

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff

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Teacher Arrested

Tallahassee- Wednesday evening, Rickards High School Teacher Michael F. Tamayo surrendered himself at the Leon County Jail after a warrant was issued for his arrest, charging him with Sexual Battery (Custodial Authority).

On May 29, 2007 the victim came forward to school personnel and reported that she had been sexually involved with her teacher. The school notified the School Resource Deputy who then initiated an investigation. The investigation was then turned over to the Violent Crimes Unit of the Sheriff's Office.

During interviews with detectives the victim said that she and her former teacher became involved in a relationship back in October of 2005 that lasted three months. She said that the relationship started when she was having trouble at home and manifested itself into flirting and ultimately a sexual relationship. According to arrest reports the relationship occurred off campus and at the teacher's residence.

Detectives interviewed Michael Tamayo at the Sheriff's Office. According to arrest reports Tamayo admitted to a having a friendship oriented relationship with the alleged victim and that he had counseled her in the past when she had family problems. Reports also reflect Tamayo told detectives that the victim had been to his residence in the past.

Detectives presented the findings of the investigation to the State Attorney's Office and ultimately obtained an arrest warrant for Tamayo.

Sgt. Chris Chase, LCSO spokesman said "the charge of Sexual Battery (Custodial Authority) is the appropriate charge for the circumstances surrounding the sexual relationship. The victim was a direct student of Tamayo's at the time of the alleged acts; therefore, he had authority over her in his official capacity".

Leon County Schools was informed of the allegations and arrest of Tamayo. School Board Officials have been working on the case with the detectives.

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Leon County Sheriff's Office

