



Fayette County Sheriff's Office

Barry Babb, Sheriff March 13, 2013

Press Information

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On January 23, 2013, Deputy Sheriff Harry “Butch” Parris was terminated for cause from the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office. Butch Parris had been an employee of the Sheriff’s Office since March 29, 1993. He became a certified officer in November of 1995. Since his employment began with Fayette County, Parris had worked as a Deputy Sheriff in the Jail Division.

The Fayette County Sheriff’s Office requested the assistance of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) on October 26, 2012 after learning that Parris may have violated a criminal statute. The Fayette County Sheriff’s Office turned over the preliminary information that had been collected and requested a full investigation. The GBI has been the lead agency since the inception of the investigation with full cooperation from the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office.

On March 13, 2013, agents from the GBI briefed District Attorney Scott Ballard and Sheriff Barry Babb as to the status of the investigation and it was determined that the arrest warrants should be issued.

Butch Parris was arrested and charged with Sexual Exploitation of Children OCGA 16-12-100(b)(8) and Violation of Oath of Office OCGA 16-10-1 for utilizing his office computer to search for and view child pornography. Parris was booked and fingerprinted at the Fayette County Jail before being transported to another holding facility.

The case could be presented to the Grand Jury as early as April 24, 2013.