

1172

Ladison, Charles E. 182

CONF000673

DYKES_I_000668

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET

Co - 596

REGISTRATION AND SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Appendix A

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE May 5, 1982

FULL NAME CHARLES E. LADISON
(No initials if you can possibly give full name)

ADDRESS 1822 St. Denis Street

CITY Norfolk STATE Virginig ZIP CODE 23509

DATE OF BIRTH 2-14-49 (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE 32 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION Baptist NATIONALITY _____

OCCUPATION Pipefitter

EDUCATION _____

WEIGHT 215 lbs. HEIGHT 6'1" RACE white

COLOR OF HAIR Dark Brown COLOR OF EYES _____

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS Very religious; sloppy dress

MARRIED OR SINGLE Married CHILDREN None

WIFE'S NAME Cindy

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	OFFICE	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
Troop 24	Balmont	NY	ASM TR 24	1977 - 1978	1978
Troop 15	Norfolk	VA	ASM TR 15	Mar 10, 1982	May 5, 1982

SPECIAL RECOGNITION _____

SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

Contributing to the delinquency of minors

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION AND ATTACH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE OR SPECULATION):

NOTED

SEP 07 '83

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

Signed

John Tewell
SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council

Tidewater #596

F. STARON

MAY 17 1982

CONF000674

DYKES_I_000669

DA Plot 4/19/84
**Man sentenced
to 55 years for
rape of girl, 10**

By JIM MORRISON
Staff writer

NORFOLK — Charles Ernest Ladison, who admitted having numerous sexual relationships with children, was sentenced Wednesday to 55 years in prison for raping a 10-year-old girl he met at church.

Circuit Judge W. Moultrie Guerry sentenced him to 80 years but suspended 25. He also placed Ladison, who the prosecutor said robbed the girl of her youth, on 20 years' probation after his release. He will be eligible for parole in about 12 years.

Police say the quiet, almost shy, 35-year-old Ladison fits the profile of a pedophile — someone whose primary sexual desire is for children.

Once, when Ladison was 23 and home on leave from the Army, he and another man fondled twin 13-year-old sisters who had been baby-sitting for the family, a probation officer testified. During the next 12 years, Ladison said, he was involved with at least six more girls, ages 13 to 16, and was never caught.

The relationship that is sending him to prison lasted nine months and included intercourse at least 30 times with a girl who attended services with him at Victory Tabernacle Baptist Church, police said. At the time, Ladison was on probation for a 1982 conviction for aggravated sexual battery of a 13-year-old girl.

Ladison, who lived in the 200 block of W. 27th St., pleaded guilty Jan. 23 to raping the 10-year-old.

Lenita Ellis, an assistant commonwealth's attorney, argued that he should be given a life term, the maximum sentence. The victim, she said, "is going to have to live the rest of her life with the guilt of his actions. He's ruined that little girl."

Paul —

Please add to
the rest of the
file on Ladison.
Thank you

Norfolk #596

CONF000675

DYKES_I_000670



Program for Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Explorers

Tidewater Council No. 596, Boy Scouts of America

1810 Monticello Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia 23517-2390

Telephone 1-804-622-1801

Catch the Scouting Spirit

January 31, 1984

Mr. Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Subscription &
Statistical Service
National Council, BSA
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, TX 75062-1296

Dear Paul:

Here is a follow-up article regarding Charles E. Ladison as it appeared in our local paper on January 30, 1984.

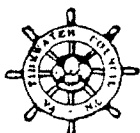
I am requesting that Mr. Ladison continue to be on the confidential file.

Sincerely,

Jack Terwilliger
JACK TERWILLIGER
COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

jh

Enclosure



SERVING THE YOUTH OF CHESAPEAKE, NORFOLK, PORTSMOUTH AND VIRGINIA BEACH
IN VIRGINIA, AND CAMDEN, CHOWAN, CURRITUCK, DARE, PASQUOTANK, GATES
AND PERQUIMANS COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA
SUPPORTED BY SUSTAINING MEMBERS AND THE UNITED WAY



CONF000676

DYKES_I_000671



Ladison

Child molesting: It's a crime of trust

By JIM MORRISON
Staff writer

NORFOLK — People trusted Charles Ernest Ladison with their children.

He attended religious services several times a week, drove a bus that took youngsters to worship and worked around the church building.

