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Priest allegedly had sex

By Jasmine Stole
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AFTER receiving a phone call last week about Rev. Luis Camacho's arrest, Deacon Steve Martinez said he was obligated to report the

allegations of sexual contact to the proper authorities, including the archbishop and civil officials.

On March 18, Martinez sent a letter to Child Protective Services and Archbishop Anthony Apuron regarding what he was told about

Rev. Luis Camacho's arrest last week Tuesday.

Martinez wrote that on March 17, Camacho illegally transported the 17-year-old girl from Southern High School without her parents' permission.

Camacho reportedly drove with the minor to a Subway restaurant and then to a remote beach in Agat, "and had sexual contact with her and that the (Guam Police Department) arrested

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Diabetes awareness



Members of the Guam Diabetes Control Coalition held a wave at the ITC intersection yesterday to mark Diabetes Alert Day and increase awareness of diabetes control. Matt Weiss / Variety

GWA reports problems with wastewater plants

By Louella Losinio
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THE Guam Waterworks Authority reported yesterday that it has been having problems with its

Hagåtña and Northern Wastewater Treatment plants due to a lack of chemicals.

During a work session with the Consolidated Commission on Utilities last night, GWA reported

that a delay in the procurement of the coagulant ACH, which is used at both sewage plants, may have caused the plants to be noncompliant with their operating permits.

In an interview with the Variety,

CCU Chairman Joseph Duenas confirmed that the Hagåtña treatment plant was compliant only until March 6. In the case of the Northern wastewater plant, the chemicals

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Delta
Tire and Lube

Airport Rd: 642-3582 [DLTA]
Ypao Rd: 647-3582 [DLTA]
Barrigada: 735-3582 [DLTA]
Sinajana: 475-3582 [DLTA]
drivedelta.com

Guam Air Guard unit preparing to deploy later this year

(GUNG) — The 254th Red Horse Squadron (RHS) of the Guam Air National Guard (GUANG) has received an alert order for a team of airmen to deploy later this year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Overseas deployments continue for the Guam Air National Guard with members of the 254th RHS to mobilize for training and scheduled to depart in support of Operation Enduring Freedom this fall.

"The deployment proves the continued reliability and relevance of the members of the Guam Guard," said Maj.



Members of the 254th Red Horse Squadron, shown in this training photo, received an alert order to deploy later this year. GUNG photo

Red Horse Squadron will support an upcoming Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron, Engineer (Red Horse)

Gen. Benny M. Paulino, the adjutant general for the Guam National Guard.

The members of the 254th

mission. This mission is part of the ongoing Red Horse overseas contingency operations requirements in the Southwest

Asia area of responsibility.

"We are excited about this Red Horse mission for the Guam Air National Guard as they will continue to showcase our Guam pride and capabilities," said Lt. Col. Audie Artero, 254th Air Base Group commander.

Artero commanded the 254th RHS during its deployment in 2012 and said he feels the airmen are ready to "make a difference with the valuable and productive work they will perform and experience they will gain while deployed."

"I have no doubt they have what it takes to meet the

challenges and contribute to the needs of the combatant commander," he said.

"This pending deployment of our 254th Red Horse Squadron will have a significant impact on our Air Guard component, as well as our families and employers. We want to inform the people of Guam as early as possible about this deployment to allow our families and employers to make adjustments and be ready. We have been blessed by this community's generous support and seek the same as we prepare our air engineers to do what they do best," Paulino said.

Deacon steps down from Concerned Catholics of Guam

By Jasmine Stole
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DEACON Steve Martinez said he left his position as treasurer of the Concerned Catholics of Guam as directed by an archbishop from Rome.

"Our visitors from Rome had asked me to step down from my role in CCOG and when an archbishop from Rome asks you to do something, you do it. So I removed myself from any involvement from CCOG," Martinez said. "So Archbishop Anthony Apuron no longer has

any reason to place me under censure."

Martinez said he advised Apuron that he would stepping down and also apologized for things he wrote that were disrespectful to the archbishop.

"He accepted the apology. We certainly have a strange relationship but we have a relationship. He's still my archbishop," Martinez said.

In December 2014, Martinez said he was facing possible censure if he did not disassociate from the CCOG. Apuron requested that Martinez cut ties with the group which formally organized late

last year to address problems within the local church.

The archdiocese said it did not censure Martinez but correspondence between Apuron and Martinez that was published online showed otherwise.

In the Dec. 19 letter, Martinez refers to correspondence from Apuron sent to him on Dec. 17.

Martinez wrote that Apuron demanded Martinez cease involvement with the Concerned Catholics of Guam.

"As of today, Dec. 19, 2014, as per your directive, I acknowledge your

censure and my suspension from all exercise of faculties associated with the deacon," Martinez wrote.

