

FORMER YOUTH GROUP LEADER ACCUSED OF MOLESTATION LOS OSOS

Published: Monday, April 16, 2007

A former church youth-group volunteer in Los Osos is facing criminal charges for allegedly molesting a 15-year-old girl, and he was investigated a decade ago for a similar incident.

Ysidro "Sid" Arthur *Jacquez*, 35, of Morro Bay pleaded not guilty last week to committing a lewd act on a child and sexual penetration by a foreign object with a person under 16 years of age, according to court records. The felony crimes could carry a state prison sentence, if he is convicted.

Jacquez was arrested March 23 and released the next day on \$50,000 bail, County Jail officials said.

His attorney, David Candelaria of Porterville, said his client is not guilty.

"We totally deny the allegations," Candelaria said last week.

Jacquez, a father of two whose last name is legally Alvarez, works for a paint company in Los Osos. He is suspected of molesting a 15-year-old girl whom he met through his stepdaughter. *Jacquez* socialized with the girl at a youth group at El Morro Church of the Nazarene in Los Osos, where he volunteered to lead small-group discussions, according to a crime report.

"When I didn't come for a few Sundays he would call me at home," the girl said during an interview with The Tribune at her Los Osos home. The Tribune is withholding her name because she is a minor and the alleged victim of a sex crime. "About a month after the incident I stopped going," she said.

The alleged incident occurred Aug. 2, 2006, during a trip to Six Flags Magic Mountain when a group of children from the youth group and *Jacquez's* family drove there for his birthday, according to court documents. On the trip home, the girl was sitting in the passenger seat of an SUV and *Jacquez* was driving while other children were asleep.

"The victim was leaning her head against the window trying to sleep when *Jacquez* told her that he wanted her to bite his neck. ... He then leaned over and bit the victim on the left side of her neck. The victim told me *Jacquez* then began rubbing her left leg," according to the crime report. "*Jacquez* then slowly put his right hand down the front of her sweat pants."

The girl told investigators that *Jacquez* masturbated her then put her hand on his genitals to masturbate him, according to the report.

Sheriff's detectives investigating the 2006 allegations noted similarities to a 1996 case when *Jacquez* was 24 years old.

He was investigated on suspicion of molesting a 15-yearold girl in Los Osos in 1995, according to crime reports.

In the alleged incident, the two met while he was working as a youth group leader at Coastal Presbyterian Church, according to a sheriff's crime report and the victim. The Tribune is not identifying the woman because she is the alleged victim of a sex crime.

No charges were filed against *Jacquez* in that case because there was insufficient evidence, according to the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office.

The girl said in a crime report that *Jacquez* fondled her and had intercourse with her in the garage of her home.

Candelaria also represented *Jacquez* in the 1996 case, but he would not comment on it and said he did not recall the specifics of the case.

Jacquez has a criminal record in San Luis Obispo County that includes convictions for domestic abuse, vandalism, DUI, driving with a suspended license and being a minor in possession of alcohol.

In 2004, a restraining order was filed against *Jacquez* after his wife claimed he repeatedly assaulted her. He was convicted of a felony in 1993 for taking a vehicle without the owner's consent, according to Tulare County Superior Court records.

Church of the Nazarene officials declined to comment on *Jacquez* but said everyone who works with children at the church has a background check.

They would not confirm whether *Jacquez* had undergone and passed a background check but said he had stopped volunteering with the youth group.

Jacquez is scheduled to return to county Superior Court on May 1 for a hearing, according to court documents.