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**KNOCK-OUT DOESN'T END FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS: NYPD DEPUTY INSPECTOR
SLAPPED WITH SUIT AFTER SUCKER-PUNCHING OWS PROTESTER**

On Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 11:00 am, attorneys for Felix Rivera-Pitre will file a federal civil rights lawsuit in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, against the City of New York and now-infamous NYPD Deputy Inspector Johnny “fists” Cardona.

Mr. Rivera-Pitre was peacefully marching with other demonstrators in support of the Occupy Wall Street movement on October 14, 2011, when D.I. Cardona grabbed him from behind and, without warning or provocation, swung at him with a right hook, clocking him in the jaw and ripping his earring from his earlobe. The force of the blow knocked Mr. Rivera-Pitre to the ground, where Cardona continued to strike and kick the HIV-positive activist as he lay semiconscious in a pool of blood. The vicious attack was captured on video and seen by viewers world-wide on various social media websites. See videolinks here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-o2oXDDk5o> and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxZ8_JdKm0Q. D.I. Cardona later claimed that Rivera-Pitre attempted to elbow him in the face, causing the NYPD to open a felony complaint against Mr. Rivera-Pitre, authorizing his immediate arrest. Cardona’s retaliatory false allegation is belied by the video evidence, which was viewed by the DA’s Office during a meeting with Mr. Rivera-Pitre and his attorney on October 31, 2011. The NYPD subsequently agreed to suspend any further action against Mr. Rivera-Pitre pending the conclusion of an investigation launched by the District Attorney’s Office into the conduct of Cardona. The Complaint, to be filed with the Court today, provides a blow-by-blow of the attack.

The knock-out is believed to be Cardona’s third strike, as videos have surfaced implicating him in the assaults of at least two other demonstrators in September 2011. According to attorney Ronald L. Kuby, Mr. Rivera-Pitre had delayed filing suit in the hope that the New York County District Attorney would file criminal charges against D.I. Cardona. Despite the incontrovertible video evidence of Cardona’s premeditated, unprovoked assault, to date, no discipline has been imposed on Cardona and the DA’s investigation is still ongoing. Attorney Lea Spiess commented: “Since the assault, the people of New York have watched the Times Square ball drop twice, while the New York County DA has yet to make a decision as to whether to bring even misdemeanor assault charges against someone whose repeated criminal conduct has been clearly documented and seen all over the world. If Cy Vance is looking for a New Year’s resolution, this should be it.”

Mr. Rivera-Pitre is represented by attorneys Ronald L. Kuby and Lea M. Spiess, who are available for comment at (212) 529-0223.