Martinez was the CCOG treasurer. According to the group's website, the position is still vacant.

In January, Archbishop Savio Hon Tai Fai, secretary for the Congregation for Evangelization of Peoples, along with Archbishop Martin Krebs, apostolic delegate for the Pacific Islands, and Rev. Tadeusz Nowak, a priest from Canada, visited the archdiocese and spoke with members of local Catholic community.

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(Camacho)," Martinez wrote in his letter.

GPD said Camacho was booked and charged with custodial interference for being with a female minor who was not in school at the time they were found parked at the beach. Camacho was released from police custody the same day.

Yesterday, Carina Charfauros, public information officer for the attorney general's office, said other than the initial police report, no other reports were forwarded to the office.

The same day Martinez sent his letter to Apuron and CPS, the archdiocese issued a statement announcing Camacho's resignation and that his faculties as a

priest would be restricted. Martinez said CPS contacted him the next day acknowledging receipt of his letter but as of yesterday afternoon, no one from the Archdiocese of Agaña has spoken to him about the letter sent to Apuron.

"If it's true, if he had sexual contact with an individual, if it is a person who is a child defined as someone under the age of 18, then sex abuse is what the policy defines it as," Martinez said. "Whether or not there was consent, that might make a difference from a criminal standpoint ... but from the archdiocese standpoint, they still have to resolve (if there was) a violation of the sex abuse policy."

Martinez said the Agaña Archdiocese Sexual Abuse Policy requires any member of the clergy who is made aware of an

allegation of sex abuse to report it to the government and the archbishop. Martinez reported what he was told to CPS because of the girl is still a minor, he said.

The archdiocese's sexual abuse policy was implemented in 2002 and according to the policy, sexual abuse is usually defined as "the intentional sexual conduct between a priest or deacon and a minor." A child is any person under 18 years of age, according to the policy.

Martinez said he served as the archdiocese's sexual abuse response coordinator from about 2007 until October 2014, when Deacon Larry Claros was assigned the position.

Claros said on March 18 that he would not be involved with Camacho's case.

Martinez said he would not know if an investigation into

Camacho's arrest has been initiated because he is no longer the sexual abuse response coordinator. He also said media questions about investigations are supposed to be forwarded to the archbishop, as per the sexual abuse policy.

Since the statement issued on March 18 and signed by the Vice Chancellor Rev. Jose Alberto Rodriguez, the archdiocese has not issued any other public statement about Camacho's arrest. The statement issued last week said the archdiocese has initiated a canonical investigation but no details about the investigation have been released.

Was there a crime?

"The AG and GPD would have to look at, 'Was there a crime that was committed?'" Martinez said. "In this case, if she is under the age of 18, the arch-

bishop's own policy describes that as sex abuse, so if he deems that an investigation is warranted — even if the AG does not prosecute — an investigation from the archdiocese would still need to determine if sex abuse had taken place, and not by the standards of the archdiocese policy."

Martinez said his letter was in line with the sexual abuse policy and he did not release the letter to the public. "I was just doing what was required of me, so hopefully that doesn't garner problems for me," he said. "How it got publicized I don't know because I did not send to anyone other than who I was required to send it to. I sent a copy to the archbishop and CPS. But apparently it got into the hands of the media and so there it is. I don't think I would be in any hot water."

GWA...

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lasted only until Feb. 18.

"The chemicals are expected to come in this week. We had a problem with the delays in shipping. Right away, we knew that we would be having a problem," he said.

After finding out about the chemical availability issue, Duenas said GWA immediately

informed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"There was a short gap, wherein Agaña and Northern were out of chemicals. But we have reported that to USEPA and informed them about what happened. So there was full disclosure with USEPA," he said.

Duenas said a standard operating procedure has been established to ensure that GWA does not run out of chemicals again.

"When we fixed the two plants,

and this pertains to Agaña and Northern, we brought them up to full advanced primary standards, and in meeting the permit requirements for advanced primary, part of that was the introduction of chemicals into the process," he said. "What we have now done is develop the practice and the process of monitoring chemicals, monitoring when they are supposed to be ordered, and have certain SOPs in place."

Duenas also said that despite the delays in introducing the chemicals into the system, the impact on the wastewater discharge takes some time.

"With this one, we can see that we are still complying because even when the chemicals stopped in the Northern (plant) on Feb. 18, it doesn't mean that the next day, you will see a resulting change. That may take some time," he said.

During the work session, GWA

projected the chemicals will be arriving on island by March 23. The agency said it expects the chemicals to be at the plants by March 26 and it should have the plants meeting the permit requirements within 48 hours after the reintroduction of the chemicals.

GWA said the arriving shipment will be a two-month supply and it will be able to order and receive the remaining chemicals required for the rest of the year.