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Officer Under Investigation For Child Porn On Job For Months

Chief Says Department Lacked Evidence To Suspend

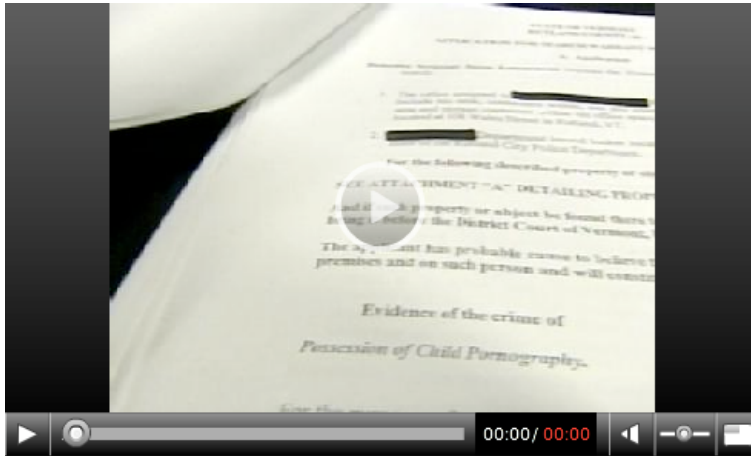
POSTED: 10:20 am EST February 12, 2010
UPDATED: 7:00 pm EST February 12, 2010

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RUTLAND, Vt. -- Rutland City Police Chief Tony Bossi apologized Friday for the alleged misconduct of a city officer, now at the center of a child pornography investigation.

"There's no place for pornography in the department. We're all upset and offended by that saddened by it, I mean, it's not appropriate behavior," said Bossi.

Bossi said the officer, who's name hasn't been released, was suspended with pay on Feb. 5, six months after state police began examining his work computer for images of child porn.

Late in the day Friday, state police investigators said there isn't enough evidence to show the officer downloaded the images intentionally. They also said a medical expert cannot determine if a person in the image is under the age of 16.

In September, state police detectives seized multiple pornographic dvds, including three labeled "Teen Porn" during a search of the officer's desk. The attorney for "John Doe" has been arguing in court to keep the officer's name secret because no criminal charges have been filed. But in new court documents, filed Friday, "John Doe" appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court, putting a hold on the release of his identity indefinitely.

In court documents released Tuesday, police said the officer became the target of a criminal investigation after a search of his work laptop turned up images of child porn. The child pornography images were seized Sept. 22 by state police investigators who went to Rutland police headquarters with a warrant and searched the officer's desk, locker and computers.

The officer admits in court papers to clicking on adult pornography Web

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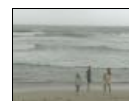
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The chief admits in court papers to clicking on adult pornography Web sites, but only for privileged police work.

The suspect hasn't been charged, but the attorney general's office said it's involved in the ongoing criminal investigation.

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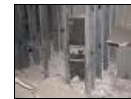
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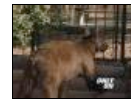
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