On many weekends, parents at his church allowed their sons and daughters to stay overnight at the home he shared with his wife.

"He was the kind of guy a preacher would like to have around the church — if he wasn't a sex offender," said Jonathan Harnden, a probation officer.

Ladison, according to testimony in Circuit Court, had intercourse with a 10-year-old girl an estimated 30 times from September 1982 to

July 1983. He met her while she was a passenger on a bus he drove for Victory Tabernacle Baptist Church in the 3800 block of East Princess Anne Road in Norfolk.

The 34-year-old laborer, who lived in the 200 block of West 27th Street, pleaded guilty last Monday to rape. Lenita Ellis, an assistant Commonwealth's attorney, said she will seek a life term when Ladison is sentenced in March.

When he was arrested in August, Ladison was on probation in another sex case involving a child. In that case, he pleaded guilty in December 1982 to a charge of aggravated sexual battery of a 13-year-old girl earlier that year. He met her while serving as a volunteer bus driver for another church, Gateway Free-will Baptist Church in Virginia Beach. At that time, he was also an assistant scoutmaster of a Norfolk Boy Scout troop.

In the more recent case, police said Ladison befriended the 10-year-old after he started driving a bus in September 1982 for Victory Tabernacle Baptist Church. At the time, he was awaiting trial on the first sex charge. He continued to drive the church's bus even though he was forbidden to have contact with children as a condition of his probation.

Parents at Victory Tabernacle Baptist were not told of Ladison's problems with the law. And Wayne McBride, an investigator for Norfolk's Family Sexual Trauma Unit, said Ladison had convinced the 10-year-old's mother that he should take care of the girl on weekends. The policeman said the girl spent weekends at the Ladison home.

Theirs became a secret relationship: weekends together, long walks and stolen moments of intimacy, said McBride. And,

McBride said, Ladison offered to pay the girl's way through the school at Victory Baptist. He bought her gifts and meals.

McBride testified that the child's goal was to attend the church's school. Ladison, he said, promised to make that possible.

Later, a bond grew. "I asked did she feel like they were living like husband and wife, and she said yes, she felt they were," the policeman said in an interview. "Even now she's protective of him; she doesn't want him going to jail."

The first time he molested her, McBride said, "was at the church."

Later, with his wife at home, Ladison

Please see Molest, Page D3

Man on probation pleads guilty to raping girl, 10

□ Molest, from Page D1

would take the girl to the Norfolk company where he worked. There, they would have intercourse in the cab of a tractor-trailer or in a shed, McBride added.

McBride said Ladison's actions fit the behavior pattern of pedophiles—adults whose primary sexual desire is for children. Pedophiles almost always are men, cautious men who spend considerable time thinking about how to molest children and not get caught.

McBride, who has investigated more than 500 cases of child molestation, talks about how pedophiles will "cultivate" a child, bringing him or her along slowly into the sexual act.

The overwhelming majority of sexual offenses against children, McBride said, are committed by people the child trusts: a father figure or friend.

"The old advice of avoiding a stranger doesn't work because most of the offenders know the children," said Dr. Park Dietz, a psychiatrist at the University of Virginia's Institute of Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy who studies sexual offenders. "Parents should be suspicious of any adult who shows an unusual interest in a child."

Ladison, who has no children of his own, came to Norfolk in late 1981 from Watertown, N.Y., and soon began volunteer work as a Scout leader in Norfolk and as a bus driver for Gateway.

In early May 1983, Norfolk police charged him with aggravated sexual battery. The incident occurred at a party Ladison held for four boys and four girls, ages 10 to 15. Police said beer was served.

The boys were members of his Boy Scout troop, and the girls belonged to the Virginia Beach church. During the party, he fondled a 13-year-old girl, police said.

A pastor at the church said in 1982 that because of "some rumors" Ladison had been relieved of his bus-driving duties about two weeks before the party.

About three months before he pleaded guilty to aggravated sexual battery and was put on probation, Ladison started to drive a bus for Victory Tabernacle Baptist Church in Norfolk.

Ladison, a tall man, his black hair flecked with gray, has a puffy face, an ample midsection and a quiet courtroom demeanor. He has been held at the City Jail since his arrest in August.

As part of the probation imposed by Circuit Court Judge W. Moutrie Guerry, Ladison was ordered to stay away from children and to undergo therapy for an alcohol problem.

