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Former Marlboro police chief found not guilty on all counts

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Former Marlboro police chief, Robert C. Holmes, left, leaves the Monmouth County Courthouse in Freehold, with his attorney, after his arraignment on sexually assaulting a minor between 2005 and 2007, Monday, August 10, 2009. NEWS -FREEHOLD #870- 8/10/09.

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FREEHOLD — After he was acquitted of sex crime charges Friday, former Marlboro Police Chief Robert Holmes stood outside the courtroom with his arm around his wife, looked out the window and exhaled.

“It’s been a long four years,” said a teary-eyed Holmes outside the courtroom of state Superior Court Judge Richard W. English in Freehold.

Holmes was accused of sexually assaulting a teenage girl between April 2006 and March 2007 when she was between 13 and 14 years old. On Friday he was acquitted of all five charges against him.

Holmes had been charged with aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, endangering the welfare of a child, aggravated criminal sexual contact and criminal sexual contact. Holmes was indicted in July 2009 and pleaded not guilty.

“Basically, Robert Holmes is on trial for his life. Sixty-four years old, he’s on trial for his life,” defense attorney Edward C. Bertucio, with the law firm Hobie, Corrigan and Bertucio of Eatontown, told the jury in closing arguments Tuesday. “He (Holmes) did not do this. He’s an innocent man.”

Throughout the trial, assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Peter Boser alleged that Holmes used a cocktail of Captain Morgan rum and Coca-Cola to get the victim drunk and sexually assault her — a pattern that the prosecutor contended occurred approximately half a dozen times at Holmes’ Marlboro home. Boser declined to

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comment following Friday's verdict.

Two of the seven original charges against Holmes, alleging that he had sexually assaulted the girl when she was 12, were dismissed by English after the victim, now an adult, testified that she had been incorrect about the dates of some of the alleged incidents.

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"Retired Chief Holmes and his family are grateful, first to Judge English for giving them a fair trial and second to the jury for their willingness to serve on this lengthy

case and the intelligence of their verdict," Bertucio said in a statement Friday afternoon. "He maintained from the start that he was not guilty. He is happy that he has been completely exonerated."

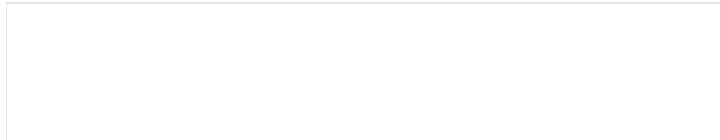
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