

Williams resignation latest blow for Pine Lake police

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In the end, all J.T. Williams could tell the people who hired him was a simple, "I'm sorry." And then he resigned late Monday from the **Pine Lake** police force in DeKalb County. Williams, hired last month, had been earmarked to become the police chief of the embattled city. Reports surfaced last week, however, that Williams had admitted to Atlanta police he had had sexual relations with a 7-year-old girl in 1981 while he was an Atlanta police officer, according to his Atlanta personnel file. Robert Rubin, Williams' attorney, said Tuesday of his client, "He denies molesting anybody. "Mr. Williams resigned because he didn't want to put himself, his family or the **Pine Lake** community through any more turmoil."

Pine Lake Mayor Al Fowler said he or another City Council member will temporarily take care of police administrative duties until a new chief is named. "We're really going to raise our ethical standards," Fowler said. "We're going to go deeper into a background check, have a GBI investigation and drug testing."

Fowler called **Pine Lake**, with roughly 800 residents, "the glass city with all eyes upon us." The city has been roundly criticized for having an aggressive traffic ticketing policy that last year brought in 75 percent of the city's \$1.1 million revenue. Stung by the criticism and news reports, the city hired a new municipal court judge, lowered traffic fines and put Williams on a fast track to become **Pine Lake**'s first black police chief. Williams had served on police forces in Lithonia and at Morris Brown College before coming to **Pine Lake** and had left off his resume any mention of having been an Atlanta policeman. He resigned from the Atlanta force in 1981 after being arrested on the molestation charges, but he was never indicted in the case. No one at his past three police jobs thought to check that far back.

Rubin said Williams is "not clear what he's going to do in the future."