

August 28, 2012

## ROCKWOOD: Former police officer arraigned on sex charges

“ROCKWOOD (MI) — A former police officer sworn to protect and serve is facing three charges related to alleged sex crimes.

The Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office issued one charge each of second- and fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct against **Christian Zieminski**, 33, as well as a charge of misconduct in office.... He was released on a \$20,000 personal bond.

“These are very serious allegations that, if proven to be true, undermine the trust which citizens must have in our police officers,” Worthy said in a press release. “We will treat Christian Zieminski just as we would any other defendant.”

Rockwood Police Chief Stephen Rowe said this morning that when he was made aware of accusations against the officer he immediately turned the investigation over to the Michigan State Police.

Zieminski actually was fired July 6. Rowe said he was made aware of the charges against the former officer Monday evening...(Rowe) said the department has handled the matter and will move forward confident that the public will keep in mind all of the good efforts in Rockwood....

### **This is the second time in Zieminski’s career in law enforcement that he has been terminated.**

Zieminski was hired by the Rockwood Police Department in June 2007 under a cloud of controversy... He had been fired from the Brownstown Township Police Department in 2006. **At that time, Zieminski had been serving as the liaison officer at Woodhaven High School when police confirmed that he had an inappropriate relationship with a 17-year-old student..** Zieminski had been an officer in Brownstown for six years before being terminated.

An investigation then found Zieminski had inappropriate contact with the student on two occasions. The relationship was discovered after the teenager told several of her friends about the encounters.... Zieminski was recommended for hire in Rockwood by then-Rockwood Police Chief Russell VanWassehnova. He was approved by the City Council, which was unaware of the circumstances surrounding his termination in the township.

Former Mayor Philip Smalley later apologized to the community for not telling the council why Zieminski had been fired in Brownstown.... Zieminski was described as “remorseful” and “very apologetic” when he left the Brownstown police force.

A Rockwood resident questioned the board at the time and asked how Zieminski could have been the best applicant out of 15 to be the city’s new officer.... At the time of his hiring in Rockwood, **VanWassehnova said Zieminski deserved a second chance.**

<http://www.pressandguide.com/articles/2012/08/28/news/doc503d0cd4f0982222366921.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

**“A second chance” to continue to work in law enforcement after having an inappropriate sexual relationship with a minor?  
Will those charged under sex trafficking laws get a similar second chance?**