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TAMPA

Former Officer Charged in Sex Acts With Child

Published: Friday, December 8, 2006 at 6:30 a.m.

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A former Lakeland police officer was arrested Wednesday on charges of engaging in sex acts with a 15-year-old girl and her friends, said the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

David Lee Bishop, 41, was charged with five counts of lewd or lascivious behavior, and two counts each of sexual battery, lewd or lascivious conduct and contributing to the delinquency of a child, said a Hillsborough Sheriff's Office news release.

Bishop remained in Hillsborough County Jail without bail Thursday, records show.

Between 2005 and this year Bishop engaged in sexual acts with a 15-year-old female, the release said.

The female was known to him and is 'not a stranger or neighbor,' said Hillsborough sheriff's spokeswoman Debbie Carter.

Bishop also encouraged the teen to solicit friends to engage in sexual acts with her while Bishop hid in the closet or behind a door, the release said.

Bishop was a Lakeland firefighter from 1987 until 1991, when he became a Lakeland police officer, said city of Lakeland spokesman Kevin Cook.

Bishop was fired from the police department in 1993 after numerous citizen complaints and being charged with DUI, records show.

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TheLedger.comDecember 8, 2006 6:33 AM

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