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Sky Conditions	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Clear

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# Suspended Officer Is Suspect In Criminal Case



### Suspended Officer Is Suspect In Criminal Case

Posted: 5:00 pm EDT March 19, 2010 Updated: 6:48 pm EDT March 19, 2010

**ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla.** -- Altamonte Springs police suspended an officer, but they never told WFTV why. Friday, WFTV obtained paperwork showing the officer is Clay Toomes and that he is the target of a criminal investigation by another agency.

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Two Sumatran tiger cubs are set to make their public debut this weekend at Atlanta's zoo. During a media preview Wednesday, the 8-week-old cubs were playful, tussling with their mother and each other.

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he is the target of a criminal investigation by another agency.

Orlando police served a search warrant at his house Thursday at the same time police held a news conference. Altamonte Springs police officer James "Clay" Toomes is off the job and a suspect in a criminal case.

"I'm not at liberty to discuss any facets of the investigation. I will tell you it did involve off-duty conduct," Altamonte Springs Police Chief Robert Merchant said.

In a news conference Thursday, Merchant explained he put one of his officers on paid leave, but wouldn't name the officer or give details of the investigation. Friday, WFTV obtained the documents showing Toomes is that officer and that he's a criminal suspect in a case by another law enforcement agency.

"I thought that was crazy," said Clarice Poter, who was next door Thursday when undercover officers searched Toomes' Orange County home. "They took his computer, they took his truck. It was the feds. Guess they were in undercover cars."

Friday, WFTV learned it was not the feds, but the Orange County Sheriff's Office confirmed it was on standby while Orlando police served the warrant.

No one answered when WFTV tried to talk to Toomes Friday. He has been with the Altamonte Springs Police Department since 1999. He's been suspended twice for failing to properly investigate cases, the most recent time for 40 hours in 2008.

While no one will confirm why he's a suspect, it appears, this time, Toomes' troubles are much more serious.

Toomes has not been arrested or charged. Orlando police would not confirm or deny he is a suspect in one of their cases.

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Mar. 21, 2010 6:53pm EST | from [otown2](#)

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Mar. 20, 2010 11:57am EST | from [Clayton](#)

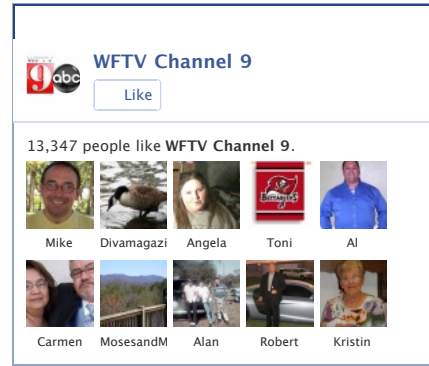
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Another ASPD officer in trouble. Pretty soon they won't have a force.

Mar. 20, 2010 1:17am EST | from [TBayLightningFan](#)

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