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### Former police officer offered plea deal in child sex case

January 07, 2011 4:25 AM

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WSOC

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. -- Two local mothers said they feel disappointed after learning of a potential plea deal in Lincoln County for a former police officer who is accused of indecent liberties with minors.

Kurt Marcus, a former police lieutenant, is charged with four counts of indecent liberties with a minor. He was offered a plea deal in which he would serve four months of active time for pleading guilty to one count of indecent liberties.

If found guilty on all counts, the maximum Marcus could be sentenced is 10 months for each count.

The mothers of the two girls involved said they understand the need for a plea agreement, but that Marcus should face a stiffer punishment as a police officer.

"Sadly, the justice system, I feel, is broken," one mother said.

Eyewitness News is not identifying the women in order to protect the identities of their daughters.

The mothers said they trusted and respected Marcus.

"He seemed like an almost down to earth, good old country boy from the mountains," one mother said.

Then, they said, they learned that their daughters claimed he touched them at his home in Iron Station.

"He is not just your ordinary guy. He's not your neighbor. He is supposed to be somebody to protect you," one woman said.

For that reason, the women said they want Marcus to face the full weight of the law. But they understand that because he has no criminal record, he could get off with a few months of prison time.

And a trial would pit the words of two young girls against that of a 14-year law enforcement veteran.

"I mean, this is somebody you are supposed to trust," one woman said.

Marcus was placed on leave from the Huntersville Police Department in September. He resigned at the end of November.

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