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CRIME BROWARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Bail agents investigated after man was beaten outside home



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Two bond agents beat and maced a man after he missed a court date in late November. The confrontation was captured on video.

Two bond agents beat and pepper-sprayed a man when they showed up at his home after he missed a court date in late November. Now their conduct is the subject of a criminal investigation that raises questions about what agents are allowed to do under Florida law.

The Broward Sheriff's Office is investigating whether bond agents Brandon Gaines and Chase Walton were **legally justified in the force they used** against Anthony Michael Hall, 24, outside his Lauderdale Lakes apartment on Nov. 29. A neighbor captured part of the confrontation on video.

In the video, Hall is seen outside his apartment unit bare chested, the agents on either side of him. **One punched Hall in the face. The other swung** at him several times with what appears to be **a metal baton**. The first blasted the man's face with spray.

"The **neighbor who recorded the video** called us to the scene," said Broward Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Joy Oglesby. The results of the investigation will be sent to prosecutors at the Broward State Attorney's Office when it is complete, she said.

The neighbor who recorded the confrontation, Lara Laign, also posted the video to **YouTube** and shared it with Hall's **civil attorney**, Russell Williams, who provided the video to the South Florida Sun Sentinel.

"Get on the ground! Get on the ground, now!" one agent yelled as the second swung the metal bar at Hall's back.

Hall didn't comply, despite repeated blows to the legs, arms and back.

Laign said she noticed the commotion and pulled out her cellphone to record. Her video did not show the beginning of the encounter between Hall and the agents or what led to the confrontation. Multiple attempts to reach Gaines, Walton and the bond agency that employs them, AAA Star Bail Bonds of West Palm Beach, were unsuccessful.

Laign's video begins a split second before Hall was punched in the face. The defendant held his hand up, then covered his head in anticipation of being struck with the baton.