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Police officer arrested on charge of lewdness with minor

BY ANTONIO PLANAS
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Posted: May 22, 2012 | 4:48 p.m.
Updated: May 23, 2012 | 8:39 a.m.

A Las Vegas police officer was arrested Tuesday afternoon on a recommended felony charge of lewdness with a minor under 14.

Police said Garrett Vandereecken, 43, turned himself in to the Clark County Detention Center at 3 p.m. He remained in custody at 4:30 p.m. Vandereecken was being investigated by his own department's Juvenile Sexual Abuse Detail.

Garrett Vandereecken, 43, is being investigated by his own department's Juvenile Sexual Abuse Detail.

Vandereecken was assigned to the Northwest Area Command. He has been with the department for four years. He has been relieved of duty without pay pending both internal and criminal investigations.

Vandereecken's arrest marks the second time this year Las Vegas police arrested one of their own.

On Feb. 1, 33-year-old John Norman was arrested on felony charges of coercion and oppression under the color of office and misdemeanor open or gross lewdness.

He was accused of pulling over two women last year and coercing them into exposing their breasts.

Norman is also accused of groping one of the women.

Two additional women also came forward to the Metropolitan Police Department and alleged misconduct against Norman.

Police said those allegations did not rise to the level of crimes, but Norman might have violated department policies along the lines of conduct unbecoming of an officer.

Contact reporter Antonio Planas at aplanas@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-

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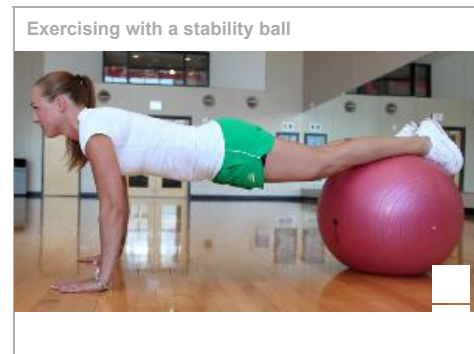
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James Reza

May 23, 2012 | 9:01 a.m.

How is it that so many commenting have jumped to the conclusion that the minor was a female? Interesting.



Shane O'mailey

May 23, 2012 | 7:17 a.m.

Why is it so easy to become a cop?



Frank Lewis

May 23, 2012 | 6:54 a.m.

The moron "might have violated department rules?" a code of silence will now cloak this investigation.



Joseph Wells

May 23, 2012 | 5:08 a.m.

LOOKS LIKE THEY ALREADY RELEASED THIS PEDOPHILE. WHAT A FREAKING JOKE OUT JUSTICE SYSTEM IS. NOT EVEN 12 HOURS AND HE IS OUT.



Constitutional Apologist

May 23, 2012 | 4:47 a.m.

I was just in san francisco for a "race" (bay to breakers) and there were kids everywhere, and there were naked adults everywhere. The kids were exposed to fully nude adults, everywhere. The cops were more concerned about people smoking by public doorways than naked men dancing by young children. Total public nudity/exposure sanctioned by the government of San Fran. Any other civilized community in the world would have arrested the perverts flaunting their stuff in front of the children. What happened to this countries morals and values? They for sure are not in San Fran. Good ridded to the pervert cop