

Palm Beach Post: Hoffman Law Group leader arrested after parking dispute at mall

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Benn Willcox

A leader in the now-shuttered Hoffman Law Group was arrested last week at Downtown at the Gardens following an incident where a valet said he smashed his \$750 cell phone following a dispute over a parking space.

Benn Willcox, 35, of Palm Beach Gardens, allegedly broke the valet parker's Samsung Galaxy phone after yelling at the valet to get out of a car he was parking outside Cabo Flats restaurant on Friday, Feb. 27.

The valet said Willcox and another man pulled up in Willcox's Cadillac SUV at about 8 p.m. as he was parking the car, then yelled at him to get out of the car and banged on the driver's side window.

"After a few minutes of sitting in the vehicle, the valet thought he had an opportunity to safely exit the vehicle, and he tried, however, the suspect yanked the door open and told the valet to get the vehicle out of the parking spot because it belonged to him," a report from the Palm Beach Gardens police department said.

Willcox is a non-attorney who is facing a [federal civil lawsuit](#) for his role in allegedly bilking homeowners nationwide through a mass-litigation lawsuit scheme operated out of the North Palm Beach-based Hoffman Law Group.

Attorney **Marc Hoffman**, and non-attorney **Michael Harper**, are also facing charges in what investigators called an "illicit mortgage relief scam." A federal lawsuit filed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Florida Attorney General's office is pending.

The Palm Beach Post first wrote about the Hoffman Law Group [last year](#) when complaints were filed with attorneys general in 40 states.

As far as the recent cell phone incident, Palm Beach Gardens police said Willcox "entered the vehicle before the valet could close and lock the doors." The valet then used his cell phone to take a picture of Willcox and his license plate, but Willcox grabbed the cell phone and threw it to the ground, breaking it.

Willcox, who is 6-feet-tall and weighs 195 pounds, also allegedly threw the valet to the ground. The valet remembered the license number on Willcox's vehicle and police were able to trace the car to him.

The valet chose Willcox out of a police lineup. He was charged with strong arm robbery and criminal mischief.

<http://realtime.blog.palmbeachpost.com/2015/03/09/hoffman-law-group-leader-arrested-after-parking-dispute-at-mall/>