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# Inspector For Chief State's Attorney's Office Charged In Sex Assaults

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April 03, 1997 | By TRACY GORDON FOX; Courant Staff Writer Courant Correspondent Mark Spencer also contributed to this story.

An inspector for the chief state's attorney's office and former veteran Hartford police officer was charged Wednesday with repeatedly sexually assaulting a girl three years ago.

Joseph Marrero, 49, of 11 Knighton St., Manchester, was taken into custody Wednesday afternoon by state police detectives from Colchester. Marrero was charged with first-degree sexual assault, three counts of second-degree sexual assault, six counts of fourth- degree sexual assault, and five counts of risk of injury to a minor, police said.

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He is accused of sexually assaulting the girl "on numerous occasions" between July and August of 1994 in Columbia, where he had lived, state police said.

After learning an arrest warrant was signed for Marrero, Chief State's Attorney John M. Bailey suspended him without pay Wednesday, relieving him of the police powers he held as an inspector.

"Further administrative proceedings will be conducted by this office consistent with collective bargaining requirements," Bailey said.

Detectives from the eastern district criminal investigation unit began an investigation after they were notified by the state Department of Children and Families about the allegations last month, said Sgt. Dale Hourigan, a state police spokesman.

Police declined to release any information about the victim. They would not say why it took so long for her to come forward with her complaint.

Marrero was released on \$50,000 bond for appearance today in Superior Court in Vernon.

In 1995, Marrero joined the chief state's attorney's fugitive squad, an elite unit comprising five former police officers and FBI agents who hunt down suspects who fail to appear in court.

"He had excellent recommendations," Bailey said. "I knew him as a Hartford police officer. He has always done an

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excellent job."

Bailey declined to comment on the charges, saying it is being handled by Tolland State's Attorney Patricia Swords.

"This will be handled like any other case," Bailey said.

Marrero joined the Hartford police in 1969 and, at the time of his retirement in 1989, officers said he had been a mentor to a generation of Hispanic patrol officers.

"When he worked here, he was an excellent detective and sergeant. He represented the Hispanic officers very well. He was a mentor to me and all the guys who came on the job looked up to him," said Det. Ray Cruz, of the Hartford department.

During his career with the Hartford Police Department, Marrero was commander of the hostage negotiation team and investigated homicides and other major crimes on the crimes against persons squad.

When he left the department, he said he was moving out to Columbia to "rest my bones."

Marrero could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

After his retirement from the Hartford police, he was named case coordinator for an assistant prosecutor in Superior Court in Hartford.

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