

Newport fires police captain who pleaded guilty to felony charges

2014

The City of Newport fired a former captain after he pleaded guilty to federal charges connected to a drugs and weapons case.

James Holt agreed to plead guilty in August to distributing hydrocodone and possessing a firearm while committing that crime. Later that month, the city fired Holt. One of the city's charter allowed Holt a 10-day period to appeal the termination to the Newport City Council, but no appeal was filed.

Under his plea agreement, Holt will spend more than seven years behind bars, followed by five years of supervised release. He had faced up to life in prison.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agents arrested him and three others in July. Holt's wife, Kathy, who is a Newport alderwoman, her son, Kenny Myers, and Newport Police Captain Roger Lynn Shults are also facing charges. TBI said Holt sold drugs in exchange for stolen items.