

Former San Jose cop pleads no contest to sex acts with high school students

Posted:

MercuryNews.com

A former San Jose police officer pleaded no contest Thursday to engaging in sex acts with two male high school students during an encounter at his Gilroy home and could be sentenced to more than three years in prison, according to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office.

Patrick D'Arrigo, 44, a longtime campus officer at Leland High in San Jose, pleaded no contest to one count of lewd and lascivious acts on a minor age 14 or 15 and one count of oral copulation with a minor, according to prosecutor Stuart Scott.

In a criminal case, pleading no contest has the same effect as a guilty plea. So D'Arrigo will have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

He is facing a maximum sentence of three years, eight months in prison, Scott said.

D'Arrigo is scheduled to be sentenced on April 30.

The San Jose cop had been on paid administrative leave since his arrest on Aug. 31 after an indictment by a Santa Clara County criminal grand jury.

D'Arrigo resigned from the force last month, "which was the appropriate thing to do," San Jose Police Chief Chris Moore said.

"Whenever one of our own violates the public trust in that manner, they've lost their ability and privilege to serve the community," Moore said.

Brian Madden, an attorney who represented D'Arrigo, could not be reached for comment.

Three people told a criminal grand jury that D'Arrigo gave them booze at his Gilroy home four years ago and then engaged in sex acts with two of them, according to a court transcript.

They told the grand jury that they believed D'Arrigo knew they were all underage at the time.

After the closed-door testimony, the veteran San Jose cop was indicted on Aug. 31, 2011, by the grand jury and arrested the same day when he showed up to work.

According to the court transcript, the encounter occurred after D'Arrigo answered a 2008 Craigslist ad for "Men Seeking Men." After being introduced to the officer by the 16-year-old who posted the ad, five students partied with D'Arrigo, watching movies and drinking rum and Cokes at his Gilroy home.

Two of the teens testified to having sexual activity with the cop, and afterward, receiving gift cards from him.

One of those students, 15 at the time, told the grand jury that he had oral sex with the officer on his couch.

The student testified that he was very drunk at the time.

"I just remember doing it," the student said, according to the grand jury transcript. "And like I just snapped out of it, I was like 'What am I doing here?' "

Afterward, the officer gave him a gift card from Hollister Co. clothing store.

"And I was like 'Oh, thanks,' " the student testified.

D'Arrigo was one of two San Jose police officers who was accused of covering up a 2008 suspected drunken-driving crash involving Sandra Woodall, a former police officer. A grand jury decided not to charge either officer. After an internal police inquiry, then-Chief Rob Davis decided in 2009 to fire the two officers for failing to properly investigate the crash. After arbitration, they were reinstated in 2010.

Contact Mark Gomez at 408-920-5869. Follow him on [Twitter.com/MarkMgomez](https://twitter.com/MarkMgomez).
