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LBDP detective faces underage sex charges

By Paul Eakins, Staff Writer

Posted: 05/03/2011 07:21:57 PM PDT

Updated: 05/05/2011 05:02:08 PM PDT

| 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

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court records.

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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 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 LBDP 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

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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 LBPD's Youth Services Section on Tuesday said Alvarez is no longer with the division or LBPD.

Alvarez joined LBPD 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 LBPD 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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"It's unusual to have a police officer charged with this type of crime," Schmauss said. How does this woman know so little about what goes on in this country. In fact police officers are three times as likely as the general public to be accused of a sexually related crime, and in the majority of those cases the victims are underage. And this number does not include corrections officers, who are even more likely to face these charges. In the last month alone a US Border Patrol agent pleaded guilty to similar charges and officers in Idaho, Houston, Mississippi, North Carolina, Florida and Cathedral City were either accused or found guilty of similar charges Sexual misconduct was the second most common form of misconduct reported throughout 2010 with 618 officers involved in sexual misconduct complaints during that period, 354 of which were involved in complaints that involved forcible non-consensual sexual activity such as sexual assault or sexual battery. Of the officers associated with reports of serious sexual misconduct, 51% (180) were involved with reports that involved minors and 49% (174) involved adults. While less than 30 cases of sexual assault are reported for every 100k members of the general public, there are nearly 70 cases of sexual assaults for ever 100k members of law enforcement. Unfortunately, despite Schmauss's ill-informed claimed it is not at all unusual for a police officer to be charged with this type of crime.


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Lee Lankford · UC Irvine

And here we have LB's finest, folks.

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we don't get smart folks like you 'round here very often. nice to have you here, Marc.

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SHAMEFUL!!!! HE SHOULD BE FIRED IMMEDIATELY!!!! PEDOPHILES IN THE LONG BEACH POLICE DEPT?!

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