



10/20/2005 - According to the Associated Press, a 12-year veteran of the Anchorage Police Department was arrested today on four felony counts involving child pornography - becoming the second city police officer in the last four months to face such charges.

Officer Bryan Herrera was arrested on three counts of possession of child pornography and one count of distribution of child pornography. Police say the 42-year-old Herrera is being held on 100-thousand dollar bail at the Anchorage Jail. He'll be arraigned this afternoon.

Anchorage Police Chief Walt Monegan says the case involved images of child pornography found on a computer, but he would not elaborate. He also says police have not uncovered evidence that any child had been harmed by Herrera.

Monegan says police began investigating Herrera last Tuesday off a tip from a daycare provider. Herrera, a married father of four, had been assigned to the warrants section as an adult prisoner transport officer. He has been placed on paid administrative leave.

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In June, police officer Sammy Cohen was charged with 21 counts in connection with sexually abusing an underage girl and stashing child pornography on his home computer.

The girl told investigators she was sexually molested and photographed in Eagle River when she was between 12 and 14 years old.

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06/27/2005 - The wife of Anchorage police officer Sammy Cohen, who stands accused of sexually abusing a minor and possessing child pornography, says he is not guilty.

Emily Cohen says she and her husband are shocked and saddened by the charges brought against him. She says he is a good man and a good cop and he will eventually be cleared of these charges.

In handcuffs and prison clothes, a somber Sammy Cohen arrived at his arraignment today. Thursday, a grand jury handed down a 21-count indictment, including charges of sexual abuse of a minor, the unlawful exploitation of a minor and possession of child pornography.

In the courtroom today, Sammy Cohen's wife listened to the proceeding as Judge Michael Wolverton entered the not guilty pleas.

"I feel for my husband, and I'm shocked and he's shocked," she said.

Emily Cohen said her husband is innocent and that everything that has been said about him is in conflict of his personality. "He's very black and white. He follows the rules. He was an Army ranger. He's very patriotic. He's a good person. He's a good man. He's a good cop."

According to charging documents, Cohen sexually abused a 12-year-old girl for two years beginning in 1999 and he even took nude photographs of her. It's those photos that police say they found on his computer.

Emily Cohen won't say the accusations are false, but she has her doubts. "I don't know them well enough to be able to say that. I don't think that they're accurate," she said.

Cohen said she has her own theories about what happened, but would not go into details. As for her husband, she said he is doing all right and also maintains his innocence. "He was very clear this didn't happen," she said.

Emily Cohen said her family is consulting with attorneys to fight the charges. She said she has been married to Sammy Cohen for a year and a half. She has two children. She said friends and family have been very supportive and she says no one believes the charges.

Emily Cohen said she knew about the investigation four months ago when it began, but that neither she nor her husband thought anything would come of it.