



Man who led police on New Year's Day chase sentenced to 3 years in prison

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Stan Donaldson, The Plain Dealer

By

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- A 41-year-old Warrensville Heights man who led Cleveland police on a high-speed chase on New Year's Day and whose arrest has led to the suspension of four police officers was sentenced for three years in prison today.

Edward Henderson, who has been out on bond since July, apologized to several officers present in court who were involved in the January incident and the chase that ensued.

"I am terribly sorry to the Cleveland Police Department," Henderson said as he turned to three officers in court. "My actions that night were detrimental to all and I am truly remorseful."

As part of a plea deal, Henderson pleaded guilty last month to one count of assaulting a peace officer and failure to comply.

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Robert McClelland sentenced Henderson to five years' probation for the latter charge.

Henderson, who suffers from mental illness, claimed he was attacked by several officers after he was arrested near Marginal Road. He suffered a detached retina and broken eye socket.

He has since filed a civil lawsuit against the police department. Federal authorities are also investigating the police department regarding



Edward D. Henderson

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Henderson's arrest.

Officers Paul Crawford, Martin Lentz, Christopher Randolph and Kevin Smith were suspended without pay in March after being charged with felonious assault and obstruction charges. The officers have said they are innocent.

Those four officers were not present in court today.

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