

Shake Up at Lafayette Police Department: Chief Resigns

Written by Debbie Gregory
Tuesday, September 4, 2012



Lafayette Chief of Police Ray Amalfitano has resigned from his position after stating to the Macon County Chronicle that due to recent events and conflict with some of the City Council members he has found it very difficult to fulfill his duties as chief of the department.

On Friday, August 31, Amalfitano officially resigned after trouble that has been brewing for several weeks among officials, including accusations of misconduct involving Keith Douglas Pippin, who was arrested on March 22nd after allegedly attending a parent-teacher conference while intoxicated.

“This was a very difficult decision to make,” said Amalfitano on Tuesday morning, September 4th, “and I have thoroughly enjoyed working for the people in the City of Lafayette. I have proudly put my uniform on every day and went to work for the citizens that I had sworn to serve and protect.”

“I wish everyone the best and if there is ever anything that I can do or say please never hesitate to ask. In the interest of the citizens of Lafayette, I will keep them in my prayers.”

Mayor Richard Driver will appoint an interim chief, while taking applications for a fulltime replacement.

Below is the reprinted the story on Keith Douglas Pippin from the Tuesday, March 27th edition of the *Macon County Chronicle*.

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Intoxicated Parent Arrested at Local Elementary School

By: Jessie Williams

Thirty-two-year-old Keith Douglas Pippin was arrested last Thursday, March 22nd, at Lafayette Elementary School, after allegedly attending a parent-teacher conference while intoxicated and assaulting a Deputy.

According to Macon County Sheriff Mark Gammons, Student Resource Officer Brian Carter observed Pippin “talking with a thick tongue, slurred speech and not stable on his feet,” when he arrived at the school.

When approaching the defendant, Deputy Carter noticed the strong odor of alcohol and asked Pippin if he had been drinking, to which he replied, “I had been drinking last night.”

Three field sobriety tests were then administered by Deputy Carter, which confirmed that Pippin was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

While being placed under arrest, Deputy Carter stated that Pippin struck him in the chest, shoved him against the wall and began to run.

According to his report, Deputy Carter deployed his Taser as Pippin entered the hallway, where he went down but “got back up very fast, and took off running down the hallway.”

Deputy Carter then deployed his Taser a second time.

“At this time the Deputy thought the defendant was going to obey verbal commands and surrender, but as the defendant was rolling over, he grabbed the wires from the Taser and

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pulled them loose and took off running down the hallway,” stated Sheriff Gammons.

Deputy Carter was able to catch up to Pippin, but Pippin continued to resist, shoving the officer again.

According to the report, Pippin then escaped through an exit door, and Deputy Carter Tasered him a third time.

“As the Deputy was trying to get him into custody, he was fighting with the Deputy,” remarked Sheriff Gammons, “and while the Deputy went to try to Taser the defendant, the Deputy was Tasered and the defendant got away.”

Deputy Carter was able to catch up to Pippin a short distance away, Tasered him again and successfully got him into custody.

“At this time Deputy Phil Harper and Detective Keith Tillman arrived at the school and placed the defendant in a patrol car,” the Sheriff said.

Pippin was charged with public intoxication, assault, resisting arrest, and resisting arrest. He is being held on \$2,500 bond and is scheduled to appear in General Sessions Court on April 4.