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## Ex-Pittsburgh Public Schools police officer accused of sex crimes

22-year veteran faces claims he assaulted 3 students, provided another with drugs  
 September 20, 2012 12:44 am



J. Monroe Butler II /Post-Gazette

Robert Lellock, 43, of Beltzhoover a suspended Pittsburgh Public Schools police officer, has been charged with nearly two dozen counts of sex crimes.

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Pittsburgh Public Schools police officer Wednesday with using his authority to sexually assault three troubled middle school students with marijuana in crimes that date to 1998.

District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala Jr. is asking more accusers to contact them regarding Robert Lellock, 43, of Beltzhoover. The 22-year veteran was awaiting arraignment on counts of offenses including child endangerment, official oppression, sex crimes and terroristic threats, because police say he told the boy told anyone about the assaults.

A three-week city police investigation into accusations that Mr. Lellock, whom the district disciplined more than a decade ago, worked at Rooney Middle School on the North Side. Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala Jr. has raised questions in court about whether school officials properly handled and reported the students' accusations.

The incidents in this case, which date back to 1998, are very troubling, certainly not only to law enforcement but to parents and to the Pittsburgh police Major Crimes Lt. Kevin Kraus.

The board accepted his resignation because that was "more expeditious" than going through the termination process, given that Mr. Lellock faces criminal charges. He had been suspended in July.

Documents outlining correspondence between Mr. Lellock and the district show that he was also suspended for 20 days in 1999 after the school principal found him on the floor of a closet with a male student. He was not charged with any crimes at that time. While officials have questioned whether the district properly reported the allegations, Ms. Lane said she found "no evidence" of a cover-up.

9 es obtained a warrant to arrest Mr. Lellock on Wednesday and said he surrendered calmly at a friend's home in Beechview.

Like gh police began investigating Mr. Lellock several weeks ago, when a man contacted them to inquire about the status of a report that had been filed with another department. The man, now 27, told police he met Mr. Lellock in the summer of 1998, when he visited Rooney Middle School, where he to enroll in the fall.

5 The man, who was 13 at the time, said Mr. Lellock, in uniform, offered to give him a tour of the building and pointed out a stain on his pants pocket and then grabbed it with his hands. The student told the officer he had a stolen credit card in his pocket and Mr. Lellock told him he could send him to jail, according to a criminal complaint.

0 He told police that as the tour continued, Mr. Lellock grabbed his crotch and told him "not to tell anyone about getting caught with the stolen credit card or he could get into trouble."

Share ed victim left the school that day and didn't see Mr. Lellock until a week after classes began, when Mr. Lellock interrupted a class he was taking his teacher he needed to see him. The man told police Mr. Lellock took him to a janitor's closet, where some of the other alleged incidents occurred, and reminded him about the stolen credit card before he pinched him through his clothes and asked him about his sexual experience.

The abuse escalated after the first incident and the alleged victim said that on at least 20 occasions Mr. Lellock took him to the third-floor room and forced him to perform sexual acts, according to the criminal complaint. The man told police Mr. Lellock would often "whisper in his ear that if he ever told anyone he would kill him and his family," detectives wrote. In fear, the student brought a knife to school and was expelled. After that, in 2005, Mr. Lellock drove his police car to find the alleged victim and alluded to sexual acts, police said.

In another case that occurred in 1999, another alleged victim, who was 13 or 14, said Mr. Lellock encouraged him to cut school and smoke marijuana. The officer, whom he knew as "Sweet Chuck," would tell his teacher in an alternative classroom that he had been caught with drugs and then take him to a janitors' room, where he would aggressively push him up against a wall with his body, the complaint says.

The alleged victim, now 27, told police the encounters bothered him but he was scared to report them because he had been caught with marijuana on more than one occasion.

A third alleged victim, who was in eighth grade and is now 27, said he came into contact with Mr. Lellock when he got into trouble and was placed in an alternative classroom. Mr. Lellock would walk around the school grounds with the student when he caught him skipping class, once taking him into an isolated hallway, where he began to "play wrestle" with him. He then handcuffed the student and touched his genitals with the back of his hands, according to the complaint.

The fourth alleged victim, now 28, also came in contact with the officer in the alternative classroom and said Mr. Lellock encouraged him to cut school. He told police Mr. Lellock "never sexually assaulted him but would always attempt to entice him to meet with him outside school grounds." He would meet the boy and his friends and provide them with marijuana, the complaint says.

Police said Mr. Lellock declined to answer their questions when they transported him to headquarters Wednesday and requested to speak to an attorney. His attorney could not be reached for comment Wednesday night.

Mr. Lellock has also been the subject of a county Office of Children, Youth and Families investigation. He and his same-sex domestic partner had custody of three children, the oldest of whom is a 7-year-old boy. Attorney Lowell E. Burket, who is representing that boy's biological father, filed a motion earlier this month asking a judge to remove the boy from Mr. Lellock's home. Mr. Burket would not comment on the outcome of a hearing held on that matter.

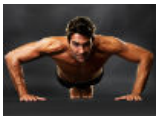
He said CYF launched an investigation into the living situation and made a safety plan that barred Mr. Lellock from sleeping at the home but allowed him to visit his children daily for four hours.

"The fact that he has now been charged, hopefully, will cause the court and CYF to re-evaluate the situation," Mr. Burket said.

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