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# Officer arrested for allegedly having sex with prostitutes

By Eyewitness News

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## Summary

Albert Smith Jr. resigned Tuesday and was arrested Friday on a warrant charging him with seven counts of engaging in acts of prostitution, according to police.

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Story Created: Feb 11, 2011 at 12:16 PM PDT | Story Updated: Feb 14, 2011 at 1:02 PM PDT



File photo

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — A former Bakersfield police officer has been arrested for allegedly having sex with prostitutes while on duty.

Albert Smith Jr. resigned Tuesday and was arrested Friday on a warrant charging him with seven counts of engaging in acts of prostitution, according to police.

"For the police department, and everybody involved down here, this is very disappointing," Bakersfield Police Department Chief Greg Williamson said.

Smith had been assigned to the beat along Union Avenue, an area known for prostitution activity, according to Williamson.

"He became interested in prostitution enforcement, he has a record of conducting enforcement of prostitution," Williamson said.

"And, obviously, he stepped out of bounds on several occasions."

Investigators believe Smith paid for sex with at least three local prostitutes since last August.

"Some of (the sex acts) were occurring at the residences of the individuals that had come forward," Williamson said. "Some of them were taking place in the police car."

The investigation started over the weekend when the police department got information about Smith's alleged sex acts. Williamson said one of the women involved with the officer came forward to police.

"She has no prior history of prostitution here. However, during further investigation, it was revealed that there was some money exchanged for sex acts with Smith," Williamson said.

A woman whose company has an office on Union Avenue said she was very disturbed by the

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allegations against the Smith. The office worker, who didn't want to give her name, said she often sees prostitutes.

"Generally, they're dressed a little more provocatively," she said. "They don't carry a purse, and they walk up and down pretty consistently."

With some of the alleged acts happening when Smith was on duty, Chief Williamson was asked about the officer being available to respond.

"It's one of the things that we looked at," Williamson said. "An issue we need to address at the police department."

He said they've looked at technology to track officers' movement, for their safety. Technology like that could also address situations like this one.

And the chief said this situation is "devastating" to the department.

"I have the belief that what the former officer did was not only unethical, but out of character for anybody that's sworn to uphold the public safety," Williams said, "and really impacts public trust in what we do."

Smith has been with the department since July 2007.

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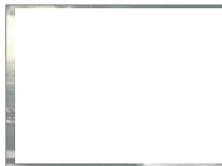
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