

Former Police Officer Sentenced for Soliciting Sex from Minor

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A former Albemarle County police officer is locked up because he asked an underage teen for sex online. His peers from the Police Department are calling it a troubling pattern of behavior.

Back in August, Scott Hambrick was sentenced to more than six years in prison after pleading guilty in Rockingham County to proposing sex online with a minor under the age of 15.

Before he was ever arrested by Virginia State Police, he had a long stint as a police captain in Albemarle County, and he also worked for the Sheriff's Office. Hambrick's former boss Terry Hawkins, who used to be the sheriff of Albemarle, wasn't surprised by the news. That's because this isn't the first time Hambrick has been convicted of a sex crime.

"January 1 of 1988 I became the elected sheriff of Albemarle County and about a year, maybe year and a half, two years after that, he was arrested and charged with soliciting a minor on the Internet for sexual purposes," Hawkins said.

A lengthy federal court battle landed Hambrick behind bars in the '90s. His colleagues at the time recall an FBI raid on the Albemarle County Police Department and a police officer they say kept to himself.

"He lived alone, by himself. He pretty much kept to himself, a private-type person," Hawkins said.

Now, he's back behind bars for almost the same crime, caught in an online sting.

U.S. attorney Tim Heaphy said, "We unfortunately see it from people that are in positions of responsibility - teachers and coaches and police officers - and that's outrageous."

With this new information emerging, Heaphy reminds parents to look out for their children.

"If I had a takeaway from this, it's that parents really need to pay attention to what their kids are doing online. They need to have conversations with them about the dangers that lurk on the Internet, people need to be on point," Heaphy said.

The Albemarle County Police Department would not comment on the story but does confirm Hambrick worked with them from 1982 to 1998.

As for Hambrick, he's sitting behind bars inside the Powhatan Correctional Facility.