

RIVERSIDE: Ex-detective charged with molestation

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Granville Douglas "Bud" Kelley Jr., a retired Riverside police detective who started a ministry for law enforcement and served as a board member for Riverside Christian Schools, has been charged with six counts of molesting two girls under the age of 14.

Kelley, 73, of Riverside, pleaded not guilty during his arraignment earlier this week in Riverside County Superior Court. He remained in custody Friday on \$1 million bail. His next hearing is July 21.

Riverside Christian Schools issued a statement saying Kelley was suspended from its board "pending the outcome of the investigation and legal proceedings."

The alleged touching incidents took place in 2003 and 2004 when the girls were approximately 7 years old, said Riverside police Detective Roberta Hopewell of the department's sexual assault child abuse division.

In a July 8 affidavit filed by Hopewell for a search of Kelley's home, the detective said the father of one of Kelley's accusers made a monitored phone call from the Riverside police station to Kelley to discuss his daughter's claims.

Kelley, Hopewell wrote, admitted during his conversation with the father to two of the three allegations made by the girl, and Kelley's description of those events matched details the girl had told Hopewell.

"The corroborative evidence in this case is very strong," said Deputy District Attorney Michael Carney, who is prosecuting the case.

"Bud told (the father) that he hoped this would end the situation and begged (the father) to drop the incident. Bud told (the father) if anyone else found out his life would be ruined," Hopewell wrote.

The girl told police a recent event in her life prompted her to tell her mother about the alleged incidents with Kelley.

The girl "told me she was afraid of what it would do to her family" to previously discuss the incident, Hopewell wrote. The girl went to police July 1.

Kelley's court record from Tuesday said he will be represented by the county public defender's office. An assigned lawyer for Kelley could not be reached Friday.

"This is going to be between the justice system and God to sort this out with Bud," said Mike Watts, a fellow retired officer. "Bud strove to be the best he could and that is what really shocked us. I was stunned. I would never have seen that coming in a million years."

Hopewell said the search warrant yielded two computers from Kelley's home, and that forensic experts were examining them for possible evidence.

Her affidavit said "persons who engage in this type of criminal behavior will also collect photos and videos."

Kelley was a 30-year department veteran. He served five years in the U.S. Marines, joined the Riverside Police Department in 1960 and was in the detective bureau for 22 years before he retired in 1990.

He was one of the investigators who continued work on the 1966 unsolved murder of Cheri Jo Bates. Kelley gave no credence to those who claimed she was an early victim of California's Zodiac Killer serial slayer.

He campaigned to maintain the memory of fallen officers, including Officers Leonard A. Christiansen and Paul Teel, killed in an April 1971 shotgun ambush. Kelley had been Christiansen's training officer.

Kelley also was a frequent letter-writer to The Press-Enterprise on several subjects.

He said in 2005 the Riverside Community Police Review Commission was "second-guessing officers' actions" and "needs to be disbanded."

A member of the First Baptist Church, he started a small ministry in 2004 for police officers. "I feel the trauma and stress that exists in law enforcement, it has not been addressed in a spiritual way."

Kelley was treasurer on the Riverside Christian Schools Board of Directors in December 2010 when the board defended the hiring of Richard A. Odegaard, who eventually resigned.

A group of parents cited a 2006 Modesto Bee report that referred to an inappropriate sexual encounter with a 15-year-old female student at a Castro Valley school in 1976. Odegaard was never charged in any such case.

In a letter co-signed by Kelley, the directors said Odegaard's "testimony and his life" since the then-34-year-old incident "have been exemplary."

On Friday, Riverside Christian Schools superintendent John Moran issued a statement saying Kelley "will not be allowed on school premises during the period of his suspension. I am taking this situation very seriously."

Aimee Lunney, a member of the parents group who protested Odegaard's hiring, said Friday that she would prefer seeing Kelley completely removed from the board rather than suspended.

Hopewell said the investigation into Kelley was continuing and if anyone has additional information to contact her at 951-353-7124 or Detective Phil Fernandez at 951- 353-7121.