

Former Madison County school resource officer arrested, accused of having sex with student

By Erin Edgemon | eedgemon@al.com | Follow on Twitter on January 16, 2016 at 11:10 AM, updated January 16, 2016 at 12:22 PM

al.com

2016 Cop Pedophile Jerome Heard

Jerome Heard (MCSO)

A former Madison County Sheriff's Office school resource officer is accused of having a sexual relationship with a high school student two years ago.

Jerome Heard, 41, was indicted on Friday on the charges of first-degree sodomy and school employee engaging in a sex act or deviant sexual intercourse with a student under the age of 19, the sheriff's office announced today in a press conference.

Heard turned himself in to authorities on Friday night and was released from jail after posting \$70,000 bond.

According to the sheriff's office, Heard resigned from his post on Jan. 4 and moved out of state.

Lt. Mike Salomonsky claims Heard had a sexual relationship with a female student, who was 16 or 17, when he worked at Sparkman High School during the 2012-13 school year.

The relationship lasted six months to a year, he said. The pair engaged in sex acts at the high school and at the victim's home, Salomonsky alleges.

The victim no longer lives in the state.

Salomonsky said he began investigating the alleged crime in June or July 2015 after receiving a tip. He declined to say if it was the victim or the victim's family who reported the offense.

As of right now, Salomonsky said he knows of one alleged victim, and the suspected relationship could have been an isolated incident.

He isn't ruling out, though, that there may be more victims, and Salomonsky is asking anyone who may have been a victim or anyone who has information on Heard to contact police at 256-533-8820.

The Madison County School System issued this statement today: "The Madison County School System is cooperating fully with the Madison County Sheriff's Office in the investigation of one of its former school resource officers. We are committed to helping the Sheriff's Office as part of our joint commitment to ensure the safety and security of our students."

Heard served as a school resource officer in Madison County since 2009. He was assigned to

Sparkman High School in the 2012-2013 school year, Monrovia Middle School in the 2013-2014 school year, and was most recently assigned to Meridianville Middle School at the start of the 2015 school year

Heard also served as a Huntsville police officer from 2003-07.

According to the sheriff's office, Heard was reassigned and placed on an alternate assignment after authorities learned of the allegations.