

Policeman accused of sexual contact with 15-year-old girl

By Paul Klauda
Staff Writer

A Minneapolis police officer was charged with third-degree criminal sexual conduct Thursday for an alleged incident involving a 15-year-old girl.

Patrick E. Kiely, 34, a patrolman in the Fourth Precinct, allegedly had sexual contact with the girl and a 25-year-old woman at the woman's house in north Minneapolis on Dec. 13, according to a complaint filed in Hennepin County District Court.

Kiely knew the girl through his work as a part-time hall monitor at North High School, where she was a student, the complaint said.

The investigation of Kiely began after the police department heard rumors that Kiely had known of, but not reported, a similar incident at the woman's house, said Chief Anthony Bouza.

That incident, which occurred the night before the alleged contact in which Kiely has been charged, involved the same girl, the woman, another 15-year-old girl and a 25-year-old man, according to court records. The incident was reported to police by a relative of one of the 15-year-olds.

Kiely, a 10-year member of the department, was not on police duty at the time of the alleged incident. John O'Donnell, employee-relations manager for the Minneapolis Public Schools, said Kiely has since re-

signed from his job at the school.

The complaint, issued Monday, alleges that he had "sexual contact with sexual penetration" with the 15-year-old.

Kiely turned himself in after making an initial appearance in Hennepin County District Court yesterday morning. He was booked at the Hennepin County Jail and released without bail by Judge Chester Durda. Bouza said Kiely has been reassigned to desk work until the matter is resolved.

Kiely could not be reached for comment yesterday. His attorney, Mark Peterson, said that Kiely "denies the charge and will plead not guilty at the appropriate time." Peterson said he had seen the complaint but was not familiar with the case to comment on it.

According to the complaint, Kiely went to the woman's house, in the 3300 block of Newton Av. N., between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m., and was met by the woman and the girl. All three took off their clothes and Kiely allegedly had sexual contact with both of them, the complaint said.

The girl told police that she had known Kiely for a year and that they met at the high school, the complaint said. O'Donnell said Kiely was employed as one of several after-hours security guards "who are there for presence more than anything else."

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Fri, Jul 16, 2021