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Loveland News

Former Loveland officer Rod Bretches hires new attorney on child porn charges

By Pamela Dickman

Posted: 12/10/2012 01:12:41 PM MST

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Rod Bretches, a former Loveland police officer accused of child pornography, walks toward a courtroom Monday with his new attorney, Jonathan Willett, at the Larimer County Justice Center. (Jenny Sparks)

FORT COLLINS -- Former Loveland Police Officer Rod Bretches has hired a new attorney as allegations of child pornography proceed against the Loveland man.

The 48-year-old appeared in 8th Judicial District Court on Monday with his new attorney, Jonathan Willett, and a request to release his former attorney, Derek Samuelson, from the case. Judge Stephen Howard granted the request for Bretches, who is accused of sexual exploitation of children and unlawful sexual contact.

Willett said he plans to file a written opposition by the end of this week about how prosecutors are providing access to the evidence and reports for Bretches and his attorney. Prosecutors have two weeks to respond, and Howard will take up the issue at the next hearing Dec. 27.

Bretches has not entered a plea to the felony and misdemeanor charges that allege he possessed and shared child pornography and that he recorded a woman in the shower without her knowledge and shared the video online.

At the time of his arrest in May, Bretches had been working for the police department for 19 years, serving as a patrol officer, a dog handler and on the tactical team. He resigned from the police department three weeks later.

Bretches has appeared in court several times during which Samuelson indicated he was trying to work out a plea agreement. With a new attorney, it is unclear when a plea will be scheduled.

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