

Tulsa police officer charged with rape, resigns from department

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Deangelo Reyes. (Tulsa County jail)

TULSA, Okla. (KTUL) – A former Tulsa police officer has been charged with rape.

Deangelo Reyes was charged Friday with a count of first-degree rape.

Reyes tendered his resignation Thursday after five years with the department, according to his attorney.

Reyes is accused of raping a woman while on duty in April.

The woman came forward last week with the allegations, according to an affidavit. The woman said she felt pressured into having sex with Reyes because she has a criminal record and was afraid Reyes would frame her for a crime and arrest her if she didn't go along, according to the affidavit.

"Many people become victims due to their unfortunate circumstances," stated Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler. "And they are preyed upon because of those unfortunate circumstances. Those victims are afraid that no one will believe them and their story and it takes courage for those people whoever they are to come forward and ask the justice be pursued on their behalf."

"Chief, in your opinion do you think this was an abuse of power?" NewsChannel 8's Daniela Ibarra asked Tulsa Police Chief Wendell Franklin.

"Yes I do," responded Franklin. "Again, the citizens of Tulsa hold us to a high standard and have expectations of the police department. Every single one of our officers have sworn an oath to uphold that law."

Reyes told investigators that the woman initiated the sexual contact and he perceived it as consensual, according to the court document.

His attorney says Reyes maintains innocence and resigned to save the police department from negative attention.

"This is a black eye for us and it's a black eye for anyone in in a uniform right now," said Franklin of the allegations.

Kunzweiler praised the department for their transparency.

TPD stated they found out about the allegations on June 2, and within eight days Reyes was put on administrative leave, resigned, and charged.

The full statement from Reyes' attorney, Swab Stall Horton & Fu Law Firm:

“Yesterday, June 9, 2022, Tulsa Police Officer Deangelo Reyes submitted his letter of resignation to Tulsa Police Department Chief Wendell Franklin. Officer Reyes has served Tulsa with dignity for the last five years, during some of the most challenging times in our nation’s history. In his letter, Officer Reyes said:

‘For the last five years, I have served the Tulsa Police Department with honor. During that time, I have seen first hand the detrimental effects that the actions of just a few officers can have on the reputation and standing of our entire law enforcement community. Until recently, I know that I have done my job well, and have worked hard to diligently serve the people of Tulsa.

The choices that lead me to write this letter were mine and mine alone, and do not reflect the high ideals and character of the department as a whole. They are not in keeping with the oath that I swore as an officer. Though I know that I am innocent of any crime, I am fully aware that my actions nevertheless constitute violations of departmental policy. My choices were selfish, and did not serve the best interest of the department or the city of Tulsa.

I understand that the department has policies in place for a number of reasons, but particularly to protect the citizens of Tulsa and the department itself. It is my sincere hope that my actions will not reflect poorly on the department as a whole.

I have the best interests of the department and our community in my heart, and it is for that reason that I hereby officially submit my resignation as a sworn officer with the Tulsa Police Department. I am innocent of the crime of which I have been accused, but I hope that my resignation from a job I love will lessen any negative attention my choices might draw for the department. I will forever remain grateful for the privilege of working with some of the finest men and women in law enforcement. It takes a special kind of person to serve and protect, and I will continue to keep you and my fellow officers in my thoughts and prayers.’

Officer Reyes offered his resignation to Chief Franklin to spare the department from any further negative attention in the midst of challenging times for law enforcement. Officer Reyes maintains he is innocent of any crime, but will have no further public comment at this time.”
