



Everything New Orleans

Veteran New Orleans police officer booked with forcible rape

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A [New Orleans police officer](#) was arrested and booked with forcible rape of a 15 year-old girl, authorities said. Desmond Pratt, 42, a former homicide detective and now a 6th District cop, remained in jail Thursday morning, according to police spokeswoman Remi Braden.

According to an arrest warrant filed in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, detectives with NOPD's child abuse unit received a complaint regarding the aggravated rape of 15-year-old girl on Wednesday (April 17). When police learned that the man accused in the crime was an NOPD officer, the record states, investigators notified the department's Public Integrity Bureau and an arrest warrant was filed.

Pratt was arrested at his home early Thursday morning, about 3:46 a.m., the record states.

Pratt, who was also booked on charges of sexual battery, was immediately put on emergency suspension without pay following his arrest, Braden said. Pratt was given a \$50,000 bond during a hearing Thursday morning. If he makes bond he must also wear a monitoring device and avoid contact with the victim.

A forcible rape conviction in the state of Louisiana carries a minimum of five years and maximum of 40 years prison sentence and two of the years imposed are without the benefit of probation, parole or suspension of the sentence. Sexual battery is punishable by up to ten years in prison, according to Louisiana state law.

Pratt has been with the department since 1997 and was at one point a member of the Community Public Housing Force. As a homicide detective, he was deeply involved in the investigation into two murders tied to alleged Uptown drug kingpin Telly Hankton.

Pratt had requested protection for Hasan "Hockie" Williams after Williams, within hours of the crime, identified Hankton as [the man who shot Jessie "TuTu" Reed](#) on Terpsichore Street in June 2009. But Williams was shot shortly after attending Reed's funeral, with the same gun used to dispatch Reed.

Prosecutors said Hankton -- who had already been arrested in Reed's killing -- ordered the hit on Williams from the Orleans Parish jail.

It's unclear what led the NOPD to reassign Pratt.

Pratt also featured prominently in another high-profile murder case, that of 16-year-old Roderick Gordon, who was gunned down in the 1500 block of Conti Street in 2009.

In total, five men were accused of being involved in the shooting, although only one, 22-year-old Travis Burke, has been convicted. Two weeks ago, Burke got news that an unknown witness resurfaced and told the district attorney that Burke and his friend [Jamal Clay](#), also charged with the crime and currently awaiting trial, were not the killers.

That witness claimed he saw three men, not five, shoot Gordon, and that none of them was either Burke nor Clay.

The witness claimed he had told Pratt what he'd seen six months after the killing, more than a year before Burke's trial, but was never called to testify at Burke's trial and that his defense attorney never even knew he existed.

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