

Probe finds officers lied about arrest

By Beverly Ford
The Arizona Republic

Sixteen allegations were sustained against two Phoenix police officers who lied to their superiors after they were videotaped assaulting patrons at a central Phoenix nightclub.

An internal police investigation released Wednesday found that Officers Timothy Norton, 35, and James Contreras, 36, gave misleading accounts about the March 8 arrest of two patrons at Fiesta Latina, 2030 W. McDowell Road.

The probe also found they acted inappropriately when they watched a wet T-shirt contest, table dancing and lap dancing at the bar when they were supposed to be on duty.

Undercover officers made the video because of a complaint that Norton had assaulted a man in the club's restroom.

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office declined to charge Contreras with aggravated assault and filing a false police report, and Norton with filing a false police report. City prosecutors are reviewing the case.

Reach the reporter at