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Posted: July 7
 Updated: July 8

Sergeant fired amid Raleigh police probe

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RALEIGH, N.C. — A Raleigh police sergeant who was placed on administrative leave earlier this year amid an internal investigation into officer misconduct has been fired, a spokesman said Thursday.

Sgt. Rick Armstrong was among three officers from the department's Southeast District Substation who were placed on leave. At least one other officer resigned.

Raleigh police spokesman Jim Sughrue said Armstrong was fired June 28. He had been with the department since 1997. Sughrue would not elaborate on the reason for the termination.

Police Chief Harry Dolan said in February that the department's Internal Affairs Unit was nearing completion on a comprehensive investigation into a 2009 police officer complaint that, sources said, had to do with officers having sex with a prostitute.

"The charges against me I'm innocent of," Armstrong said Thursday. "The allegations of prostitutes and sex have nothing to do with the charges that are against me."

For legal reasons, Armstrong declined to say exactly what he is accused of.

Armstrong said he plans to appeal his dismissal.

"I will stand up for myself and do what is right and to fight for the truth," he said.

Armstrong is the former president of the Raleigh Police Protective Association, a professional association that represents the interests of police officers and a member of the

state Law Enforcement Training and Standards Commission.

"We stand behind Officer Armstrong 100 percent and have full confidence that he'll be successful in battling the charges against him," RPPA President Officer Eric DeSimone said.

Armstrong's wife, Nancy, said the situation has been painful.

"He's always been loyal and faithful to me and my family, a dedicated police officer," Nancy Armstrong said. "It's hurtful what we've had to go through, but I support him and I will continue to support him every step of the way."

Officer M.C. Rominski was fired last

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month amid the internal probe. Police would not elaborate on the reason for his firing.

- Reporter: **Ken Smith**
- Photographer: **Greg Clark**
- Web Editor: **Kathy Hanrahan**

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Responses to hereandnow: - Spread of disease to others. - Private businesses are licensed and thus do business within bounds. - Yes, a person's liberty is and should be restricted when it damages others. - Only to the extent to protect life and property, per the Constitution. In this sense, Liberty means not being in jail without warrant. Pursuit of happiness is at issue. If your pursuit of happiness includes spreading disease to others, that affects their Life. If your Liberty affects others, you are held to this standard, one way or another. To lessen the way of violence, laws that the government enforces are justifiable.

SpaceRokr

GOLO member since October 7, 2010
July 14, 2011 1:00 p.m.

@WritNEWlaws, thanks for the black and white thinking. ;-) Allow me to rephrase...

(deep breath)

Why do you care what consenting adults do with their own bodies?

Isn't restricting prostitution the same as shutting down a private business?

Isn't restricting prostitution a removal of a person liberty?

And, if you're a self-professed "less government" person, how do you justify your restrictions of consenting adults, private business & personal liberty?

hereandnow99



GOLO member since May 29, 2008
July 11, 2011 2:20 p.m.

Bohican-Very well said...it's a shame that others are so quick to judge when presented with such limited facts. For their sake, they better hope they are never falsely accused because everyone knows what they say about karma...

If you look at this objectively, you have a Sergeant with 14 years of having an impeccable record who stood up for the rights of law enforcement officers for the past 10 years without hesitation, and a member of the NC Criminal Justice Training and Standards board. It is clear that Chief Dolan felt threatened by Armstrong because he had more control over the rank and file than the Chief did.

The ability to look at situations such as this objectively and leave judgement to the man upstairs until all the facts are presented really speaks to man's level of intelligence and character...much more so than making jokes about "sour pickles"...

bosshog

GOLO member since March 17, 2009
July 11, 2011 10:32 a.m.

like the other stories in the news, some look like they didn't go far enough and others look like over kill.

RebelyeI155

July 8, 2011 4:33 p.m.

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