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Former Mobile police officer won't face charges for sex with 16-year-old girl

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By Katherine Sayre, Press-Register

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(File)

Mobile police officer Marshall Freeman speaks to Chastang Middle School students in this 2003 file photo. Freeman resigned last week after allegations emerged that he had sex with a 16-year-old girl. The Mobile County District Attorney's office has determined the sex was consensual and says they will not pursue criminal charges against Freeman.

MOBILE, Ala. -- **Marshall Freeman**, a former Mobile police officer who resigned last week **after admitting to having sex with a 16-year-old girl**, will not be charged with a crime because the teen was old enough to give consent, authorities said Monday.

Nicki Patterson, Mobile County chief assistant district attorney, said an investigation showed that the girl agreed to have sex with Freeman, and the legal age of consent in Alabama is 16.

Prosecutors declined to release any details about the incident -- including how the two knew each other -- because Freeman is not being charged with any crime.

"Despite the fact that this act would be a breach of trust, it does not constitute a criminal act in the state of Alabama," Patterson said. "Our investigation revealed that he had no legal authority over her. And her statement was to the effect that she was a willing participant in consensual sex."

Patterson said there was no evidence that he threatened or coerced the girl.

Freeman, a 20-year veteran in the **Mobile Police Department**, resigned Thursday as police were preparing to hold an administrative hearing.

Freeman could not be reached for comment Monday.

Mobile police spokesman Officer Christopher Levy declined to comment.

Police have said they received information March 3 that Freeman had "inappropriate sexual contact" with the girl in July. He admitted to investigators to having sexual contact with her, police have said.

Freeman, who joined the Mobile Police Department in 1989, was assigned to the Community Services Division, which serves as a liaison between police and the public, helping neighborhood watch groups and spreading information.

He also participated in the Kids and Cops program, designed to improve the relationship between officers and children living in public housing communities.

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