Since the Rev. Richard Mears, pastor of Victory Tabernacle Baptist Church, said he had training as an alcohol-abuse counselor, Ladison's probation officer, Jonathan Harnden, allowed Mears to conduct the therapy.

"He knew Ladison and his wife and felt he could best help him with his problem," said Harnden.

A psychiatrist's report said Ladison probably would not repeat the offense if he did not drink. It gave no indication that he might be a pedophile, authorities said.

The relationship between Ladison and the 10-year-old continued undiscovered through his presentencing psychiatric evaluation in connection with the first child-molestation charge and after he was placed on probation in January, McBride testified Monday.

Harnden said he sent Mears a letter with the conditions of Ladison's probation, including the prohibition on his being with children. Mears "was supposed to ensure that he had no contact with children around the church," Harnden said. "If at any time Ladison did not cooperate, he was to let me know immediately. Of course, he didn't do that."

Despite the conditions of his probation, Mears permitted Ladison to drive the church bus, McBride said in court. The minister also did not tell parents that Ladison was a convicted child molester, he added.

Mears declined to talk about the case.

really don't have anything to say," he said last week.

Early in 1983, Harnden met Ladison every two weeks with Ladison. Later, they met monthly. The probation officer said that Ladison "dealed during interviews that he was having any contact with children."

"Of course, Ladison was apparently pulling the wool over our eyes the whole time," Harnden said.

"I've never seen any other kind of people like that," said a probation officer, "except for a few articles in the all day. Even if you could, you might not stop this sort of thing."

The 10-year-old was not the only child to spend weekends at the Ladison home. But he apparently never molested the others, McBride said.

Only after his wife moved out in early July did he allegedly molest the girl in his home. He was arrested Aug. 8.

The girl, who underwent psychiatric counseling, told Mears of the relationship after hearing a sermon about calling for parishioners to stop their sinning. The minister then contacted Ladison's probation officer.

Dietz, formerly with Harvard University Medical School, said pedophiles usually show in adolescence and it is presumed that will continue through a person's life.

"People who are pedophiles get that way through processes we don't understand," added the psychiatrist who testified for the prosecution in the John W. Hickey case. "The major theories are that this is caused by problems in childhood, interaction with adults, including having been sexually victimized as children, or that they learn to be sexually aroused by children through the same mechanisms that most people learn to be aroused by the sight of opposite-sexed adults."

There seem to be no bounds on the youth of victims. One case McBride investigated involved a 1-month-old child, and this summer he saw a 2-year-old victim with gonorrhea.

Because the relationship between non-violent pedophiles and their victims is often trusting, it is difficult to prosecute many of the cases, the investigator said. Although the victims rarely tell parents they may tell friends, teachers or ministers.

"A mother cannot ever expect her child to come to her and tell her he or she has been molested," McBride added. In the more than 500 cases he has investigated, McBride said, the victims have told their parents in only three instances.

Arresting and successfully prosecuting pedophiles is a difficult task because of the nature of the crime. But once a pedophile has been caught and convicted, the problem is what to do with him.

In Norfolk, some offenders are placed on lengthy probation terms and then go into therapy that includes group and individual counseling. Others, depending on psychiatric evaluation, may be sent to prison.

Elaine Scholl, a licensed clinical social worker who has spent the last three years counselling sex offenders, works with a self-help group on the order of Alcoholics Anonymous called Pedophiles Preventing Retention.

"We feel the concept of treating compulsive behavior is more helpful than any other type of treatment," Ms. Scholl said.

But Dietz said neither of the two therapies he considers effective in treating pedophiles is available in either prisons or public facilities in Virginia. Those are behavioral therapy and temporary reversible chemical castration.

• In behavioral therapy an attempt is made to change what arouses the man. The point of the therapy, Dietz said, is to make the man disgusted rather than aroused, when he thinks of sex with children.

• In "chemical castration," pedophiles are injected with hormone medications that have the effect of reducing their sex drive and reducing their fantasies of deviant sex.

