

## Jurors' Sleuthing Turns Up Key Evidence in Bremerton Man's Drug Trial

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PORT ORCHARD —

A Bremerton man was sentenced to nearly four years in prison Friday following a trial in which jurors stumbled upon a key piece of evidence while deliberating the case.

The jurors were deciding the case of Larry Lloyd, who had been charged with possession of a controlled substance and other crimes after a May 2009 incident in West Bremerton in which a crack pipe was found what police said was his coat.

Lloyd's defense was partially based on the assertion that the coat did not belong to him, and for a while it appeared there was evidence in the jacket that backed up that claim.

But then jurors, while examining the coat after it had been placed in evidence, found a pocket hidden between layers of the lining of jacket.

Investigators hadn't looked inside the pocket, but the jurors did, and they found a letter to Lloyd. The court ruled the new evidence was admissible and the jury ultimately convicted Lloyd.

Lloyd was arrested after a Bremerton police sergeant saw him driving at about 2:30 a.m. on May 28, 2009, at the intersection of 15th Street and Callow Avenue. The sergeant recognized him, knew he had a suspended driver's license and noted he didn't use his signal when he turned at the intersection, the sergeant said in his report.

When the sergeant pulled the vehicle over on Callow Avenue, Lloyd got out and started running, the sergeant wrote.

A chase ensued through nearby backyards, but officers eventually caught up with Lloyd and arrested him. During his arrest, he squeezed an officer's thumb, which led to a third-degree assault charge as well.

The sergeant reported seeing Lloyd wearing a coat when he stopped the car, but the coat was missing when Lloyd was arrested. Lloyd claimed he knew nothing about a coat. Officers found the coat in one of the yards they fled through and discovered the crack pipe in it.

Fast forward to February, when the case went to trial. Prosecutors didn't enter the coat as evidence, but Lloyd's attorney did because some papers found inside that indicated Lloyd didn't own the jacket.

When members of the jury examined the jacket during their deliberations, they found the secret pocket that no one before him had noticed, according to Kitsap County deputy prosecutor Jonathan Salamas. Inside was a letter with Lloyd's name on it.

Jurors asked the court if "any aspect of the jacket, including any document found in the jacket pockets, not introduced during the trial be considered by the jury during deliberations."

After consulting the attorneys, the judge told them they could consider the document.

Lloyd was convicted of assaulting the officer, possession of a controlled substance, and driving with a revoked license. He was sentenced Friday to 47 months by Kitsap County Superior Court Judge Jeanette Dalton. The length of the sentence was due to the assault on a police officer charge.

Lloyd is appealing the conviction.

