

City dismisses charges; cop returns to duty



LARRY HALL

Hall continues fight for police job

By JACKIE KLEIN

Former Southfield police rookie Larry Hall, dismissed from the police force 15 months ago, will ask Oakland County Circuit Court to reinstate him.

Hall filed a lawsuit in the county court, claiming he was denied a trial by hearing of his appeal to Southfield Fire and Police Civil Service Commission.

Hall and fellow rookie Maurice Harmon were both fired Oct. 17, 1973, two hours before their one-year probationary periods were to expire. Harmon's dismissal was upheld by the city commission and he is appealing the decision in county court.

A Jan. 19 preliminary hearing on Hall's case will be in Oakland Circuit Judge Frederick Ziem's court. South-

field Civil Service Commission began hearing the former probationary officer's appeal Jan. 11 but said further proceedings would depend on the outcome of the county court ruling.

George M. Maurer, attorney for both former officers, said the city cited only general grounds against Hall, charging he was uncooperative, prejudiced and abusive.

"HALL HASN'T yet received a hearing on charges against him even though more than a year has passed since allegations were made," Maurer said in the complaint.

"Because of the city's failure to provide my client with a timely hearing, he has suffered humiliation and embarrassment over his unjust discharge. The stigma of unresolved charges seriously jeopardizes Hall's future as a

law enforcement officer."

Maurer claims Hall's discharge and the "added onus of the delay" were imposed on his clients before the city commission proved justification as required by the state civil service act.

Both Hall and Harmon maintained they were fired for refusing to go along with what they claimed were widespread unquestionable practices of police officers in Southfield.

These practices, according to the former probationers, included accepting free or cut-rate meals, sleeping on duty and other questionable behavior.

Hall is now a Wayne County deputy sheriff and Harmon is a law student. Neither has said they would return to the Southfield force if they are reinstated, but they want the record cleared.

largely inadmissible during the commission hearings.

"I didn't help our case, I'll tell you that," assistant city attorney Richard Miller said.

WITH ITS CASE weakened by the commission's ruling, the city agreed to amend its charges to include only the complaint that Szafranski mishandled police department property.

Miller said Szafranski waived his right to a hearing on the charge and agreed to forfeit all pay and benefits for the 75 days he was suspended.

Szafranski has reportedly admitted taking the marijuana seeds and planting them. He said the marijuana plants grew about a foot high and then died.

Charges against Szafranski flowered following an investigation into the Northland security operation this summer. Another officer, Sgt. Robert Darroch, was also charged following the investigation.

Darroch was suspended Sept. 21 for neglect of duty.

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Council will decide new senior housing codes

Southfield City Council tonight may make a decision on a proposed ordinance designed to revise senior citizen housing codes.

The proposal, which has been criticized by a group of apartment owners and developers in the city, has twice been tabled by council members.

The matter was delayed in November for further study and again Dec. 13 to give Southfield Housing Commission more time to review recommended ordinance changes.

The bone of contention among developers of conventional apartment buildings is that the proposed ordinance fails to insure senior citizen projects would be used for that purpose.

Many apartment owners add they believe the ordinance would be unenforceable and projects could be developed with higher density and smaller unit sizes under the guise of providing housing for the elderly.

A provision in the measure, requiring developers to file an agreement to use the property only for senior citizen housing isn't legally binding, some developers maintain. Southfield officials disagree.

RECOMMENDED REVISIONS include increasing minimum unit sizes

in elderly housing, limiting the number of efficiency units and making senior citizen apartment projects subject to special legislative approval. It is now a permitted use.

In other action at the 8 p.m. meeting in Southfield City Hall, council members will consider the special use request of Bob Evans for a restaurant in an office district on the west side of Telegraph between Swanson and Franklin Road.

Another request for a Cork N' Cleaver restaurant to the south of the Bob Evans property will also be heard. Both petitions were given a favorable Southfield Planning Commission recommendation.

Planning commissioners, however, have since recommended eliminating restaurants from a list of special uses permitted in small office districts. These uses were proposed to attract tenants to the city's glutted low-rise office market.

Since the ordinance became effective in July 1975, allowing convenience services in office zones, only one restaurant in a small office district. Other requests were not approved for a number of reasons, including complaints from area homeowners.

Board looks at boundaries

Southfield school boundary lines and declining student enrollments will come under the scrutiny of the Southfield Board of Education at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the administration building behind Southfield High School, Ten Mile and Lahser.

The meeting, open to the public, will allow board members to meet with a boundary and enrollment committee. The committee was formed two months ago and is composed of school administrators.

The committee has been looking at

present local school boundaries and may discuss possible shifts in boundaries, school officials say. The subject of additional school closings may also be raised.

The school board closed four elementary schools within the district last year in the face of declining student populations.

The Tuesday meeting is a study session. Any formal decisions or actions on shifts in school boundaries or school closings must be made during a regular session of the board.

Thief demands drugs, money

Police say a man walked into a Southfield pharmacy last week, pulled a gun and later fled with more than \$800 and a plastic bag full of narcotics.

The man entered Franklin Pharmacy, 26206 Twelve Mile about 6:45 p.m. Jan. 11, Southfield police said. At the counter, the man pulled a blue steel revolver made his demands.

The man then ordered the pharmacist to the floor and fled, police said.

Police said they are looking for a white male, about 35 years old, 5-6, and weighing about 135 pounds. The man was last seen wearing a dark blue sweater and hood, and dark pants. Police said the man also had a thick black mustache.

No arrests have been made.

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