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## LBDP detective faces underage sex charges

By Paul Eakins, Staff Writer

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### | POLICE NEWS

LONG BEACH - A detective with the Long Beach Police Department's Youth Services Section has been charged with committing lewd or lascivious acts and having sex with an underage family member.

Detective Erik Alvarez, 42, of Upland, was arrested April 27 by Upland police officers and faces three felony charges, according to San Bernardino County Deputy District Attorney Karen Schmauss.

Alvarez faces a charge of lewd or lascivious acts with a child 14 or 15 years old, and two charges of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor under 18 who is more than three years younger than the perpetrator, according to San Bernardino County court records.

Schmauss said that all of the alleged crimes involved a single victim, who was 15 when the sexual acts for which Alvarez is charged in the first felony count occurred between Jan. 1, 2009, and Dec. 31, 2009.

The victim was 16 years old in 2010 and then 17 by 2011 when the crimes for which Alvarez faces the second and third charges allegedly occurred, Schmauss said.

"It was an ongoing act with a female relative," the deputy district attorney alleged.

If convicted of all three charges, Alvarez could face up to four years and four months in state prison, Schmauss said.

Alvarez was arraigned Monday in San Bernardino County Superior Court, where he pleaded not guilty to the charges, according to

court records.

A pre-preliminary hearing is scheduled for Thursday, and a preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 11.

Court records say that Alvarez remains in custody and bail has been set at \$250,000.

Long Beach city officials wouldn't discuss details of the case because it is a personnel matter, but Schmauss added: "I was told he worked in the youth division. He was a detective."

LBDP officials confirmed in the following

A rectangular advertisement for ProFlowers. It features two bouquets: one with pink roses in a white vase and another with yellow and purple flowers in a glass vase. The text reads: "Send flowers for any occasion Bouquets from \$19.99 +s/h". The ProFlowers logo is in the bottom right, with the text "Offer ONLY available at: proflowers.com/happy or call 1.877.804.1133".

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statement that an employee had been arrested in Upland, but didn't identify him:

"The Long Beach Police Department has been informed of the arrest of a LBPB employee and we are taking this matter, as well as any matter of this nature, very seriously," the statement says. "We will work with the Upland Police Department as they are the agency handling the criminal investigation while the Long Beach Police Department will handle the administrative investigation.

"The employee is currently on unpaid administrative leave, pending the outcome of these investigations," the statement concluded.

Whether Alvarez was actually on unpaid leave, or whether it was just a technicality in the process of firing him, was unclear Tuesday.

"He's already been terminated from Long Beach," Schmauss said that she had been told by Upland police officers.

An officer who answered the phone at LBPB's Youth Services Section on Tuesday said Alvarez is no longer with the division or LBPB.

Alvarez joined LBPB in 1994, when he graduated from the department's academy, according to a Press-Telegram report at the time.

Since then, he has received at least two awards - one in 1996 from the Automobile Club of Southern California for his efforts to recover stolen vehicles, and one in 2002 from LBPB for improving and streamlining

the department's Juvenile Misdemeanor Citation Program.

Schmauss said that Alvarez had no criminal record and that it is rare to find a police officer sitting in the defendant's chair.

"It's unusual to have a police officer charged with this type of crime," Schmauss said.

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