

Officer



Officer Arrested On Battery Charges

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TEMPLE, Ga. -- A police officer has found himself an inmate in the same jail he's had other people locked up in.

Temple police Officer Lee Powell was arrested after his ex-wife accused him of sexual battery and false imprisonment. The arrest had Temple's police chief very upset. "I'm so mad. I'm pretty upset," Police Chief Tim Shaw told Channel 2's Tom Jones.

Shaw said he has worked hard to build a police department that residents can be proud of. He called Powell's arrest a setback. "It's a black eye to the city. It's a black eye to the department," Shaw said.

Powell also faces battery and cruelty to children charges.

According a Carroll County Sheriff's Office incident report on April 4, Powell dropped his 6-year-old son off at the child's mother's house in Carrollton.

Lacey Todd, Powell's ex-wife, said he grabbed her breast and began running his hand up her shirt, the incident report said.

She said he then threw her on the couch and jumped on top of her. Todd said she told Powell, who smelled of alcohol, to get off her and leave but he wouldn't, the report said. She also said he kept her from leaving and their son came out of his room and said "Daddy what are you doing to mama?" according to the report.

Todd believed that if her son hadn't been home Powell would have raped her, the report indicated. An investigator confirmed Todd had bruises on her arm where she said Powell grabbed her.

A Carroll County magistrate judge found probable cause after hearing the evidence and issued arrest warrants.

Powell denies doing anything wrong. "We believe this was a consensual act between two consenting adults who at one time had a relationship," his attorney, Mac Pilgrim, said.

Pilgrim said the allegations may stem from a longstanding dispute between the former couple.

He thinks Todd is trying to get back at her ex. "I believe so. I believe that there is some sort of underlying motive here," Pilgrim said.

Shaw said Powell's arrest is a shocker. "You never know what people can do, and then again he hasn't been convicted of anything. It's just simply a charge," Shaw said.

Powell has bonded out of jail. He is on unpaid administrative leave pending an internal investigation. Temple's City Council will decide his fate on Monday.

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