

Deputy charged with groping, extortion

Sports

Criminal complaint: Baca touched 17 yr old's butt

Video

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Reporter: Alex Tomlin

SOCORRO, N.M. (KRQE) - A sheriff's deputy accused of forcing women to flash him to get out of traffic tickets, was arrested and jailed Tuesday.

Investigators said he also groped a 17-year-old girl he pulled over. A judge decided the case is so serious that Deputy Shawn Baca will need half a million dollars to get out of iail.

Investigators said Baca used his patrol car, badge and ticket book to force women into doing what he wanted.

The criminal complaint spells out what police said Baca did and claims it all started in February.

A woman reported Baca pulled her over and made her show her breasts or he said he'd charge her with a crime.

"The female at that time was called and asked to send some type of proof or something, and she never did," Socorro County Chief Deputy Shorty Vaiza said.

Baca stayed on patrol. On March 15 he pulled over a 17-year-old girl. The complaint claims he touched the girls butt underneath her skirt.

She also reported Baca, but he stayed on patrol still. Then just five days later investigators say he pulled over another woman forcing her to show her breasts. She says he even took a picture on his cell phone.

"This is an isolated incident," Vaiza said. "It's not commonplace."

Vaiza said the department turned over the allegations to New Mexico State Police.

"As soon as we heard from State Police that it was viable, then we went ahead and called him in and put him on administrative leave," Vaiza said.

News 13 asked why it took so long to suspend Baca.

"I think it takes a long time because of what you are dealing with and you want to make sure all your I's are dotted and T's are crossed and make sure it's not just an allegation but a true-to-fact complaint," Vaiza said.

Investigators said Baca, who had only been on the force about a year, destroyed the cell phone picture of the woman's breasts weeks ago.

News 13 is showing Baca's picture because investigators believe there are more victims and want those women to pick Baca out of a photo lineup.



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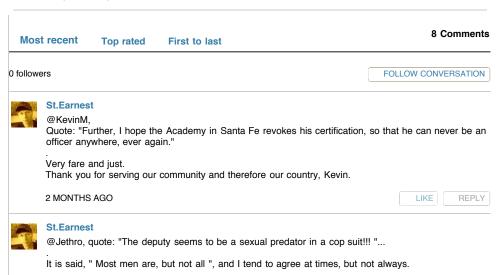
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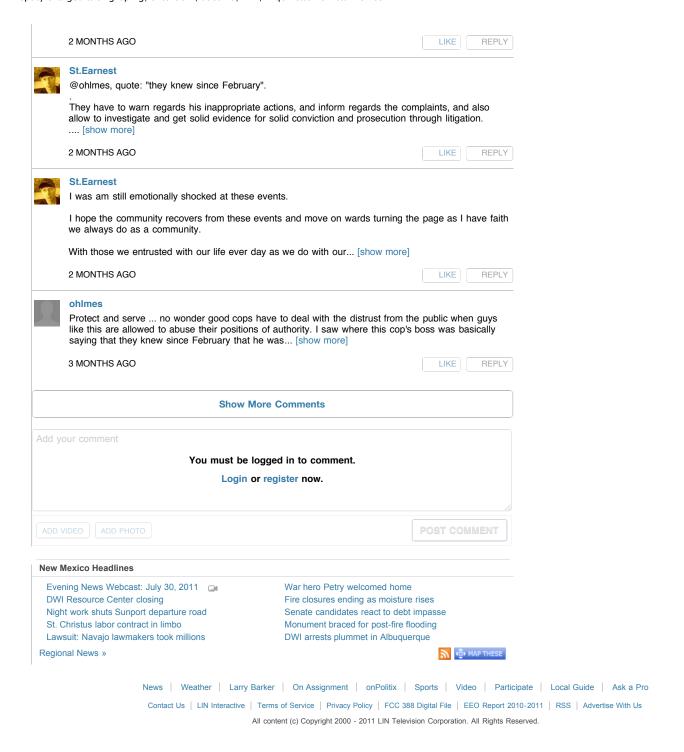
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