

## Whistle blowing cop cleared

By Theresa Conroy

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Philadelphia Daily News

A Philadelphia police officer accused of assaulting a police inspector was acquitted yesterday by a Common Pleas Court jury.

Charles Bucceroni, who once wrote a letter to the *Daily News* alleging police corruption among his fellow officers, was found not guilty of aggravated and simple assault.

Immediately after the verdict, Bucceroni and his brother became involved in a loud commotion outside the Criminal Justice Center as they screamed at and taunted officers on the other side of the case.

They called the other cops “white racists” and predicted each was “going to go to jail” for corruption.

Bucceroni, who is white, said he was railroaded by his fellow police officers for going public with police corruption and for supporting African-American defendants. He also called for the resignations of Philadelphia Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson and District Attorney Lynne Abraham.

“These cops under your command beat the hell out of me” he said, as though speaking to Johnson. “You need to resign, Sylvester Johnson. And Lynne, Abraham, you need to straighten out your office . . . you’re prosecuting innocent people.

“I reported police corruption and, as a result, I had death threats,” he said.

As Bucceroni made his case to reporters, his brother, Gregory, and his friends, who were dressed like Guardian Angels but who said they were members of Town Watch, ran to the other side of the building to confront the complaining witness, Philadelphia Police Inspector Joseph Sullivan.

Sullivan slipped out of the justice center and toward his car as Gregory Bucceroni taunted him.

One man tried to calm Gregory Bucceroni and keep him away from the other cops but Bucceroni pulled away saying, “This is MY moment.”

Although, Gregory Bucceroni claimed he was upset because he was so sensitive to the other officers’ racism, he was unable to explain why it was OK for him to call one of the cops a “faggot on a bike.”