

Cherokee Scout

Murphy police officer accused of sex crimes against minor girl

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Murphy – A veteran Murphy police officer was arrested Wednesday on charges of sex offenses against an underage girl more than 20 years ago.

Sgt. Mike Hall, 50, was arrested by the State Bureau of Investigation as he was on duty at the police station, Murphy Police Chief Justin Jacobs said. SBI agents began interviewing the Fall Branch Road man about 1 p.m. and arrested him about 2:20 p.m.

Hall was charged with 11 counts of first-degree sex offense with a child and 11 counts of indecent liberties with a child for offenses allegedly committed between Aug. 1, 1986, and May 1, 1989, when Hall was in his 20s.

Arrest warrants state for the first-degree sex offenses against a child, there was probable cause to believe Hall unlawfully, willfully and feloniously engaged in a sex offense with a child under age 13.

For the indecent liberties charges, the arrest warrants state there is probable cause to believe Hall committed and attempted to commit a lewd and lascivious act upon the child, who was under age 16 at the time. At the time, Hall was more than 16 and at least five years older than the child.

The alleged offenses occurred in Cherokee County, the arrest warrants state. Hall was booked through the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, then taken transported to the Haywood County Detention Center, where he is under a \$500,000 secured bond, Jacobs said.

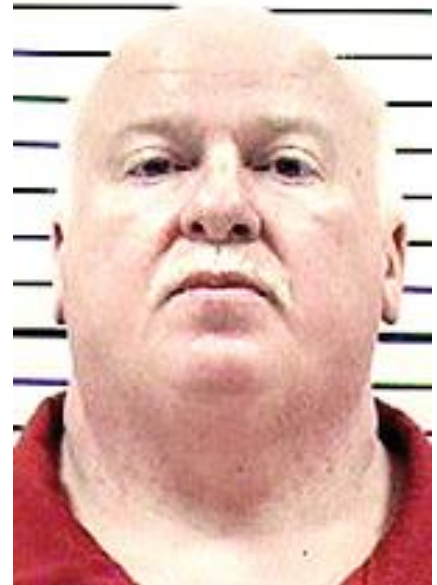
Hall is an Andrews High School graduate. He was hired as a dispatcher in January 1992 and was sworn in as a Murphy police officer in September 2000. In June 2005, he was promoted to patrol sergeant. He was married a little more than a year ago, Jacobs said.

Hall has been placed on administrative leave without pay.

"I wasn't familiar with all the charges," Jacobs said. "I knew there was an investigation. It is their investigation.

"This is extremely hard for a small town agency. The SBI and District Attorney's Office have 100 percent of our cooperation."

Amanda Allen is the lead SBI investigator in the case.



Mike Hall