September 8, 1983

Mr. J. E. Terwilliger
Scout Executive
Tidewater Council, No. 596

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Charles E. Ladison

Dear Jack:

Thank you for the detailed information concerning the above Scouter. We have reviewed this case with our Attorney and have now placed this man on the Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director
Registration Subscription &
Statistical Service

eko

cc: Southeast Region
Mr. O. Adrian Cronk, Jr. Area Director, Southeast Region

READY TO FILE

SEP 3 1983

SANDRA BEMPSEY

CONF000679

DYKES_I_000674



Program for Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Explorers

Tidewater Council No. 596, Boy Scouts of America

1810 Monticello Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia 23517-2390

Telephone 1-804-622-1801

Catch the *Scouting* Spirit

August 31, 1983

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration, Subscription
and Statistical Service
National Office, BSA
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, Texas 75062-1296

RE: Charles E. Ladison

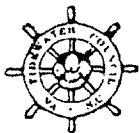
Dear Paul:

In reference to your August 5 inquiry regarding the above subject, he was sentenced to three years in prison of which he served eight months. He is now on probation and living in the City of Norfolk.

Sincerely,

Jack Terwilliger
Jack Terwilliger
Council Executive

:pam



SERVING THE YOUTH OF CHESAPEAKE, NORFOLK, PORTSMOUTH AND VIRGINIA BEACH
IN VIRGINIA, AND CAMDEN, CHOWAN, CURRITUCK, DARE, PASQUOTANK, GATES
AND PERQUIMANS COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA
SUPPORTED BY SUSTAINING MEMBERS AND THE UNITED WAY



CONF000680

DYKES_I_000675

August 5, 1983

Mr. J. B. Terwilliger
Scout Executive
Tidewater Council, No. 596

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Charles E. Ladison

Dear Jack:

Last year we had some communication concerning an individual by the name of Charles E. Ladison who was registered with Troop 15 in Norfolk, as an Assistant Scoutmaster.

I appreciate all the information which you sent at that time, but would like to know the disposition of that case against Mr. Ladison. At that time he had been arrested and we would like to know whether he was ever found guilty and if so, what the verdict for sentencing was.

Please give us this information if you can, so that we can close this case. It will also strengthen our refusal of future registration attempts.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director
Registration, Subscription &
Statistical Service

cc: Southeast Region

CONF000681

DYKES_I_000676

May 19, 1982

Mr. John B. Terwilliger
Scout Executive
Tidewater Council, No. 596

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Jack:

Thank you for the information which you recently sent on Charles E. Ladison,
Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 15.

We would appreciate any other information which you can give us concerning this
situation. If you have any signed statements from any of the parents, these
would also be helpful to our files. As soon as this case comes to trial, we
would like to have the outcome. This will be most helpful to us in refusing
registration at a later date.

Thanks again for the material which you have sent and we will look forward to
receiving additional information when the whole issue has been settled.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director
Registration, Subscription &
Statistical Service

eko

cc: Southeast Region

READY FOR FILE

MAY 19 1982

DAWN HARDELL

CONF000682

DYKES_I_000677

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

TROOP 15 - COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FOR BOYS, INC. NORFOLK, VA.

"SERVING GOD AND COUNTRY FOR MORE THAN 55 YEARS"

SCOUTMASTER: Hansel M. Price 2304 Lafayette Blvd., Norfolk, Va. 23509
HOME PHONE: (804) 625-6163 WILLARD SCOUT HOUSE: 622-8408



May 4, 1982

Tidewater Council, B.S.A.
1810 Monticello Avenue
Norfolk, Va. 23517

REPORT ON CHARLES E. LADISON

On Sunday afternoon, April 25, 1982, I was notified by a neighbor who lives near the Willard Scout House (our meeting hall) that he had seen Charles Ladison bring a car load of boys and girls to the meeting hall at about 8 P.M. on Saturday night, April 24, 1982. The neighbor said they were there about two hours and seemed to be having a party. No meeting had been scheduled, so I decided to check into the matter. Upon arrival at the meeting hall, I found a trash can with about 24 beer bottles in it. The room was messed up. There was beer spilled on the floor. There was no evidence of a break-in.

Since Charles Ladison was an Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 15, and also the Troop Chaplain, I still could not be positive he was responsible for the beer. I also wanted to be sure the neighbor was correct with his identification. I notified Assistant Scoutmaster Steve Perkins about my suspicions and he agreed we could confront Charles Ladison before jumping to conclusions. I was not able to locate Ladison that afternoon.

