



Jefferson City Post-Tribune

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JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

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FIRST GLANCE

Officer charged with DWI removed from position

By RYAN SMITH
News Tribune

The Simonsen 9th Grade Center school resource officer charged Saturday with driving while intoxicated has been removed temporarily from the position.

The Jefferson City Police Department reportedly made the decision Tuesday to remove Officer Eddie Clark and district administration agreed.

"It's an unfortunate incident but our hope is to get this issue resolved one way or another," said David Luther, director of School Community Relations. "(The School Resource Officer) is a great program."

A decision regarding the future of the position is expected to be made following the results of an internal investigation.

"It's a personnel matter (for JCPD) and they'll have to handle this issue," said Luther.

City Administrator Rich Mays said the investigation is "an automatic step" for this type of situation.

JCPD officials said they could not comment, calling it "a closed personnel matter" at this point.

Clark was off-duty when he was arrested for a DWI Feb. 5 at 2:49 a.m. by a Highway Patrol officer based upon a number of sobriety tests and a breath sample. According to the court documents, Clark's blood alcohol content was .251, more than three times the legal limit.

The patrolman reportedly pulled over Clark after he observed his vehicle "waving outside its lane into the center turn lane, making an abrupt lane change without signaling and narrowly avoiding rear ending another car."

A DWI is a class A misdemeanor that carries a punishment range of up to \$1,000, or a combination of the two.

Clark also had a previous DWI charge in Osage County in 1999.

Mays said city officials were aware that Clark had a previous charge.

"But he was never convicted of anything," said Mays. "Up until now, he has had a spotless record with the department."