

Cop's sex misconduct record no secret

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Lauderhill Acting Chief Gary Palmer says the city was aware the Hollywood Police Department had fired Darrell Walker, left, for inappropriate comments.

crying hysterically," said one victim, who told detectives Walker shined his flashlight down her tank top during a traffic stop. "His final words to me were: 'This is your lucky night.'"

Walker declined to comment. His lawyer issued a statement this week saying his client looks forward to meeting his accusers in court.

In the meantime, Lauderhill offi-

cial defended hiring Walker.

They were aware Hollywood fired Walker for sexual misconduct when they considered him for a job, said acting chief Gary Palmer. But they thought Walker was worth taking a chance on anyway.

"You could see [evidence of his military background] in his demeanor, in his dress, in the way he displayed

himself," Palmer said Friday.

What Lauderhill officials chose to overlook included:

▶ A 1996 complaint in which Hollywood police officer Cathleen Covino alleged that Walker leered at her.

While looking her up and down, Walker reportedly said: "There's something about a woman in uniform." After Covino asked him what he just said, Walker repeated the same phrase and added "I like it."

▶ A second incident 12 days later in which Walker reportedly used inappropriate language while addressing fellow trainees. He was fired.

■ Results from two separate tests during his background check by Hollywood police in which a computer voice stress analysis indicated decep-