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[UPDATE] VPD Officer Arrested on Child Molestation

Otto G. Pena, 44 year old Lowndes County resident and Valdosta Police Officer has been arrested on May 5, 2011 for one count of aggravated child molestation. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation reveals information about the investigation.

Posted: 11:25 AM May 6, 2011

Reporter: LCSO Press Release

**VPD Officer Arrested on Child Molestation****VPD Officer Arrested on Child Molestation 5-6**

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[Update] 5-6 12:00 PM

JaTaryia Thomas couldn't hold back the emotion after hearing a Valdosta police officer was arrested and charged with aggravated child molestation.

"I have three kids, two daughters and just to hear that a police officer is even involved or even talking to a child on that level, let alone child molestation pisses you off. These are the people your supposed to call when something is wrong. They're supposed to protect you," said Thomas. <

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation says 44-year-old Otto Pena was taken into custody just before four o'clock Thursday afternoon.

Authorities say they interviewed the juvenile who told them the molestation went on for several years.

"It's pretty painful to us," said Valdosta Police Captain Bobbi McGraw.

Police say the information isn't easy for them to digest either. Pena has been an officer in Valdosta since September 2006.

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We'll see what the outcome of the investigation is," said McGraw.

As of now Pena is being held at the Lowndes County Jail.

Pena is also on administrative leave.

GBI officials says they just finished collecting all the evidence Friday, but say there are still a few more witnesses that need to be interviewed before handing the case over to the District Attorney.

[Update] 5-6 11:10 AM

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has told Eyewitness News that they were requested to investigate accusations of an officer molesting a juvenile. GBI says they spoke to the juvenile and the officer yesterday. Shortly after the interview, Otto Pena, 44, was arrested at the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office at 3:50pm.

GBI say the juvenile informed them that the molestation was going on for several years.

Stay with WCTV for updates.

[Update] 5-5 11:05 PM

A Valdosta police officer finds himself on the wrong side of the law--arrested Thursday for child molestation.

One of their own - 44-year-old Otto Pena - was arrested a today 5-5 and charged with one count of aggravated child molestation.

Police say they found out early Thursday morning about the allegations.

Pena was not working at the time the accusations were made.

"It's pretty painful to us, we just have to take one minute at a time, one day at a time. We'll see what the outcome of the investigation is," said Captain Bobbi McGraw.

Pena is currently being held at the Lowndes County Jail. He is on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

This story is still developing. There are lots of details missing and lots of questions unanswered.

The Lowndes County Sheriff's office and Georgia Bureau of Investigation are handling this as a joint case.

Valdosta, GA - Otto G. Pena, 44 year old Lowndes County resident has been arrested on May 5, 2011 for one count of aggravated child molestation. Pena has been employed as a law

enforcement officer with the Valdosta Police Department since September 2006.

Supervisory personnel at the Valdosta Police Department were notified in the early morning hours of May 5, 2011 that an allegation of child molestation had been made against Pena. Pena was not working at the time the allegation was made.

Command Staff of the Valdosta Police Department immediately placed Pena on administrative leave pending the outcome of a criminal and internal investigation.

The criminal investigation is being handled jointly by the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department and the Georgia Bureau of Investigations.

Pena is currently being held at the Lowndes County Jail.

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