

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor**

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## **LITTLE SILVER POLICE OFFICER ARRESTED, CHARGED WITH OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, WITNESS TAMPERING**

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On January 7, 2010, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the Little Silver Police Department arrested Little Silver Patrolman Steven Solari, 36, of Little Silver, N.J., and charged him with two counts of second degree Official Misconduct, one count of second degree Aggravated Assault, one count of third degree Tampering with a Witness, one count of fourth degree Obstruction of Justice, and one count of third degree Hindering his own Apprehension.

The charges result from a joint investigation which was conducted by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the Little Silver Police Department. The investigation began after Little Silver Chief of Police Shannon Giblin became aware of an allegation that Solari had employed excessive force during an arrest. Chief Giblin immediately began an internal affairs investigation, suspended Solari with pay pending the results of the investigation, and notified the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office in compliance with the Attorney General's Guidelines.

The joint investigation revealed the following: Solari, accompanied by another Little Silver police officer, responded to a call at a private residence on December 20, 2009. During the course of that call, Solari arrested an adult male who resided at that location. Solari also engaged in a physical struggle with the adult male whom he arrested. The adult male was then handcuffed and transported to the Little Silver Police Department's headquarters. While at headquarters and while the adult male was handcuffed with his hands behind his back, Solari struck the adult male several times, causing the adult male's head to strike a metal filing cabinet and causing him injury. The adult male was eventually transported to Riverview Medical Center where he was treated and later released. The adult male was charged with the disorderly persons offenses of Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest.

The investigation also revealed that there were witnesses to Solari's assault upon the adult male, and that two days after the assault and while Solari was in full uniform and on duty, Solari approached one of the witnesses and attempted to induce the witness to lie to or withhold the truth from law enforcement authorities who were investigating Solari's assault of the adult male.

If convicted of any of the second degree crimes he has been charged with, Solari faces a maximum custodial sentence of up to a ten year State Prison term. The second degree crime of Aggravated Assault is subject to the No Early Release Act, which means that if Solari is convicted of this crime, he must serve 85% of the sentence imposed before he becomes eligible for release on parole. If convicted of second degree Official Misconduct, because he committed the crime while acting in his capacity as a public official, Solari would also be subject to a mandatory five year period of parole ineligibility. If convicted of either of the third degree offenses, Solari faces a maximum sentence of 5 years in State Prison. If convicted of the fourth degree offense, Solari faces a maximum sentence in State Prison of eighteen months.

Additionally, pursuant to New Jersey law, if convicted of any of the third or second degree crimes he has been charged with, Solari's would automatically forfeit his current public employment, and he would also be permanently barred from future public employment within the State of New Jersey.

Following Solari's arrest, Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Thomas F. Scully set bail for Solari at \$ 81,000. Solari was lodged in the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of bail. Solari posted bail on January 8, 2010, and was released.

Upon the filing of the criminal charges, the status of Solari's suspension was changed from "with pay" to "without pay."

Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated, "The Little Silver Police Department is commended for taking immediate steps to police themselves and bring this misconduct to light. It is always a sad day when a law enforcement officer is charged with a crime, but it should be encouraging to the residents of Little Silver and the rest of the county that there are police officers who have the strength of character to investigate and uncover misdeeds by fellow officers."

Chief Giblin of the Little Silver Police Department stated, "It saddens me to see a veteran officer, or any officer, accused of this type of activity. Little Silver residents and guests are to be assured that this type of accusation is taken very seriously and is always handled professionally. The Little Silver Police Department is a service-oriented department and the officers of the department are committed to excellence in their mission to the community."

Solari is an 11 year veteran of the department.

**Despite these charges, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and State law.**

**Notwithstanding Solari's arrest, the investigation into Solari's assault upon the adult male is continuing. Individuals possessing information regarding the incident are encouraged to contact Detective Charles Wright of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office at 1- 800/ 533-7443 and/or Lieutenant Carmen G. LaBruno and/or Sergeant Daniel J. Shaffery of the Little Silver Police Department at 732/ 747-5900.**

**The case is assigned to Executive Assistant Prosecutor Richard E. Incremona. Solari is currently represented by James P. Patuto, Esquire, of Hackensack, N.J.**

**Released: January 8, 2010**