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UPDATE

Former Bono police chief pleads no contest in court

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BONO, AR (KAIT) – Former Bono Police Chief Lance Suttles pleaded guilty Tuesday to disorderly conduct.

Suttles was originally charged with a misdemeanor charge of obstructing government operations. Suttles negotiated with the judge to reduce the original charge. Suttles was fined \$300.

On March 12, Bono Mayor Billy Stephens fired Police Chief **Lance Suttles**, giving him a letter that stated he was no longer employed by the city. Mayor Stephens says the decision was made after consulting with attorneys for the city.

Suttles was served with a warrant for a misdemeanor charge of obstructing government operations. **The charge is connected to a sexual assault investigation against him.** Those charges have since been dropped.

This isn't the first or second sexual assault investigation into the Bono Police Department, but the 3rd in the last 6 years.

The first dates back to January 2006 when Bono Police Chief **Rick Duhon** was accused of sexually assaulting a minor. Duhon pled guilty and was sentenced to six years in prison.

Just over a year later in 2007, Former Bono Interim Police Chief **Jim Matha** was accused of sexually assaulting the same minor that put Duhon behind bars. Matha was sentenced to 3 years probation.

The Bono City Council recently appointed Robert Jones to police chief.

Region 8 News will continue to track this story and bring you any new details as soon as they become available.

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