On Monday, April 26, at about 5:30 P.M., I received a phone call from Assistant Scoutmaster Gary Anderson. He was upset and angry. He told he had to talk to me about Ladison. I agreed to meet Gary at the meeting hall before the meeting. At about 6:30 P.M., Steve Perkins and I met with Gary and his son, [REDACTED]. They told us that Ladison had thrown a beer party in the meeting hall for eight children, ranging in age from 10 to 15. Two of the boys were from Troop 15. They also said one of the girls had been molested by Ladison. They also said Ladison was supposed to be taking the group to a skating rink.

At this point I realized we were involved in a very serious matter and asked Steve Perkins to call the Norfolk Police and ask for assistance. They sent Detective Daphne White-Clifton, who took over. The other parents who could be reached were called in and four of the children signed statements. Charles Ladison was charged with numerous law violations, and later arrested. I also notified him that he was to make no attempts to contact members of the troop and that he was dismissed from our scouting program.

I also made two attempts on Tuesday to contact the District Scout Executive without success. He was contacted later by Steve Perkins. The situation was explained to him. I don't think either of realized the local news media would take such an interest in the story.

Yours in Scouting,
[REDACTED]

CONF000683

DYKES_I_000678

No. 28 5

ADULT APPLICATION

PACK NO. _____
 TROOP NO. 15 OR
 POST NO. _____
 SHIP NO. _____

COUNCIL/DISTRICT POSITION
 DISTRICT NO. _____ FULLY TRAINED

PLEASE PRINT ONE LETTER IN EACH SPACE—PRESS HARD.
YOU ARE MAKING THREE COPIES.

NAME: CHARLES E. LADISON

DATE OF BIRTH: 02 14 49
 POSITION: SA
 UNIT CODE: SA

PRINT FIRST NAME FIRST—LEAVE A SPACE BETWEEN
FIRST NAME, INITIAL, AND LAST NAME

ADDRESS—STREET OR R.F.D.

1822 ST. DENIS ST.
COLLEGE SCOUTER RESERVE — USE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS AT COLLEGE.

BOYS' LIFE CHECK ONE
 NEW LEADER FORMER LEADER

CITY: NORFOLK VA STATE: VA ZIP CODE: 23501 SEX: M AGE: 32

HOME PHONE: _____ DATE: 2/82 SCOUT MASTER NEW YORK ST. LARANCE COUNCIL

PIPE FIT. ORANGEHART SPRINKLER CO. VA. SIGNATURE: Charles E. Ladison

REGISTRATION FEE: \$5.00 BOYS' LIFE FEE: \$1.50 TERM (MONTHS): 12 UNIT EXPIRATION DATE: 01 83

If applicant has an unexpired membership certificate, registration may be accomplished in this unit by a payment of 50 cents for processing the transfer. Check the box and attach certificate. It will be returned by the council.

FOR COUNCIL USE

LOCAL COUNCIL COPY

THE LEDGER - STAR - 5/4/82

Boy Scout leader arrested

Accused of staging beer party for 8 boys and girls

By CONNIE SAGE
Ledger-Star Staff Writer

NORFOLK — A Vietnam veteran who served as a Boy Scout troop chaplain, assistant scout leader and volunteer bus driver for a Baptist Sunday school has been charged with six counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and one charge of fondling a teen-age girl.

Charles E. Ladison, 33, of Norfolk, is free on \$1,500 bond pending a preliminary hearing June 11 in Norfolk Juvenile Court, according to Detective Daphne White-Clifton.

The fondling charge is a felony, punishable by one to five years in prison.

Detective White-Clifton said Ladison lived in the 1800 block of St. Denis Ave. and moved to the 6300 block of Adair Ave. the day after his arrest.

All seven charges stem from a beer-drinking party Ladison allegedly held last month at a Boy Scout meeting hall for eight boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 15. He reportedly gave the youngsters beer instead of taking them roller skating as had been promised.

Two of the boys, one 13 and one 14, were members of Ladison's Willard Boy Scout troop in Lafayette Shores, according to scoutmaster Hansel Price. The others at the party reportedly were members of Gateway Freewill Baptist Church in Virginia Beach where Ladison formerly drove a Sunday school bus.

A pastor at the church, who asked that his name not be used, said today that Ladison had been a bus driver there but

was "released two weeks ago because of some rumors we had received." He said he was not familiar with the rumors and that Ladison was asked to leave by the church's pastor, the Rev. Dale Burden. Burden was unavailable for comment.

