

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

May 1, 2009

Sheriff Jimmy Harris states as follows:

On April 30, DeKalb County Sheriff's officials received information from Chief Brad Gregg at the Sylvania Police Department that a 17-year-old male student at Sylvania High School was receiving text messages offering money to the student in exchange for sexual favors. Frank D. Lipham, 67, of Rainsville, reportedly began sending the messages to the student Thursday morning. The student turned his phone over to Sylvania Principal Wesley King and Chief Gregg, who contacted the Sheriff's Office.

Chief Mike Edmondson received the phone, continued texting the man, and set a time to meet. Lipham arrived to meet who he thought was the student but was actually Sheriff Harris, Chief Edmondson, Captain Stanley Hollingsworth, School Resource Officers Sgt. Tony Bartley and Deputy Scott Tarrant, and Chief Brad Gregg.

Lipham was taken into custody without incident and charged with Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor and Prohibited Activities. According to the Alabama Code, §13A-12-121, "prohibited activities" include soliciting, compelling or coercing any person to have sexual intercourse or engage in any natural or unnatural sexual act, deviate intercourse, or sexual contact for monetary consideration. Lipham remains in jail with a total bond of \$3,000 at this time.

Sheriff Harris said, "We would liked to have charged him with felony Enticing a Child, but according to the statute, the victim must be under 16 for that charge to apply. We charged him with Contributing and Prohibited Activities, and are continuing to investigate the case."

