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## Former Phoenix officer pleads not guilty in sex case

by **Laurie Merrill and Cecilia Chan** - Aug. 23, 2012 07:31 PM  
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A former Phoenix police officer accused of molesting two teenage boys pleaded not guilty on Thursday to 10 counts of sexual conduct with a minor.

Christopher J. Wilson, 43, a former detective who was a liaison to the Valley's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, is accused of engaging in sexual intercourse or oral contact with two teens he met through his work, police said.

"This is a police officer violating the public trust," prisoner advocate Margaret Plews said outside the Maricopa County Superior Court room where Wilson was arraigned. She wore a T-shirt that said, "Queers are cool. It's the cops who can't be trusted."

A status conference in the case has been set for Oct. 8.

"This tragic incident is a disturbing violation of our public's trust," Phoenix Police Chief Daniel Garcia said after Wilson's Aug. 7 arrest. Wilson immediately resigned from his 14-year post.

The indictment alleges that the sexual encounters with the 14-year-old occurred over three weeks while the encounters with the 17-year-old occurred over the past three to four months, ending July 31.

Wilson admitted the improper acts, Garcia said. "I'm extremely disturbed and disgusted by this conduct," he added.

The sexual encounters took place at several private locations, including Wilson's home, Garcia said. Wilson lived by himself, according to court records.

Wilson's personnel files released this week are filled with glowing reviews from his supervisors for "exemplary work."

Wilson received a number of commendations, including the department's Medal of Valor for running into a burning house in 2002 to look for trapped residents.

In 2010, Wilson was assigned to a liaison role with the LGBT community. His work was noted by his supervisors and the One voice Community Center.

The nonprofit group services the Valley's LGBT community gave Wilson the center's Social Justice Award in 2011 for his "relentless pursuit for full equality for the LGBT community."

There were a few black marks in Wilson's file. In 2000 he received a serious infraction for issuing a traffic ticket but failing to process the citation as outlined in department policies.

Wilson also came under review for a use of force complaint in 2001. The review board concluded that he acted in accordance with the department's policy.

There also was a three-month criminal investigation conducted on Wilson in 2011. The case was "inactivated pending the development of further information."

Police spokesman Trent Crump said Thursday the investigation involved "an unsubstantiated aggravated assault."

A traveling door-to-door salesman complained that Wilson answered his door with a gun, Crump said.

Crump said Wilson did have a gun in his hand but only after seeing the man peering into his home's window.

The salesman never pursued his allegation and never made himself available to police investigators, Crump said.

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