Price said he learned of the beer party on April 26 in a telephone call from the father of one of the boys who had been with Ladison at the party the previous Saturday night.

"He was very upset about it and wanted to meet with me," said Price. The mother of one of the girls also called and Price set up a meeting with some of the parents and the Norfolk detective.

According to Price, Ladison took the children and a case of beer to the meeting house. Ladison reportedly was drinking heavily, according to Price, and each child apparently had one or two beers.

The children later told police Ladison started a fire in the fireplace and the group sat in a circle and talked. At one point, according to the detective, Ladison asked one of the girls to sit on his lap while he allegedly fondled her.

"We were a little bit naive in accepting him at face value," said Price.

He said he has nine assistant scoutmasters. One of them had met Ladison at a church several months ago and Ladison expressed an interest in working with a Boy Scout troop. Ladison has been in the Norfolk area about five months after moving here from Watertown, N.Y.

"I accepted Chuck Ladison because he was involved very much in church work.

I assumed because a person was accepted by the church and involved as a volunteer that I'd have no cause not to accept him," Price said.

"As far as I was concerned, he was a respectable member of the community. He lived in the neighborhood. He was married."

Ladison was taking a four-week training course required by the Boy Scouts of America for troop leaders. He had been named the troop chaplain and had a key to the meeting house in Lafayette Shores.

Price said this was the first time in his 24 years in scouting that he has encountered problems with a volunteer leader.

"This can be a problem because the Boy Scouts of America have no cause to refuse an application unless we had some access to their (applicant's) records, which we don't."

Price said Ladison's application was sent to the national Boy Scout office in Texas for review. Ladison was sent a membership card by the Boy Scouts.

"I'm sure the Boy Scout office is receiving 1,000 applications a day. It would take a tremendous amount of time to check each case. You can't hire a detective to check each new applicant."

According to police in St. Lawrence County, N.Y., where Watertown is located, a Charles E. Ladison, whose date of birth matches that of the Ladison arrested in Norfolk, was convicted of petty larceny in August 1980 for charging purchases at five stores to his employer's account.

Largynian Pub. 5/14/82

Leader charged after beer session with Boy Scouts, girls

By STACEY BURLING
Virginian-Pilot Staff Writer

NORFOLK — An assistant Boy Scout leader, who police said took eight youngsters to a Scout meeting house to drink beer, has been charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor and taking sexual liberties with a young girl.

Charles E. Ladison, 33, who was the troop chaplain, was charged with six counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and one felony charge of fondling and feeling, said a Detective Daphne White-Clifton. He was free on bond Monday.

The detective said Ladison had

told some Scouts he was a minister. A secretary at the Gateway Freewill Baptist Church confirmed that Ladison drove a Sunday school bus for the congregation.

A New York native, Ladison came to the Willard Scout Troop in Lafayette Shores as an assistant Scout leader about six months ago, said Hansel Price, the group's scoutmaster. Ladison was no longer connected with the Scouts, he said.

On the evening of April 24, Ms. White-Clifton said, Ladison picked up eight youths — four Boy Scouts and four girls from his church — at their homes, saying he was taking them

roller skating. But instead, she said, he took them to a Scout meeting house where he asked them if they wanted to get drunk. Their ages ranged from 10 to 15, police said.

Although some of the children protested that they wanted to skate, she said, all of them drank. The group drank five six-packs of beer in less than two hours, Ms. White-Clifton said, but most of them said they had only one or two cans.

"The ones I talked with had never had beer before," she said.

The children later told police that Ladison started a fire in the house's

fireplace, and the Scouts sat in a circle and talked. At one point, the detective said, Ladison asked a 13-year-old girl to sit in his lap, and she complied. White-Clifton said that, according to witnesses, Ladison rubbed the girl's breasts and pelvic area. She did not protest verbally but got off his lap, the witnesses and the victim told police.

Ladison had promised to bring the children home around 10 p.m., but some arrived as late as midnight, Price said. Price learned of the incident the next day after some of the girls told their parents what had happened.

Parents of some of the other children found out about the drinking when they were called by Price or police, Ms. White-Clifton said.

The parents were shocked, she said. "They had no idea what had taken place."

Ladison had been an "excellent youth leader" while supervised, Price said. "He was very good with kids, maybe a little too good."

Ladison had been screened by local and national Scout offices because he had come from out of state, Price said, adding that Ladison came with good references from his church.