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RIVERSIDE: Retired detective pleads guilty to child molestation

He now faces 24 years in prison after pleading guilty to assaulting two girls about eight years ago

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BY **RICHARD K. De ATLEY** | **STAFF WRITER**STAFF WRITER | **November 22, 2011; 11:49 AM**

A retired Riverside police detective who had organized a law enforcement ministry and served on the board of a Christian school pleaded guilty Tuesday to nine felony counts of child molestation.

Granville Douglas "Bud" Kelley Jr., 74, faces 24 years in prison under the plea agreement with prosecutors. He will be sentenced Dec. 6.

The two victims have been described as girls, about 7 years old when the molestations took place between seven and eight years ago.

The family of one of the victims was in court to watch Kelley, in custody and being held on a million dollars bail. He was wearing a red "isolation" jail outfit and entered his pleas before Riverside County Superior Court Judge Becky Dugan.

"Mr. Kelley, is it true then, that between January of 2003 and December of 2004 you molested a minor child?" Dugan asked.

"Yes ma'am," Kelley replied. He responded the same when Dugan asked about the second victim.

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Kelley was originally charged with six counts of child molestation but pleaded guilty to an amended complaint of nine charges.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Carney said the three additional charges were not based on new information but were filed after a review of the case that had already been developed.

He declined further comment.

“It’s just a sad case for everyone concerned,” defense attorney Stuart Sachs said after Kelley’s pleas.

The girl who initially reported the incidents went to police July 1. She said a recent event in her life prompted her to tell her mother about Kelley.

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.

Kelley 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 was treasurer of the Riverside Christian Schools’ Board of Directors in December 2010 when the board defended the hiring of Richard A. Odegaard, who eventually resigned as superintendent. Parents had raised the issue of a reported 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.”

Kelley was suspended and eventually removed from the board after the charges were filed.

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,” he had said.

Granville Douglas “Bud” Kelley Jr., a retired Riverside police detective, pleaded guilty today to nine counts of child molestation.

Kelley, 74, faces 24 years in prison under the plea agreement with prosecutors. He will be sentenced Dec. 6.

He originally was charged with six counts and pleaded today to an amended complaint that increased the number of charges to nine.

The victims were two girls who were approximately 7 years old at the time the acts took place, between January of 2003 and December of 2004, prosecutors said.

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.

In recent years he started a ministry for law enforcement and served as a board member for Riverside Christian Schools. He was suspended and eventually removed after the charges were filed.



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