
GUILTY | *Judge refuses to revoke ex-chief's bond*

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between the ages of 15 and 23 at the time of the offense.

Prosecutor Nicole Belote said Worrell befriended the boys and "took them under his wing." He'd offer to show them the territory covered by the volunteer fire department. He gave them alcohol and made inappropriate advances, she said.

At a trial, Worrell claimed he was innocent but said that in his younger years he had "an issue" with alcohol.

The abuses were in 1992, 1994 and 1997, according to testimony.

Belote asked Circuit Judge Westbrook Parker to revoke Worrell's \$25,000 bond. The judge denied the request.

"The event he pleaded guilty to today happened in

**The former fire chief
faces two life terms
plus 16 years in
prison.**

1992," said Nick Woodhouse, part of Worrell's defense team. "He's no danger to the community. His family is here supporting him."

The longtime public servant is facing a maximum sentence of two life terms plus 16 years, Belote said.

Protogyrou said his team will work to lessen the sentence. Worrell is scheduled to be sentenced April 8 and June 5.

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EX-HOLLAND FIRE CHIEF PLEADS GUILTY ON SEX CHARGE

*Case involves abuse
of teens during 1990s*



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By Linda McNatt
The Virginian-Pilot

SUFFOLK

In a plea agreement Thursday, the former chief of the Holland Volunteer Fire Department pleaded guilty to misdemeanor sexual battery. The case involved the abuse of teenagers more than 16 years ago.

Earlier this year, Gordon Lynn Worrell, 44, was found guilty of forcible sodomy, attempted forcible sodomy and abduction. His guilty plea to the misdemeanor Thursday made it possible to "close the book" on the events that happened so long ago, Worrell's attorney, Andrew Protogyrou, said after the trial.

Worrell resigned as fire chief last year after he was accused of sexually molesting a teenager years ago. Then, two more young men accused Worrell of molesting them. They were

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