

Ex-Milwaukee police officer charged with sex with teen girl

By Ashley Luthern and David Paulsen of the Journal Sentinel

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2016 Cop Pedophile Marcell H. Daniels



Officer Marcell Daniels addresses questions posed by Milwaukee Area Technical College students at an event in September. Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office Marcell C. Daniels is seen in his Milwaukee County Jail booking mugshot

A former Milwaukee police officer was charged this week with sexually assaulting and exploiting a teenage girl whom he met after she was arrested in 2005.

The recently retired officer, Marcell H. Daniels, 45, also was the subject of an earlier complaint in 2004 when the mother of a 14-year-old girl told police she saw sexually explicit text messages between Daniels and her daughter, according to the newly filed criminal complaint.

The old complaint was investigated both internally and as a criminal matter, police spokesman Sgt. Tim Gauerke said Tuesday.

The internal investigation was "not sustained" — meaning there was not enough evidence to prove it — and the Milwaukee County district attorney's office declined to issue charges after the victim and her family did not continue with "steps for prosecution," Gauerke said.

Daniels made his initial appearance in court Monday on charges of second-degree sexual assault of a child, child sexual exploitation and child enticement, all felonies that bring a combined maximum potential prison sentence of 105 years.

The current investigation began when Daniels' wife contacted the Milwaukee County district attorney's office and said she had, in the past, seen sexually explicit photos of teen girls on a USB drive.

She gave permission for investigators to search the couple's laptop, where they found explicit photos of a teen girl, the complaint says. Daniels' wife filed for divorce earlier this month, according to online court records.

Authorities interviewed the girl, who told them she met Daniels after she and a friend were arrested. The girl was 14 at the time.

After she was released from custody, an officer, presumably Daniels, drove her home, and about

a week later she started getting phone calls from him, according to the complaint.

The girl identified herself in the photos found on the laptop, including two in which she's posing with a gun, and said Daniels told her to take photos of them engaged in sex acts and with weapons, the complaint says.

The girl told investigators she "dated" Daniels for several years until she was 18, during which time the two had sex and he gave her alcohol and marijuana, according to the complaint.

Daniels is scheduled to return to court on Feb. 1 for a preliminary hearing. He was released on a \$5,000 bail, online court records show, and the judge ordered him to have no contact with the victim or anyone under age 17.

Daniels retired from the Milwaukee Police Department on Jan. 3. He was featured in the Milwaukee police union's latest newsletter as celebrating 25 years on the job. He drew a gross annual salary of about \$76,000 in 2014.

Personnel records obtained by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in 2010 showed Daniels received discipline several times, including for failing to appear in court and failing to fully investigate a battery and trespassing incident. He received one merit award for an arrest in a homicide investigation in 1998.

He also was featured in a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel story in September on the "Educate 2 Empower" workshop at Milwaukee Area Technical College, a two-day program that sought to strengthen relationships between police and students.

"Policing, it should be transparent," Daniels said at the time. "There should be no secrets about it. You guys should know what we do, whether there's a camera on us or not."

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dpaulsen@journalsentinel.com