

Nassau cop's rough past

Twice arrested, often cited, he faces rights lawsuit

By **JOHN MARZULLI**
DAILY NEWS POLICE BUREAU CHIEF

A Nassau County police officer found to have violated the civil rights of a man he shot dead in 1995 is a former NYPD cop who was arrested twice and was the subject of 19 civilian complaints, the Daily News has learned.

The hiring of Officer Anthony Raymond by the Nassau County Police Department despite his checkered past will be the key issue in the second phase of the federal lawsuit filed on behalf of shooting victim Christopher Wade.

"[Raymond's] hiring raises serious questions about how they evaluate candidates," said lawyer Frederick Brewington, who represents Wade's relatives. "They had a world of information that he was violence-prone." According to court records, Raymond, 37, was first arrested as a 17-year-old in 1982 on charges of stealing \$250 in receipts from a gas station where he worked, then falsely reporting there had been a robbery. The case was later dismissed.

That didn't deter the NYPD from hiring him three years later. Over the next six years, Raymond was an active cop, making numerous arrests and garnering more than 30 commendations. But at the

same time, he accumulated 19 civilian complaints, the court records show.

The complaints were all deemed unsubstantiated, meaning the allegations couldn't be proved or disproved. Under current NYPD policy, Raymond would have been placed under special monitoring by the department.

In 1989, Raymond was indicted by a Queens grand jury for official misconduct in connection with a violent on-duty altercation with drunken youths brawling outside a bar in Richmond Hill, Queens.

The indictment was later dismissed, and in 1994 Raymond was hired by the Nassau County force, which is viewed by many city cops as a better job because of the higher pay and less dangerous working conditions.

A spokesman for the Nassau County police referred questions about Raymond's hiring to county attorney Paul Millus, who did not return a call for comment.

But a retired NYPD captain retained by Brewington to review the cop's background concluded he should not have been hired by Nassau County. "The existence of a criminal history may be the single most critical indicator of a police candidate's propensity toward dishonesty and violence," said Edward Mamet, an expert on police practices, in his report.

Raymond was on his suburban job a little more than a year before he was the subject of controversy again.

On Dec. 30, 1995, he gunned down parolee Wade on an Elmont street, firing 16 shots in all. Raymond claimed he fired after Wade pointed a gun at him. A gun was recovered 50 feet away from Wade's body, but Brewington has disputed claims that the victim was armed.

The cop was cleared of criminal wrong-

doing in the 1995 shooting by a Nassau County grand jury.

But last week a civil jury in Federal Court in Central Islip, L.I., found that Raymond's use of deadly force was excessive and without justification.

That same jury resumes deliberations tomorrow to determine monetary damages against the cop and the county.

Raymond's attorney, Alan Reardon, did not return a call for comment last night.

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**FREDERICK BREWINGTON,
LAWYER**