

## **2013 Ex-Lowell police officer gets two years in jail for extorting prostitutes**

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LOWELL -- A former Lowell police officer has been sentenced to two years in jail after pleading guilty to **using the power of his badge to extort and solicit sexual favors from prostitutes while he was on and off duty.**

In Lowell Superior Court on Wednesday, Aravanh Lakmany, 32, of Dracut, **pleaded guilty to charges of extortion by threat and three counts of solicitation of prostitutes.**

The Middlesex District Attorney's Office dropped three counts of rape against Lakmany.

Judge Richard Tucker sentenced Lakmany to two years in the Middlesex House of Correction followed by three years probation.

A former six-year veteran of the Lowell Police Department, Lakmany was suspended without pay in June 2011 after his indictment. He resigned from the department on Nov. 24, 2011.

Interim Police Superintendent Deborah Friedl said she is glad to see this chapter in the department's history closed.

"It's a very unfortunate situation and I'm glad to see the matter has been resolved today with the court action," Friedl said.

**In a taped confession, Aravanh Lakmany allegedly admitted that he had sex with prostitutes about 20 times while on duty in his cruiser and numerous other times in his personal car, but denied it was rape, according to court documents.**

Lakmany allegedly told his fellow officers he felt no one could "touch" him because he is a police officer, prosecutor Thomas O'Reilly stated in court documents that the Lowell Police Department received information last year that Lakmany had been involved with a number of prostitutes while on duty.

A number of women were interviewed, and four of those testified before a grand jury that Lakmany had allegedly solicited sex from them between 2010 and 2011.

O'Reilly alleges that Lakmany approached the women, would have them sit in the back seat of the cruiser and then drive to an isolated area in the city where they would engage in oral sex. Three of the women said Lakmany paid them, but two women allege that he forced them to have sex, according to court documents.

The first woman alleges that in 2009 or early 2010, she met Lakmany while she was "working." He was allegedly in his personal vehicle and identified himself as a police officer by displaying his badge, O'Reilly stated.

Lakmany allegedly told the woman he knew she had outstanding warrants for her arrest and that if she did what he wanted he would not arrest her, according to court documents. **In exchange for a sexual favor, he allegedly indicated she could "work" in his area and he would never arrest her.**