

Police sex scandal: Two Richmond officers reassigned

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POSTED: 07/02/2016 02:31:14 PM PDT | UPDATED: 11 DAYS AGO

RICHMOND -- Two of the police officers implicated in the growing sex scandal involving a local teen are being reassigned from roles working with youths, Richmond Mayor Tom Butt announced in an online post Saturday.

Lt. Andre Hill was removed from his assignment as a manager over the Youth and Special Services Division, and Officer Jerred Tong was removed as a school resource officer. Tong worked at Lovonya DeJean Middle School and also advised youths in the police department's Explorers program. He voluntarily stepped down from the youth training program, Butt said.

The 18-year-old woman who goes by the alias Celeste Guap says she had sexual contact with both Richmond officers, as well as Officer Terrance Jackson, whom she knew while she was a student at De Anza High School, where Jackson was a resource officer. Butt said in an interview Saturday afternoon that he had no information on Jackson's status or whether he was still working with students. Jackson is not listed on the police department's website as a school resource officer.

Guap has also claimed to have had sex with Richmond sergeants Armando Moreno and Mike Rood. Police Chief Allwyn Brown said Thursday that none of the five officers are on leave and there are "no allegations of criminal behavior." He could not immediately be reached for comment Saturday.

Butt on Saturday said he stood by Brown's handling of the scandal, noting that observers may want "instant results," but it was important to handle the investigation judiciously.

"Until proven otherwise, I have confidence in the chief to take this where it needs to go, and it looks like he's working his way through it," Butt said. "The chief has been good at keeping us abreast of what's going on."

Saturday's announcement came a day after an influential local youth organization, the RYSE Youth Center, demanded that Brown reassign the school resource officers implicated in the scandal. Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, who represents Richmond, also weighed in Friday with a Facebook post: "These police officers who work in our local schools should be immediately placed on administrative leave while the allegations against them are investigated. Respect our youth!"

In an interview Saturday, Gioia reiterated his call for the officers to be placed on leave during the investigation, saying it is "the prudent and responsible thing to do to maintain public trust."

In his online post, Butt wrote, "Police officers are held to a higher standard with regard to both their personal and professional behavior because the nature of their duties requires the public's trust. Chief Brown is taking these matters seriously and will take decisive action on any police conduct that carries harm to the public service."

The widening scandal first came to light in Oakland in a suicide note left by Officer Brendan O'Brien, who fatally shot himself not long after Guap said she threatened to expose their relationship to police officials. Guap has since said she had sex with about 30 officers from multiple departments, including some while she was still a minor, which would be a crime.

Guap said the sexual contact with the five Richmond officers occurred after she turned 18.

Gioia said that regardless of whether Guap was over the age of consent when officers had sex with her, "there's still the issue of officers abusing their authority. And some of the allegations raise the issue whether this teenager was being trafficked by these officers."

The Contra Costa Sheriff's Office announced Thursday that Deputy Ricardo Perez had resigned amid allegations that he had sex with Guap when she was underage.

"I'm very dismayed by the continuous growth of this scandal to many police departments -- including one member of the Contra Costa Sheriff's department, who has resigned," Gioia said, adding that "the overwhelming majority of law enforcement officers are people with integrity."

Staff writer Tom Lochner contributed to this story.