

Captain's Future With Lake Wales PD Uncertain



Pleading no contest to having sex with a teenage girl in 1985 may cost police Capt. James Lee Foy his job. Foy, 51, was placed on paid administrative leave from his \$66,000-a-year job Dec. 6.

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LAKE WALES | Pleading no contest to having sex with a teenage girl in 1985 may cost police Capt. James Lee Foy his job.

Foy, 51, was placed on paid administrative leave from his \$66,000-a-year job Dec. 6 by police Chief Chris Velasquez — the day his past was revealed in an NYT Regional Media Group investigative story published by The Ledger.

"Public confidence is critical in this profession," Velasquez said, "and we take it very seriously."

The chief said Foy's future with the department is uncertain as he and other top officials look into the matter. No timetable has been set to complete the process.

"We do everything and will do everything to ensure that confidence in us," the chief said.

He took the action against Foy even though the chief described his performance in Lake Wales as "exemplary."

Foy was 24 years old and had been an officer with the Bradenton Police Department for three years when he pleaded no contest to a charge of having sex with a 15-year-old girl, according to Sarasota Herald-Tribune news reports from that time. The Herald-Tribune, like The Ledger, is part of the NYT Regional Media Group.

Foy lost his law enforcement certification. But after the record of his conviction was later expunged, he regained his certification in 1990 and was eventually hired in Lake Wales in 1997.

Attempts to contact Foy for comment were unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, the revelation about his past has prompted soul-searching in the department.