

Richard Narvaez, state cop who patronized prostitute, gets seven days in jail

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A disgraced Oregon State Police detective was sentenced to seven days in jail Monday for patronizing a prostitute he met while he was on duty.

Richard Narvaez pleaded guilty in Clackamas County Circuit Court to one count of official misconduct, a misdemeanor.

Narvaez, who worked in OSP's Tribal Gaming Section, met Tiffany Denise Smith after he stopped at a Fred Meyer store at Southeast 82nd Avenue and Southeast Johnson Creek Boulevard.

Narvaez, 50, was on his way to a meeting with law enforcement officials in Pendleton when he made the detour.

He approached Smith at a bus stop and determined that she would engage in sex for money, said prosecutor Scott Healy. The section of 82nd near the store is known as an area frequented by street prostitutes and johns.

Narvaez went into Fred Meyer, withdrew \$40 from an ATM and again contacted Smith.

They walked several blocks to a vacant lot where they partially disrobed and began having sex, Healy said.

A 16-year-old boy observed the sexual activity and told his mother who called police. A deputy caught Narvaez and Smith in the act.

When confronted, Narvaez began crying. My career and marriage are over, he said to the deputy, who noted that Narvaez was wearing a wedding ring.

Narvaez, a 23-year veteran, resigned from the Oregon State Police last month. As part of his plea agreement, Narvaez agreed to permanently relinquish his state law enforcement certification. He also received 24 months bench probation.

Smith, who was cited for prostitution, did not appear at her arraignment. There is a warrant out for her arrest.

Narvaez did not address the court.

Both Healy and Circuit Judge Susie Norby noted that they had past professional dealings with Narvaez and found him to be a highly competent officer.

"It's unfortunate he made this one huge error in judgment" that ended his career, Healy said.

-- Steve Mayes