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Sheriff's deputy charged with inappropriate conduct

School resource officer fired following investigation

From staff reports

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Henderson County School Resource Officer Daniel Lindsey, 27, was arrested shortly after midnight this morning and charged with three felony counts of sex offense with a student.

In a news conference today, Sheriff Charlie McDonald said Lindsey is accused of inappropriate contact with a 16-year-old female student in October, while Lindsey was the resource officer at Balfour Education Center.

"Truly we are all sickened by this," McDonald said. "With the alleged activities that occurred, there certainly is no excuse."

The Sheriff's Office began investigating Lindsey on Jan. 17, but McDonald declined to say what circumstances led to the investigation. When investigators saw evidence of probable cause, they moved quickly to take him into custody, McDonald said.

Lindsey's employment with the Sheriff's Office was terminated at the time of his arrest.

There is no evidence that any illegal activity took place on school property, McDonald said, and it appears that the activity was consensual. It is against state law for persons in authority at schools, including teachers and resource officers, to have sexual contact with students, McDonald pointed out.

McDonald said he consulted with District Attorney Greg Newman about whether to turn over the initial investigation to the State Bureau of Investigation. They decided to move forward with the local investigation and charges so they could quickly remove Lindsey from contact with minors, McDonald said.

Lindsey was arrested without incident at his home in Mountain Home, which is located approximately 2 miles away from Balfour Education Center.

Paul Roberts, who lives across the street from Lindsey, said he was shocked to hear about the charges.

"I just can't believe it. It blows my mind," he said. "He seems to be such a good family man, and he's always been very polite."

Roberts said Lindsey is married and has two sons who are in grade school.



PATRICK SULLIVAN / Times-News
Henderson County Sheriff Charlie McDonald answers reporters' questions regarding the arrest of former deputy Daniel Lindsey at a news conference Saturday.

Lindsey is a former DARE officer and had been an employee of the Sheriff's Office since September 2008.

The investigation continues, and more charges could be filed.

Lindsey was booked under \$45,000 bond and transported to the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office. Because he was a Henderson County Sheriff's Office employee, it is department policy to move the criminal processing to another law enforcement agency. McDonald said Lindsey made bond this morning.

Lindsey is expected to have his first court appearance on Tuesday.

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