

Watch this video to learn more

This advertiser wants to share their trending video

BREAKING NEWS Live: More details on vaccine timeline [Read More »](#)

NEWS

Jury clears Mpls. officer of most charges

A federal jury has cleared a Minneapolis police officer, who was accused of assault, falsifying police records and perjury, of most of the charges against him.

Jurors clear police officer of most charges

Check out this quick video

This advertiser wants to share this with you

Ad by Sponsor

[See More](#)

Author: KARE 11 Staff (KARE)
Published: 4:08 PM CDT April 19, 2016
Updated: 10:32 PM CDT April 19, 2016



ST. PAUL, Minn. - A federal jury has cleared a Minneapolis police officer, who was accused of assault, falsifying police records and perjury, of most of the charges against him.

Veteran officer Michael Griffin, of Plymouth, was facing nine counts in connection to his involvement in a series of bar fights where victims claim excessive force was used.

The jury found him not guilty of three counts of violating the civil rights of the alleged victims, not guilty of falsifying police records, not guilty of perjury and could not reach a decision on one count of perjury, one count of a civil rights violation and one count of falsifying records.

"We strongly believe that this case needed to be brought before a court, publicly tried, and decided by a jury," said U.S. Attorney Andrew Luger. "Our office is reviewing its options as to those remaining counts of the indictment upon which the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict."

Griffin pleaded not guilty to all the charges against him. His lawyer argued during the trial that Griffin doesn't drink and this was merely an attempt to protect himself from what happens when "testosterone is mixed with alcohol."

Prosecutors argued Griffin knew exactly what he was doing when he flashed his badge while off-duty -- and then used that badge to serve himself.

According to the indictment, in one instance on May 29, 2010, Griffin, 40, allegedly identified himself as a police officer before punching a man in the face until he was knocked unconscious outside Envy Nightclub in Minneapolis. Griffin was not in uniform or on-duty.

Documents filed in court state Griffin then walked up to two Minneapolis police officers standing nearby, and demanded they arrest the man he assaulted. He's also accused of writing a police report that falsely claimed the man tried to attack him, saying he only punched him after trying to sweep his legs out from under him.

On Nov. 5, 2011, documents say Griffin verbally confronted four men at The Loop in Minneapolis before identifying himself as a police officer and demanding the bouncer throw the men out of the bar.

Griffin then followed the men, contacted his partner who was working off-duty but in uniform, and took one of the men into custody. The indictment says Griffin then grabbed another victim and threw him to the ground.

Later, Griffin ordered the man in the squad to get out and walk toward a loading dock area. That's when court documents say he kicked him in the chest and knocked him to the ground.

After a friend of the man saw the assault and came over to assist, Griffin allegedly kicked him in the head. He was later taken to the hospital for multiple lacerations on his face and neck, according to court documents.

When other police officers arrived on scene, prosecutors say Griffin filed a false police report that resulted in one man being arrested for obstructing a police officer with force. The charges against that man were later dropped by the Minneapolis City Attorney's Office.

The City of Minneapolis has paid more than \$400,000 in civil lawsuits against Griffin.

In his eight years as a Minneapolis patrol officer, Griffin's file had 22 internal complaints, but only one was sustained.

"It is unfortunate that this case has been a distraction from the excellent public safety service our officers deliver on a daily basis," said MPD Chief Harteau. "Due to our internal investigation, any further statement would be inappropriate at this time."

You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Put A Dishwasher Cleaning Tablet In Your Shower, Here's Why

[thedelite.com](#)

Store Items You Should Buy Under Home Quarantine

[HealthyGem](#)

Do You Love Wild Caught Fish? Check Out This Service Today

[Wild Alaskan Company](#)

This Is Who Really Makes Costco's Kirkland Items

[MoneyWise.com](#)

Tori Roloff Confirms Devastating Family News

[PensAndPatron](#)

UNABLE TO LOAD NEXT ARTICLE

Ad by Sponsor

[See More](#)