



PORT ST. LUCIE

**POLICE**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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PREPARED/RELEASED BY: Frank Sabol

For Immediate Release:

**SUBJECT: High School Band teacher arrested for having sexual relations with a student in Port St. Lucie.**

On February 22, 2016, Port St. Lucie Police arrested Gary Anthony Burnette (DOB 5/31/89, 442 SW Kentwood Road, Port St. Lucie) on the charges of sex assault by custodian and lewd and lascivious behavior on a minor.

The investigation began on February 22, 2016 when a student notified a Port St. Lucie Police School Resource Officer that he received messages from another student that the victim was having a sexual relationship with Burnette; who is a band teacher at St. Lucie West Centennial High School.

The school resource officer passed the information on to a detective with the Port St. Lucie Police Department who continued the investigation. Through the investigation the information was confirmed through the reporting student and the victim that Burnette had sexual contact with a 15 year old female student. During the investigation detectives contacted Burnette, who met with the detective at the Port St. Lucie Police Department. Upon conclusion of the investigation, Burnette was arrested and charged with sexual battery by custodian and lewd and lascivious behavior on a minor.

Burnette was taken to the St. Lucie County Jail for booking.

Attachments: Arrest affidavit and St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office booking photo of Burnette.