

## Aurora DARE officer's sex exploitation trial pushed back to June

Veteran cop is accused of forcing teen runaway to take explicit photos of herself

Posted: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 7:00 am | Updated: 5:04 am, Thu Feb 23, 2012.

BY BRANDON JOHANSSON Staff Writer |

**AURORA** | The trial of an Aurora DARE officer accused of forcing a 15-year-old runaway to take sexually explicit photos of herself has been pushed back, according to court records.

Former Officer Michael Mangino had been scheduled to go on trial in early March but the four-day trial has been delayed until June 18. Mangino's lawyer asked for the delay, according to court records.

Mangino is next scheduled to appear in court March 2 for a hearing.

Mangino, 50, is charged with sexual exploitation of a child and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, both felonies. The 29-year APD veteran, who is free on bond, also faces a misdemeanor charge of official misconduct.

At a preliminary hearing last summer, an Adams County Court judge ruled there was enough evidence for Mangino to stand trial.

As a DARE officer, Mangino worked at six local elementary schools: Vaughn, Clyde Miller, Lyn Knoll, Arkansas, East Ridge and St. Pius X. As a police area representative, Mangino worked an area stretching from Potomac Street west to Peoria Street and East Sixth Avenue north to East Colfax Avenue.

The incident involving the 15-year-old girl happened in early March 2011 when Mangino arrested the runaway, according to police. Police said Mangino had the girl take sexually explicit photos of herself on Mangino's personal cell phone.

The girl later told police about the incident and based on the ongoing investigation, Mangino was later placed on unpaid leave, police said.

The department was scheduled to launch an internal investigation into Mangino's conduct when the criminal case wraps up, but last fall Mangino retired and a department spokesperson said the internal investigation will no longer happen.

In a statement after Mangino's retirement, Aurora police Chief Dan Oates said Mangino's retirement was a relief.

"I am relieved that Mr. Mangino is no longer a police officer in this agency. The APD will continue to assist the District Attorney in a vigorous prosecution of the charges against him," Oates said.

Reach reporter Brandon Johansson at 720-449-9040 or [bjohansson@aurorasentinel.com](mailto:bjohansson@aurorasentinel.com)

**TOWNNEWS**  
Online. Community. News.

© Copyright 2012, Aurora Sentinel, Aurora, CO. Powered by BLOX Content Management System from TownNews.com. [Terms of Use | Privacy Policy]