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# Former Corpus Christi police officer takes plea on child indecency charges

By Mary Ann Cavazos

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Vasquez will have to register as a sex offender.

CORPUS CHRISTI — A former Corpus Christi police officer took a plea deal on Monday for jail time and probation for molesting a 15-year-old girl last year.

Julian Vasquez, 47, pleaded guilty to three counts of indecency with a child by sexual contact, a second-degree felony.

He had been set to face trial this week in 347th District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos' court.

District Attorney Anna Jimenez said the deal was made at the request of the girl's family and spares her from

having to testify in a public trial.

As part of the deal, Vasquez was sentenced to 90 days in jail and six years deferred adjudication probation.

That type of probation allows Vasquez to avoid a conviction as long as he successfully completes probation.

But if his probation is ever revoked, he would face the full punishment range of two to 20 years in prison on each count.

He also was fined \$1,500, must pay \$3,000 in restitution to help pay for the girl's

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counseling and has to register as a sex offender for life, Jimenez said.

This case also could be used to increase the punishment range if he reoffends, she added.

Vasquez had been a 10-year department veteran. He was on paid administrative leave until he resigned in February, days after the indictment.

Department spokeswoman Julie Garcia said Vasquez resigned after refusing to cooperate with an internal investigation and the criminal investigation.

Vasquez's attorney, John Gilmore, confirmed his client will be a registered sex offender and wouldn't comment further.

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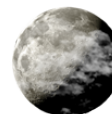
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