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Jury can't reach verdict in trial of former St. George police chief

BY LEAH THORSEN • lthorsen@post-dispatch.com > 636-937-6249 STLtoday.com | Posted: Friday, January 21, 2011 6:13 pm | (6) Comments

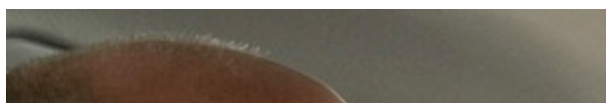
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J.B. Forbes

9/11/07 Tuesday St. George St. George Police Chief Scott Uhrig in his patrol car. (File photo)

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HILLSBORO • A mistrial was declared this afternoon in the trial of former St. George Police Chief Scott Uhrig.

Jurors deliberated for 2½ hours and could not reach a decision. He will be tried again March 22.

Uhrig, 46, of Imperial, was charged in December 2009 with second-degree statutory sodomy and sexual misconduct involving a child.

In court, a prosecutors said Uhrig took naps with the girl and joined her in the shower beginning when she was in the sixth grade. On July 1, 2008, Uhrig blackmailed the girl, then 15, into performing a sex act, prosecutors said.

The girl told her stepmother of the incident, and the woman approached authorities in May 2009.

Uhrig's attorney said in his opening statement that the girl had changed her story many times and that she had motives to lie.

At the time of the alleged sexual assault, Uhrig was police chief of St. George in south St. Louis County.

Uhrig has faced allegations of sexual misconduct before.

An administrative commission in 2002 upheld an accusation that Uhrig had propositioned a 17-year-old girl for sex during a traffic stop in 2000, when he was a police officer in Arnold.

A civil rights suit filed by the victim was resolved in private mediation.