



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:  
KCSO news release #09-058 / 125 / 32 / 4

Tuesday, Oct 27, 2009

## Sheriff's officer dismissed for misconduct

**Port Orchard, Wash.** -- A sheriff's corrections officer (male), who was earlier relieved of his duties in the Kitsap County Jail and placed on administrative assignment, was dismissed yesterday from employment as a corrections officer with the county.

The officer was suspected of having had sexual contact with a female inmate while she was incarcerated in the jail, as well as contact with a former female inmate outside of the facility.

The former officer, age 28, is from South Kitsap. The offenses were alleged to have occurred in July 2007.

This past August sheriff's administrators became aware of allegations of possible inappropriate officer conduct when they began receiving information from both current and former jail inmates. These reports made reference to inmate rumors and comments that a corrections officer was having a relationship with a former inmate outside of the jail facility.

An administrative investigation was started, initially, to determine if there was a violation of policy. Sheriff's policies restrict officers from having a personal relationship or associating with former jail inmates.

As the investigation progressed it was revealed that the officer also had engaged in prohibited contact while inside the jail. In September the administrative inquiry then became a criminal investigation conducted by sheriff's detectives.

Investigators developed probable cause that the officer had engaged in consensual sexual contact with a female inmate inside of a jail housing unit (cell), as well as with a former female jail inmate outside of the facility.

The investigation was completed and forwarded to the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office for review and filing of charges for custodial sexual misconduct. The officer had been on administrative assignment since the criminal investigation started.

Following a review process, the prosecutor's office issued a ***Decline to Prosecute Notice*** on October 13, with reason notated as follows:

"We have facts sufficient to prove this case beyond a reasonable doubt, and would have charged this if it were not for the fact that the statute of limitations has run. There is no applicable statute to extend the statute of limitations beyond the two years for a gross misdemeanor."

The statute of limitations for the offense of custodial sexual misconduct, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, had expired shortly before the incidents were brought to the attention of the sheriff's administration.

"These allegations are very disappointing to me as well as to all the other highly professional corrections officers in this agency," said Sheriff Steve Boyer. "The county government, the citizens and I have very high expectations of our personnel. When they violate public trust, they are held strictly accountable for their conduct."

The dismissed officer started work with the sheriff's corrections division in September 2006.

**###**