

# Ex-Glendale Officer Accused of Minor Sex Abuse

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GLENDAL - A Glendale officer has recently resigned over allegations he sent sexually explicit text messages to teenage girls - and that's not all.

There were reportedly thousands of messages -- and it allegedly went further than that with one of the girls.

For two years, 25-year-old Chris Balmaceda worked off-duty twice a month at Mountain Ridge High School in Glendale.

He's accused of targeting girls who went to that school.

Balmaceda worked for Glendale PD for 3-and-a-half years.

In January, Glendale police say a parent notified them Balmaceda was sending inappropriate text messages to girls at the school.

When police investigated, they say they found that he had been texting girls between the ages of 15 and 17.

They also say he also touched a 17-year-old girl sexually.

Balmaceda was pulled off the streets and then resigned in April.

Glendale police are recommending he be charged with 1 count of sexual abuse and 4 counts of luring a minor for sexual exploitation. Their case has been forwarded to the county attorney's office which will make final recommendations on any charges Balmaceda may face.

## Statement by Glendale PD

In January of 2011, the Glendale Police Department received information from a parent regarding inappropriate texting between one of our officers and female students at Mountain Ridge High School. The department took immediate action and began an internal investigation into the allegations to determine their validity. We were able to identify the officer involved as Chris Balmaceda (25 years old). Balmaceda had been working off-duty at the school providing campus security. The investigation revealed there was substance to the allegations of the text messaging. Furthermore, additional information was obtained during the course of the investigation that was criminal in nature. A criminal investigation was immediately opened. Officer Balmaceda was removed from the streets and the school and reassigned administratively. In addition, his police authority was removed while the investigation continued. Information obtained during the investigation revealed Balmaceda's conduct went further than the text messaging and involved inappropriate touching that was sexual in nature with one of the female students. On April 15th, prior to the both investigations being completed, Balmaceda voluntarily resigned.

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