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Menlo Park police officer caught naked with prostitute while on duty

By Bonnie Eslinger Daily News Staff Writer Posted: 01/15/2013 08:12:09 PM PST Updated: 01/16/2013 07:16:45 AM PST

A Menlo Park police detective arrested in Sunnyvale after being caught naked in a Motel 6 with a prostitute is still working for the city's law enforcement department.

According to an incident report from the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, officers went to the motel at 806 W. Ahwanee Ave. at about 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 18, 2011, to conduct a probation warrant search on 32-year-old Natalia Ramirez. When police opened the door, they found Ramirez dressed in a black cat suit with several rolled-up \$20 bills tucked into her cleavage.

Inside the bathroom, they found Menlo Park police Officer Jeffrey Kenneth Vasquez unclothed and "on his knees on the bathroom floor," according to the report, which does not say what the 48-year-old man was doing other than to note it did not appear he was trying to destroy contraband.

Vasquez eventually told Sunnyvale police he's a Menlo Park officer, said he was there for sex and said he had found Ramirez on My Redbook, a website commonly used to advertise sexual services. Ramirez confirmed she was there as a prostitute, according to the police report.

The Menlo Park detective said he was on duty when he went to Sunnyvale to serve a subpoena and had an "hour to kill" because the person he was trying to serve wasn't home yet, according to the police report. It was not the first time he had solicited a prostitute for sex, he told the officers.

Throughout the incident, "Vasquez was remorseful and fully cooperated with the investigation," according to the report. Asked by one officer why he would call a prostitute, Vasquez initially replied he didn't know, but a minute later said he was divorced and his mother had recently died.

"I feel like a loser," he told another officer.

According to the police report, Vasquez was released into the custody of two Menlo Park Police Department officers: Watch Commander Tim Brackett and internal affairs Sgt. Matt Brackett.

Charged with misdemeanor solicitation, Vasquez pleaded not guilty in June 2011 and by July his case was dismissed because the officer who interviewed Ramirez was unable to testify in court, according to Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Rob Baker, who supervised the case.

"The investigator's wife was extremely ill," Baker said. "I wasn't going to ask a person who was going through that to come to court and deal with a misdemeanor situation."

Baker said the case wasn't postponed because Ramirez had not waived her right to a speedy trial. Knowing that the Sunnyvale officer wasn't available to testify, Vasquez's attorney, William Rapoport, filed to have his client's case dismissed.

Baker said he wanted to prosecute both cases, but when Ramirez "got the benefit" of having her case dismissed, it "didn't sit well" with him to continue to go after Vasquez.

Officials from Menlo Park would not confirm that Vasquez had been arrested or discuss any disciplinary measures that may have been taken against him for the alleged crime.

According to The Almanac, a local print and online news outlet, Menlo Park had to reinstate the officer after he challenged the city's undisclosed disciplinary action against him. An arbitrator sided with Vasquez, according to a conversation an Almanac reporter overheard between City Manager Alex McIntyre and former city manager Glen Rojas while sitting near the men at a table in the Menlo Hub restaurant. McIntyre and Rojas did not identify Vasquez by name, but the Almanac reporter was able to track down the arrest information using information from the conversation about the officer's gender and tenure with the police department.

According to salary data provided by Menlo Park to The Daily News, Officer Jeffrey K. Vasquez earned a base salary of \$133,468.78 in 2010 for a full year of service, and \$111,056.87 in 2011, a year in which it is noted that he did not work the entire year.

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vasquez was not available for comment, he did not work on Tuesday, according to the police department. Rapoport did not respond to a request for comment.

Email Bonnie Eslinger at [beslinger@dailynewsgroup.com](mailto:beslinger@dailynewsgroup.com); follow her at [twitter.com/bonnieeslinger](https://twitter.com/bonnieeslinger).

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**Mark Goings** · Top Commenter

Did anybody realize that one big reason any of us know about this case is because the Sunnyvale cops divulged Vasquez was a cop? They easily could have left that out or even brushed him off and let him go when they found him. The fact that the Sunnyvale cops brought Vasquez to our attention is terrific. Lets all applaud Sunnyvale PD. Nice work!

Reply · 12 · Like · January 16 at 9:05am



**Lauren Cook** · Owner–Operator at Sleeping Buddha

Just saw this on the news! Said he had an hour to kill hahaha

Reply · 2 · Like · January 16 at 9:10am



**Linda Curtis** · Pleasanton, California

I wonder if he left his off duty weapon in the drawer of the nightstand? Wouldn't be the first time!!

Reply · 1 · Like · January 16 at 9:36am



**Jim West** · Barnesville, Minnesota

Let the light shine in. Obama could use a little but he runs from the light like a rat.

Reply · Like · January 16 at 4:34pm



**Leslie Stepp** · Top Commenter

Yes, you will be working hard into your elder years while this guy is going to have a pension, play golf, and no doubt carry on in his way. This is a system that makes us all real proud, huh?

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**Paul Sprague** · Top Commenter

Life just isn't fair, is it Stepp. Would you like a tissue?

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**Andy Smith** · Top Commenter

Another scumbag cop.

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**Randy Roscoe** · Top Commenter · Defence Language Institute

I am sure his union rep has him filling out the paperwork for Full Disability due to stress and having to carry a gun. He will probably get his full salary and healthcare for life. Yes, the taxpayers are very generous.

Reply · 7 · Like · January 16 at 8:09am



**Leslie Stepp** · Top Commenter

already has..the original article in the Almanac explains why we couldn't schluff this guy into the unemployment line

Reply · 3 · Like · January 16 at 8:48am



**Randy Roscoe** · Top Commenter · Defence Language Institute

And the police and fire fighters wonder why we can't stand unions for municipal employees. This guy is the poster child for limiting government employee unions.

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**Jessika Wilson** · Monterey, California

Sad that this article is before the article of an Office KIA today...

Reply · 7 · Like · January 15 at 8:26pm



**Stacey Mejia** · Top Commenter · Santa Clara, California

He's human and no different than any other man, but while on duty and at a hotel where you know police run plates? You'd think he'd be a little wiser than that.

Reply · 6 · Like · January 15 at 11:14am



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