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## Plea deal in case that scandalized Rutland City police

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*Rutland, Vermont - July 14, 2011*

A former Rutland City police sergeant charged with watching porn on the job has cut a deal with the state.

The investigation started in the spring of 2009, the state received a warrant to search David Schauwecker's personal office and locker in the spring of 2010. That led them to pornography on floppy discs, VHS tapes, DVDs and 150 possible child porn images. Thursday he stopped fighting the state.

"Without authorization you removed pornography that had been seized as evidence and kept it for your own use," Rutland Superior Court Judge Theresa DiMauro said.

To that, former Rutland City Police Sgt. David Schauwecker pleaded no contest. The state of Vermont and Schauwecker's attorney reached a plea deal Thursday.

Judge DiMauro: Mr. Schauwecker anything you'd like to say before the court imposes the sentence?

David Schauwecker: Not at this time your honor.

Schauwecker faces a fine of \$1,000 and or a year in prison. Initially he faced two misdemeanor charges, one for lying to investigators the other for neglect of duty. The state agreed to drop the former charge if he pleaded no contest.

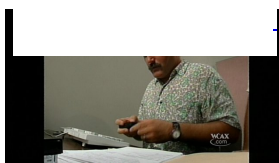
"I'm actually very surprised about that," said Traci Pena of Rutland. "I would've thought he'd fight it to the bitter end and so in a way it's a little bit of a win."

Pena owns a consignment clothing shop on River Road. She says she has been following Schauwecker's case since the beginning.

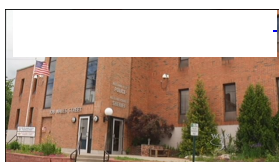
"I could've given him much more respect and stood behind him if he had come out and said, 'hey, it's me, I've got an issue, I've got a problem and I'm going to get help,'" she said.

She says this case damaged the reputation of the Rutland City police department. Police initially withheld information from the public on this case including Schauwecker's name, arguing if Schauwecker was proven innocent his reputation would never recover.

Pena said, "It makes you feel like, do the police really think the citizens of this community are stupid?"



David Schauwecker



Or not educated?"

In a separate case, Schauwecker is suing the city for his job back, saying the department didn't follow the rules when they terminated him.

"I would certainly hope he doesn't have a chance for his job back and I don't think he does," Pena said.

No court date has been set for Schauwecker's lawsuit against Rutland City. Mayor Chris Louras and Rutland City police declined to comment on Thursday's plea deal because of that pending litigation.

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