

Celeste police chief slated for arraignment

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Discussion

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Celeste Chief of Police Roger Eugene Mueller III remains in custody on two counts of alleged indecency with a child by sexual contact.

Mueller is scheduled to be in court today, as the City of Celeste is coping with the loss of one-third of its police force.

The Hunt County grand jury returned sealed indictments against Mueller Friday, in a case investigated by the Texas Rangers. Mueller was taken into custody Friday on arrest warrants connected to the indictments.

Mueller is set to be arraigned on the indictments this morning during a hearing in the 354th District Court, at which time Mueller would be expected to enter a formal plea of guilty or not guilty to the charges.

The indictments, unsealed Monday afternoon, allege Mueller touched the breast(s) of a girl of less than 17 years of age on June 1, 2012 and on May 30 of this year. The indictments were filed as second degree felonies, each punishable upon conviction by a maximum sentence of from two to 20 years in prison and an optional fine of up to \$10,000.

Mueller is being held in custody at the Kaufman County Jail. Bond was set at \$75,000 on each charge.

Mueller has filed a writ of habeas corpus from the jail, seeking a reduction in his bond.

An attorney who filed the writ for Mueller, and who also is representing Mueller in a pending divorce case, did not return a call from the Herald-Banner Monday.

A representative for the City of Celeste declined comment about the situation Monday, referring all calls to the Texas Rangers. The Celeste Police Department consists of Mueller, one part-time officer and one reserve officer.