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Former NHLer cleared of assault charge by his own home security tape

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Former NHL tough guy Bob Probert, who was accused of assaulting a police officer at his home near Windsor, Ont., was cleared yesterday after a videotape of the July 1 altercation showed he did nothing wrong.

The tape from Mr. Probert's home security system shows he was backing away from police when he was hit with pepper spray, said the assistant Crown attorney, who withdrew the assault charge after reviewing the tape.

Defence lawyer Patrick Ducharme says the tape shows police were overly aggressive. Officers arrived after a 911 call from Mr. Probert's wife, who said the 40-year-old had been drinking and punched a hole in the wall, though Mr. Ducharme said he was "horsing around" with friends.