

City appeals rehire of suspended cop

By JACKIE KLEIN

The City of Southfield is appealing a city commission's decision to reinstate a probationary police officer fired in September for medical reasons.

City Atty. Sigmund Beras and assistant attorney Richard Miller have filed a complaint in Oakland County Circuit Court against the Southfield Fire and Police Civil Service Commission. Attorneys claim the commission exceeded its authority by judging the performance of Arthur Salataka.

Beras and Miller asked the court to reverse the commission's ruling. A preliminary hearing will be Jan. 12 before Oakland Circuit Judge William Hampton.

Salataka, 25, won his fight against dismissal from the police force in November by a 2-1 decision of the civil service commission. The probationary officer was re-instated with full back pay.

After the ruling, Miller maintained Salataka, who has hypoglycemia, a low blood sugar condition, could be a risk to the police department if his ability to function were impaired.

"According to the complaint filed in the county court, Southfield City Administrator Peter Cristiano notified Salataka he wouldn't receive permanent employment because of unsatisfactory performance.

"THE COMMISSION ruled Salataka couldn't be denied permanent employment because city attorneys failed to show sufficient cause for his dismissal, the complaint states.

Beras and Miller claim the commission's ruling usurped Cristiano's authority to determine whether the probationary officer performed satisfactorily.

The commission substituted its judgment for Cristiano's contrary to the state civil service act, attorneys maintain.

Commissioner John Sklar, who opposed Salataka's re-instatement, said the officer on repeated occasions experienced dizziness, weakness and blackouts because of his condition. Sklar said if the officer failed to follow a prescribed diet to control his condition, these symptoms could recur.

Salataka joined the Southfield force in September 1975 and worked through Feb. 20 when he became ill. The commission ruling included provisions for the officer to serve two more months of probation and receive pay retroactive to May 24.

Salataka's attorney Sheldon Larky claimed the burden was on the city to prove reasons for the officer's discharge were valid. Commissioners David Moitz and Peter Borovich, the majority on the three-member board, weren't convinced Cristiano had cause to dismiss his client, Larky said.

"THE CITY'S own witness, Dr. J. Copner Webster, said Salataka could function if he followed a strict regimen," Larky said, "all he has to do is eat protein and avoid sweets."

Cristiano claims probationary employees other than acts of misbehavior enumerated in the civil service act. Probationers, he said, may be dismissed for unsatisfactory service as determined by the appointing official (Cristiano) or his subordinates.

"It's my understanding that the commission won't substitute its judgment for the appointing official's but will review his action to determine if there's sufficient evidence for his decision," Cristiano said.

Read Observer & Eccentric Want Ads

Starts today-- Our Seventeenth Annual

Winter Furniture sale

Save 10 to 40%

Now is a wonderful opportunity to beautify your home as the savings are store-wide. Choose from a fabulous selection of the finest in home furnishings for any area of your home. The savings are real!



Drexel Heritage

Come in and tour our Drexel-Heritage showcase room settings, all professionally designed by members of our I.D.S. Interior Design staff. You'll see items from each and every collection Drexel-Heritage manufactures. Our large in-stock inventory assures prompt delivery on most items, while special orders can be placed at sale prices also. You'll be pleased at the special services we offer, as a matter of course, in order to assure your complete satisfaction. Visit us soon!

Ray Interiors

Michigan's first Drexel Heritage Store

33300 Slocum Drive, Farmington (2 blks. S. of Grand River off Farmington Rd.)
Phone 476-7272 Monday, Thursday, Friday till 9 P.M.

Jobs available for teachers

Teachers are still needed for some classes offered through the Southfield Community Schools program. In most cases, teachers need not have a teaching certificate or a teaching degree.

Robert Herm, assistant community schools supervisor, reports teaching jobs are available in photography, china painting, income tax classes, motorcycle repair and tune-up, short-hand and wallpapering. The teaching jobs are not limited to those areas.

however.

"Sometimes somebody will come to up with an idea for a class," Herm said. "If there seems to be an interest, we'll add it to our list."

Starting pay for teachers is \$6.50 an hour at the beginning level and goes up to \$7.20 with three years' experience.

Teaching degrees are not needed for teachers, except for classes offered for credit.

DON'T FORGET THE MEIJER SOUND SALE ASSORTED L.P.'S AND 8 TRACKS

99¢ ea.

\$2.99 ea.

\$1.99 ea.

99¢ ea.



MEIJER THRIFTY ACRES — 45001 FORD RD. AT CANTON CENTER RD.

SHOP MONDAY THRU SATURDAY 9 A.M. TO 10:30 P.M. — SUNDAY 9 A.M. TO 7 P.M.