



McAtee faces prostitution charges

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PEKIN, Ill. — A city police sergeant twice summoned a prostitute to his home, according to charges filed against him and the woman Wednesday.

Robin McAtee retired in early July from the Pekin Police Department, about two months after he was placed on paid leave as the Illinois State Police Department began a criminal investigation into his activities. The details of that investigation remained shrouded through the summer.

They emerged with the filing of a misdemeanor charge against McAtee, 47, of soliciting a prostitute, and a misdemeanor prostitution charge against Bobbie Swoverland, 30, of Clinton. Both were ordered to appear in Tazewell County Circuit Court on Nov. 22.

While only one charge was filed against each, Swoverland told police she visited McAtee's home at 331 N. Parkway Lane on two occasions: last Dec. 22 and Feb. 14. Each time McAtee paid her \$85 for a massage that included sexual gratification, she said.

Those details were revealed in an affidavit from the Tazewell County State's Attorney's Office that accompanied the charges. It stated the investigation of McAtee began when the Pekin Police Department received a letter on April 18 from an anonymous person who said McAtee had patronized a prostitute.

A subsequent investigation identified Swoverland as a possible suspect, the affidavit stated. After a city detective interviewed her on April 27, the case was turned over to the state police Criminal Investigations Division to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest regarding McAtee, a 22-year department veteran.

Only days before receiving the letter, the police department announced the arrests of 19 men for soliciting sex from a woman posing as a prostitute in the department's first-ever prostitution sting operation.

State's Attorney Stewart Umholtz, citing Illinois Supreme Court rules against commenting on a pending criminal case, declined to say whether the letter police received referred or was connected in any way to the sting operation. McAtee, however, was not one of the men arrested in the operation.

If convicted, McAtee would face between probation and a year in jail, along with a potential fine, on the misdemeanor count. The men arrested in the sting operation, meanwhile, were cited with city ordinance violations that carried \$200 fines.

For now, McAtee remains eligible to receive his full pension when he turns 50. A misdemeanor conviction for a crime committed outside of an officer's police-related service could prompt a review of his pension status, depending on the circumstances involved, according to the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

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