

August 26,
2011

Breaking News

Former City Officer Gets 3-Year Suspended Term In Statutory Rape Case

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A former city police officer has been given a suspended three-year sentence after earlier pleading guilty to aggravated statutory rape.

Chad E. Bradley had faced 2-4 years at the sentencing conducted by Criminal Court Judge Don Poole.

Bradley earlier pleaded guilty to statutory rape in Meigs County and got a two-year sentence there. He served 30 days in jail in Meigs County. The cases involved sex with the same 17-year-old girl.

Prosecutor Lance Pope said Bradley will be a registered sex offender and will have to undergo sex offender counseling.

Bradley testified that he met the girl while working a second job at the Bluff View Art District. He said she and other girls were dancing around and he checked them to see if they might be intoxicated. He said afterward they came up to him and began talking. He said that led him to begin seeing the Meigs County girl. He said she looked like she



Chad Bradley

might be in her 20s.

He said she told him she was 18 years old, though she had just turned 17. He said he checked with the girl's mother just to make sure, and she also said she was 18. He said the girl's mother "encouraged the bedroom activities" between the two. Bradley was 35 at the time.

He said he learned the true age of the girl when he was looking at some paperwork on her during a medical visit. He said after he found out she was 17, he did not have sex with her again.

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Bradley said he is back with his family and they are active members of Redemption Point Church.

Sgt. James Appugliese said Bradley was "a very good officer who required very little if any supervision. I don't know of anyone who didn't like Chad. He was just a pleasure to have as an officer."

He said at one point he noticed that Bradley seemed down and he asked him about it. He said Bradley stated, "I'm having a little trouble at home." He said Bradley later told him he had reconciled with his wife.

The witness said he was "shocked" when he learned of the charge. He said Bradley told him "he thought she was 18 and that even her mom told him she was 18."

Bradley was terminated from the police department after the charge. He had been a city officer since 2000.

He said he recently worked at Sav-A-Lot in Fort Oglethorpe making minimum wage, but was later told he could no longer work there. He said he now works in Dalton.

The arrest was made in September 2009. Chattanooga investigators and Meigs County Sheriff's investigators said the victim allegedly confirmed two consensual sexual encounters while he (Officer Bradley) was on duty after their relationship started in July of 2009.

The victim stated that consensual sex occurred in Meigs County as recently as four days prior to his arrest.

The charges included a consensual sexual encounter that allegedly occurred in August 2009 at 760 Pan Gap Road (Fire Police Outing Club Property).

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