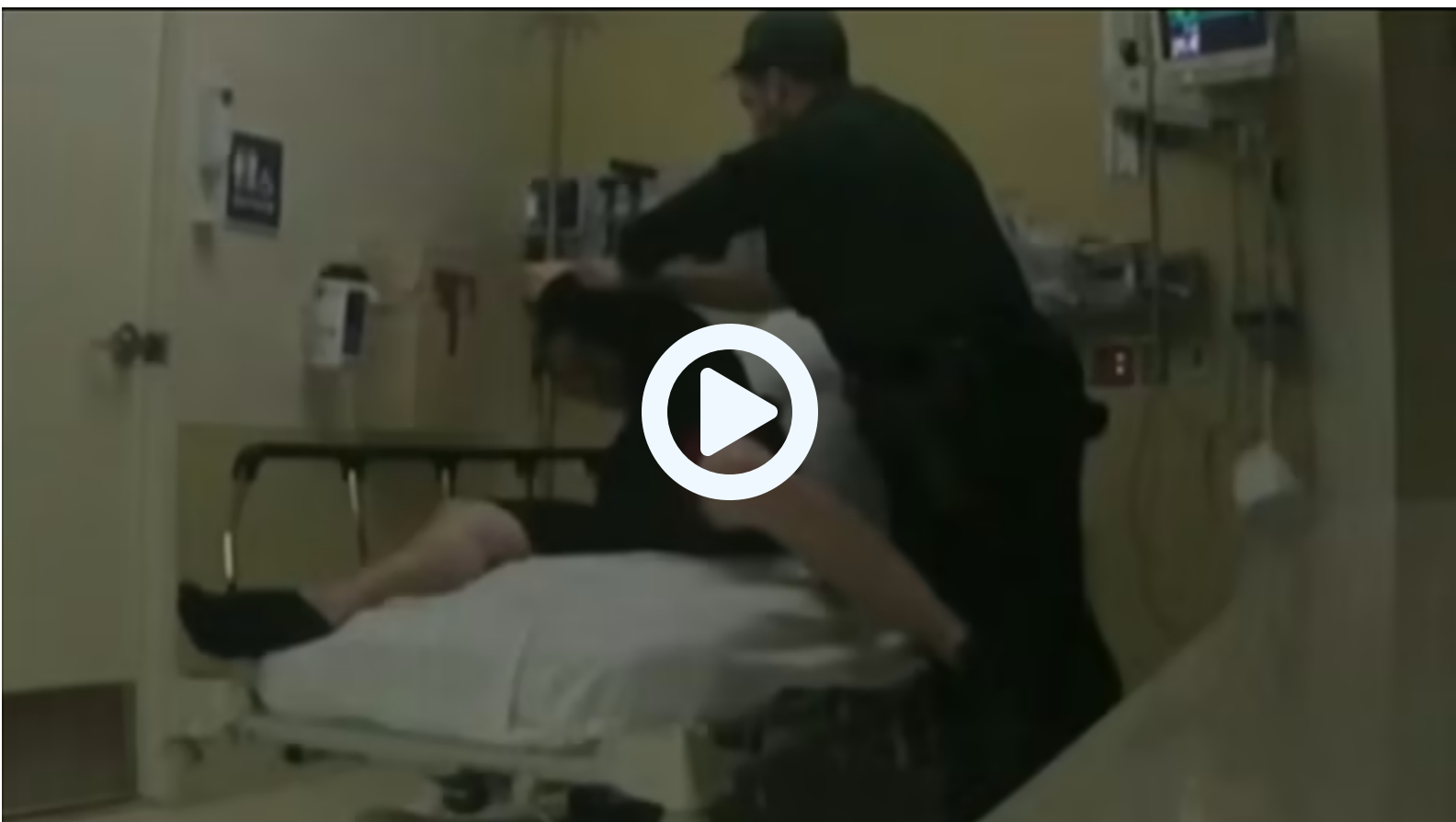
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BSO deputy charged with battery for punching handcuffed inmate at hospital

Incident captured on bodycam Jan. 2 at Broward Health North



Broward Sheriff's Office Deputy Jorge Sobrino, 24, has been charged with one count of misdemeanor battery for punching an inmate who was handcuffed to a hospital bed at Broward Health North, Broward County State Attorney Mike Satz announced Friday.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Broward Sheriff's Office Deputy Jorge Sobrino, 24, has been charged with one count of misdemeanor battery for punching an inmate who was handcuffed to a hospital bed at Broward Health North, Broward County State Attorney Mike Satz announced Friday.

The incident was captured on body camera footage Jan. 2.

According to prosecutors, Sobrino confronted David O'Connell at a Walmart in Pompano Beach after witnesses said the man tried to fight an employee at the store.

O'Connell was ultimately arrested on a charge of resisting without violence and was taken to the hospital to be evaluated for injuries he sustained during the incident.

According to a letter sent in April by prosecutors to Sheriff Gregory Tony, O'Connell told Sobrino he did not want medical attention, yet he was still placed in an examination room and handcuffed to a bed.

The attorneys said O'Connell again waived medical attention when he was seen by medical staff and told them he did not want to wait for a doctor, but he remained handcuffed to the bed and a nurse collected his vital signs and preliminary information.

WARNING: Obscene language is used in the video that some viewers may find offensive



Sobrino is heard in the bodycam footage telling O'Connell it is the agency's policy to take suspects to a hospital when they are injured and he would have to tell the doctor that he is waiving medical attention once the doctor sees him.

According to the letter, O'Connell told the nurse he needed to urinate and the nurse provided him with a handheld urinal and left the room.

Sobrino stayed in the room as O'Connell knelt in his bed to use the urinal and did not provide him any assistance, although O'Connell was still handcuffed, the attorneys said.

The bodycam footage shows O'Connell repositioning himself on the bed to apparently avoid some urine that had spilled.

O'Connell is heard in the video telling the deputy he "doesn't want to be here" and "wants to sign out." Sobrino is seen in the video closing the door to the exam room and telling O'Connell to "Shut up and sit down."

O'Connell seems to taunt the deputy, repeatedly telling him, "F*** you," and asking him, "What, you're going to beat my a** again?"

"What, you think you're all big now because you're a f***ing cop? F*** you," O'Connell is heard telling Sobrino.

Sobrino then appears to throw O'Connell's legs on the bed, punch him in the face and twist his arm behind his back.

"The body camera video clearly contradicts Deputy Sobrino's sworn police report, wherein he swears under oath that when he 'approached O'Connell and once I placed his legs back on the bed, he lifted his free hand and pushed me on my chest, in order to keep me away from him,'" the attorneys' letter to the sheriff stated.

The attorneys said the video never shows O'Connell pushing the deputy in the chest.

The Broward Sheriff's Office opened an internal investigation into the incident after being notified about it in April.

If convicted, Sobrino faces a maximum punishment of a year in jail.

BSO spokeswoman Veda Coleman-Wright confirmed Friday that the sheriff has suspended Sobrino without pay. She said the Internal Affairs investigation will remain open, but has been deferred until the criminal proceeding is resolved.

Sobrino has been employed by the Sheriff's Office since Jan. 12, 2015.

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