

UPDATE - Jailer Termination Case

December 27, 2012

As a result of the GBI inquiry into the matter addressed in the original press release below, former Hall County Jailer Dustin Charlton has been arrested and charged with one count of Simple Battery (misdemeanor) and one count of Violation of Oath of Office (felony).

Agents obtained warrants for Charlton's arrest on Wednesday, December 26th, and he turned himself into the Hall County Jail at approximately 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 27th. He was released on \$15,000 bond, signed by a local bonding company.

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Original Press Release Issued On September 12, 2012

The Hall County Sheriff's Office has terminated Jailer Dustin Charlton following an internal investigation into an alleged excessive force incident inside the Hall County Jail. He had been employed with the Sheriff's Office since May, 2010.

On Saturday, September 8, 2012 Charlton was involved in a physical altercation with a combative inmate. After the inmate was brought under control and placed in handcuffs, Charlton struck the inmate's head with his hand. Charlton was also the subject of a 2010 investigation into a similar incident in which he struck an inmate. Charlton was suspended for five days without pay for his actions in that occurrence.

The Hall County Sheriff's Office has requested that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation conduct a thorough, independent investigation into the incident and review the results with the District Attorney's Office.

Colonel Tony Carter, Chief Deputy of the Sheriff's Office, said, "Charlton's actions are completely unacceptable and do an extreme disservice to those we are sworn to protect, as well as those Officers who serve honorably. Policies, procedures, training, and supervision are all in place to prevent this type of incident. We expect all employees to be positive representatives of the Sheriff's Office and conduct themselves in a professional manner."

The incident remains under investigation by the Hall County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs Unit and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.