



Second Salinas Police Explorer describes sex abuse in lawsuit

JEFF MITCHELL

A lawsuit filed recently in federal court by a second underage Salinas Police Explorer provides a lurid if not graphic story of sexual abuse at the hands of now convicted former Community Service Officer Scott Callan.

Contained within the pages of the suit filed last December against the city and the now incarcerated Callan is "M.R."s (the victim's initials) allegations that Callan forced her to have repeated oral, vaginal and anal sex with him over what was a year-long period starting in 2009.

It was that year, according to the suit — a copy of which was obtained by The Californian on Tuesday — that Callan recruited the then 13-year-old "M.R." into the city Police Explorers organization even though the minimum age to participate in the program is 14.

By editorial policy, The Californian does not print the names of sexual abuse or sexual violence victims.

The first incident occurred in September of 2009 when Callan allegedly drove the victim in a Salinas Police Athletic League van to a city storage unit to get her new explorer uniform.

Although the victim wanted to try on the uniform at home, Callan insisted that she try on the garment in front of him at the storage unit, the lawsuit says.

"Callan told the plaintiff to change in front of him and said: 'Let's play you show me and I'll show you.' Callan then rubbed his hands all over plaintiff's body. ¶Plaintiff told Callan to stop but Callan continued to rub plaintiff, touching her buttocks and breasts. Plaintiff was thirteen years old at this time," according to the lawsuit.

Using the Police Athletic League's van, Callan reportedly drove the victim to many locations across the city where he forced her to have sex with him. Locations included the Salinas Police Armory, outside of a local pizza restaurant and at the Salinas Boys & Girls Club.

The lawsuit says that the victim was under a near-constant barrage of unwanted sexual advances by the sworn community service officer. Many of those encounters ended up with the victim attempting to resist but ultimately being forced to perform sexual acts on him under duress.

The encounters happened when Callan would pick the victim up in the PAL van for homework tutoring sessions or even during official Police Explorer duty assignments such as performing crowd and parking control at Laguna Seca Raceway and even at a former Salinas Police Officer's funeral.

City officials said Wednesday that M.R. has changed her story and that the victim initially told investigators that she had not been harmed by Callan.

"...The rogue and unauthorized actions of Scott Callan, if substantiated in the new matter, are expressly prohibited by city policy. Immediate action was taken against Callan once the conduct came to light. The Police Department acted within a matter of hours to arrest Callan and immediately began interviewing members of the Explorer Program. Though all the young women in the program were interviewed, only one revealed sexual crimes by Callan. The new allegations are raised by a young woman who previously told investigators that Callan had done nothing to her," City Attorney Vanessa Vallarta said in a statement late Wednesday.

"She never reported the allegations to any law enforcement agency, choosing instead to make her allegation in an unverified lawsuit. Mr. Callan's employment has been terminated and the department has taken actions to ensure the safety of minors under (its) supervision. The allegations, if true, are a tragedy and absolutely contrary to the principles Salinas police officers and Community Safety Officers are sworn to uphold. The Police Department has and will continue its criminal investigation of the allegations made in the lawsuit. The city cannot complete any discovery in the civil lawsuit until the criminal investigation and review by the District Attorney are completed," Vallarta continued.

Earlier this week, Acting Police Chief Cassie McSorley confirmed that department investigators are recommending that Callan be charged with several additional sex crime counts in connection with the new case. Callan's first case, involving the explorer victim known only as "K.F.," made national headlines and saw Callan convicted and sentenced to three years in state prison for a variety of sex crimes against the victim who was 15 years old at the time.

Because of a plea bargain, however, Callan will not have to register as a sex offender once he leaves prison. Earlier this week city officials confirmed that the City Council approved a \$200,000 settlement in the first case with "K.F."

William Marder, "M.R." and "K.F.'s" attorney, is traveling in Europe this week and could not be immediately reached for comment.