

Ex-Fairfax police officer pleads guilty to possessing child pornography

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2015 Cop Pedophile William M. "Bud" Walker



Former Fairfax County police officer William "Bud" Walker pleaded guilty Monday to 10 counts of possessing child pornography. (Fairfax County Police Department)

A former Fairfax County police officer pleaded guilty Monday to 10 counts of possessing child pornography, and he was handcuffed in the courtroom and taken to the Fairfax jail without bond as soon as his hearing ended.

William M. "Bud" Walker, 50, was a Fairfax officer for 15 years, with his last six years spent as a spokesman in the police public information unit, handling daily inquiries from the news media and the public about the department's activities and cases. Prior to that, he was a school resource officer at South County High School. In April 2015, police received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) about suspected child pornography photos uploaded to a Tumblr account. Detectives eventually traced the account to Walker, assistant Fairfax commonwealth's attorney Jessica Greis-Edwardson said Monday.

The prosecutor said Walker agreed to speak with Fairfax detectives and acknowledged managing the Tumblr account, which had been shut down once for an inappropriate photo. The police searched Walker's home computer and submitted 20 images to NCMEC, which maintains a database of child porn victims, and the organization said two of the photo subjects were known victims, Greis-Edwardson said. She described the 10 photos that constituted the 10 counts as all being of naked teenage boys, some alone and some engaged in sex acts. Walker was not accused of creating any of the images himself.

[Fairfax County police spokesman charged with possessing child pornography]

Walker was arrested and jailed on April 15, 2015, and released on \$15,000 bond two days later, court records show. He was indicted on the 10 possession counts in September. He did not speak in court Monday other than to plead guilty and answer questions from Fairfax Circuit Court Judge Daniel E. Ortiz. Each count carries a sentencing range of one to five years in prison, and there was no agreement reached with prosecutors as to the sentence. Ortiz set Walker's sentencing for Aug. 12.

Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh said after the hearing, "I thought the Fairfax County Police Department did a great job in putting the case together and bringing Mr. Walker to justice." Walker becomes the second Fairfax police officer convicted of a felony this year. Last month, former officer Adam D. Torres pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter in the 2013 shooting death of John B. Geer. He also is held in the Fairfax jail without bond awaiting sentencing next month, in which prosecutors have agreed to a 12-month jail sentence.