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WAFF 48 News digs into former Somerville officer's arrest

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WAFF 48 News has learned more about the former Somerville Police Chief charged with two sexual crimes.

Chris Landers was arrested and taken into custody Friday evening.

He is out on \$60,000 bond.

The Alabama Bureau of Investigation and State Attorney General's Office are handling the investigation.

Landers is charged with two counts of sodomy and one count of sexual abuse, involving a child.

And with a small town of about 500, word spreads fast, but most residents we encountered are staying quiet.



In December of 2004, when we last interviewed Landers, he was then the Somerville Police Chief, obtaining that rank after only a year on the job.

We talked to Mayor Ray Long Saturday, who tells us he appointed Landers to chief because of his professionalism and compassion.



In January of this year, Landers resigned for personal reasons, those reasons never revealed.

Friday evening, six months later, Landers was taken into custody by the Morgan County Sheriff's Department, charged with two counts of sodomy and one count of sexual abuse involving a child.

We went to Landers' home to get his side of the story and were met by a family spokesperson.



He tells us the former chief is going through a hard time and would not like to comment at this moment, but might in weeks to come.

Many in the community didn't want to talk on camera, but nearly everyone had the same response.

Jerry Nicholas says, "I don't know what really to say."

Nicholas says offenses of these kinds should follow with the utmost punishment if that person is convicted.

"As much as they can give em."

But he also says it's sad that alleged sexual abuse cases of this nature aren't just in his neck of the woods.

Nicholas says, "It is. It's getting pretty bad everywhere, it's not just around here... it's everywhere."

Landers is a 15 year veteran of law enforcement.

He also worked as an officer in Priceville before moving to Somerville P.D.

The mayor says Landers had no formal complaints filed while with the Somerville department.



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