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Corrections officer faces sexual assault and molestation charges

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A 49-year-old corrections officer who admitted to having sex and inappropriately touching a young girl, was arrested Friday and charged with three counts of sexual assault and three counts of lewd or lascivious molestation.

Harold Samuel Gillum, who works at the Lowell Correctional Institution for women at 11120 NW Gainesville Road in northern Marion County, at first denied the allegation. However, as the interview continued, Gillum told Detective Frank Scala of the Marion County Sheriff's Office that he had sex with the victim when she was 12, and claimed on one occasion the juvenile had sex with him to get him to take her to Disney.

Gillum said he touched the girl's breasts, and talked about having a romantic feelings for her.

During the same interview, officials were told about another woman who claimed she too was molested by Gillum. That allegation, which Gillum said occurred while he was living in another state, is being investigated, officials said.

After the interview, Gillum was transported to the Marion County Jail.

He has no bond, and his next court date is scheduled for March 31 at 9 a.m. Gillum declined an interview request from a Star-Banner reporter.

A spokesperson for the state's department of corrections said Saturday that they're aware of the arrest.

Gillum has joined a list of other corrections officials at Lowell who have either been arrested or dismissed from their jobs for having forbidden relationships with inmates or other women.

Earlier this week, a former LCI officer, 61-year-old Tyrone Turner, was given five years of sex offender probation after pleading guilty to sexual misconduct with an inmate. Part of his probation requires Turner to submit to a psychosexual evaluation and complete any recommended counseling.

He also must complete 100 hours of community service, and is barred from holding

any position at a detention facility where he could've contact with inmates.

Last month, an assistant warden at Lowell was fired for acting inappropriately around female inmates at the prison.

State investigators slapped Martin "Marty" Martinez with a charge of conduct unbecoming and he was dismissed on Jan. 15. Martinez, who was not arrested, had been an assistant warden at the facility since December 2011.

The alleged sex encounters with the young woman were reported to the MCSO on Feb. 26. Scala interviewed the victim, now 18, and she said the illicit behavior began when she was about 11 or 12, and end when she was 16.

One other person interviewed by the detective talked about seeing Gillum touching and fondling the girl's breast.

During the investigation, Scala also was told about another molestation that occurred in another state with another woman.

Detective Mark Peavy and Deputy R. Felton saw Gillum coming home from work in the afternoon and asked the Ocala man to accompany them to the MCSO for interview, which he agreed.

Locally, Gillum has no criminal record.

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