

Felony Sex Sting Charges Dropped

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Ex-W&L Administrator Pleads Guilty To Assault And Battery

By KATE LEWIS

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Citing previous court rulings connected to an undercover sex sting at a Harrisonburg porn shop, prosecutors dropped a solicitation to commit sodomy charge against a former Washington & Lee University administrator on Tuesday.

David Raymond Long, the former vice president of university relations, is the fifth person charged with solicitation to commit sodomy to have the charge dropped or dismissed in court. Long, however, pleaded guilty in Rockingham County Circuit Court to assault and battery.

The prosecution dismissed Long's solicitation to commit sodomy charge, a felony, based upon the court's prior decisions regarding the same charge and the issue of zone of privacy, said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Chris Miller.

Long, 47, of Lexington, was arrested following a three-month, clandestine police probe at Harrisonburg Adult News, a city pornography shop.

Twenty-six people were indicted July 21 for offenses ranging from indecent exposure to sodomy in the pornography-shop sting at 1887 S. Main St. Police alleged that Long's offenses occurred on May 21 and June 10.

Of those indicted, eight men, including Long, were charged with solicitation to commit sodomy. Three more men facing the charge have yet to appear in court.

Rockingham County Circuit Court Judge John J. McGrath accepted Long's plea and ordered him to pay \$200 in fines and court costs.

Outside the courtroom, Long declined comment, but his attorney, John Holloran, said his client's arrest and subsequent legal battle has not been easy on him or his family.

"It's been an extremely stressful period in David's life," Holloran said.

W&L University administrators placed Long on paid administrative leave one day after his arrest on Aug. 6.

Citing "personal reasons," Long resigned one week later, said W&L University Communications Director Tom White.

The university would have no further comment on Long, White added.

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