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By [Ed Balint](#)[Print Page](#)

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Judge seals ex-police officer's conviction in 2008 teen-sex case

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John L. Marra, 37, had made the request to seal the conviction on the dereliction of duty charge, a second-degree misdemeanor.

Marra, who now is police chief of Brady Lake in Portage County, had pleaded no contest to the charge. He was sentenced to probation for two years and ordered to resign as a Uniontown police officer.

Marra served as a part-time/auxiliary Uniontown officer. He was hired July 11, 2005, and resigned May 28, 2008.

According to the complaint, while on duty, Marra kissed and fondled a teenage girl. He also engaged in inappropriate text messages, the court record said.

In addition, Marra "failed to perform his duties by going to Subway restaurant while on duty, to engage in a sexual relationship with (the girl)."

The girl was 16 and 17 during that time, records said.

At Thursday's court hearing, Judge John Poulos said it appeared that Marra's conviction qualified to be sealed under state law. The conditions include the time since the conviction occurred, the level of crime and the offender's criminal record.

Poulos' ruling means the conviction will be sealed and no longer appears in public court records.

Following the brief hearing, Marra declined comment.

The city prosecutor's office had objected to Marra's request.

The prosecutor's office cited multiple reasons for the objection, including that Marra should be held to a higher standard as a police officer.

Marra has been interim police chief of Brady Lake since March, court records said.

The prosecutor's office also said that state law prevents the sealing of convictions where the victim of the offense was a minor under age 18 and the charge is a first-degree misdemeanor.

"Although (Marra) is not charged with a misdemeanor of the first degree, the court should still treat this offense as such because the facts of this case make it substantially similar to other serious crimes such as importuning and sexual battery," the court filing reads.

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