Charges filed against former police officer

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2005 Cop Pedophile Arthur George Crabtree

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officer accused of trying to rendezvous with a 13-year-old girl he met while chatting online.

Arthur George Crabtree, 43, of Santa Clarita made his first court review the charges.

Crabtree was charged with seven counts, including attempted lewd rendezvous at the Greyhound bus station in downtown Los Angeles, Deputy Dist. Atty. Tannaz Mokayef said. He was arrested by Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies at the station while waiting for her.

Crabtree preyed on five victims during the past three years, according to the complaint.

Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement, a multi-agency task force that targets online sexual predators, ran the undercover sting. The investigation is ongoing and Crabtree remains free on \$100,000 bail.

Mokayef asked San Fernando Superior Court Commissioner Martin S.

Gladstein to raise Crabtree's bail to \$220,000. She argued that he could evade the criminal proceedings if free on bail, since he faces a life sentence for the alleged crimes.

"The individual is a danger to the community and a danger to all

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the children in the community," Mokayef said. "He is an attorney and ex-cop, who knows what he is dealing with."

George Fogelman, Crabtree's defense attorney, requested that the bail not be raised since he showed up in court. Fogelman also said Crabtree did not physically contact any of the alleged victims.

Fogelman described Crabtree as a lifelong Santa Clarita resident, who has "very strong community ties."

In addition, he said Crabtree is undergoing therapy with his wife, who is a Glendale Police sergeant, and visits his 7-year-old son every other day.

"There is no threat to the community in my client," he said. "God forbid he steps out of line; he knows what will happen."

After hearing both sides, Gladstein decided not to raise

Crabtree's bail because he arrived in court Wednesday after already having been free on bail. Gladstein postponed the arraignment to March 23.

Crabtree, a Glendale Police officer for more than 15 years, left the force on Feb. 29, 2000. Mokayef said he did not leave with "an honorable record," but would not elaborate.

* JACKSON BELL covers public safety and courts. He may be reached

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