

City police officer charged with aiding prostitutes 16-year veteran also charged with drug crimes, obstruction of justice



August 30, 2011 “A longtime Pittsburgh police officer ran a prostitution service, helped the women obtain drugs and provided them transportation for their work, Allegheny County police said Monday.

Detectives charged Officer Michael Johns, 43, a 16-year veteran of the police bureau, with crimes including promoting prostitution, drug possession and delivery, conspiracy, obstruction of justice, insurance fraud and filing false reports to law enforcement. Police linked online ads for prostitution to Officer Johns, who would provide the women with cell phones and rental cars "to travel and do shows and deals," according to a criminal complaint.

Formerly an officer in the city's Hill District station, Officer Johns was transferred into the warrant office soon after the county's investigation began. His status with the police bureau was unclear Monday night, when he was arraigned and released on his own recognizance.

The investigation spawned from an April traffic stop involving a car that was rented by Officer Johns. Police said the driver of the Cadillac, William Oravetz, was found to be carrying a key ring with a small piece of paper on it bearing the name of Alivia Kail, a 19-year-old Mount Washington woman who has been missing since March...

Mr. Oravetz, who also faces prostitution charges, had been driving a woman to a man's house for a "sexual performance," the complaint says. He told police the car had been rented by the woman's "boyfriend," Officer Johns; police found Officer Johns' police identification card in the woman's purse. The woman, identified in an online sex ad as "Gabby," told police that she is an exotic dancer and performer who met Officer Johns three years ago while he was working an off-duty detail in uniform at a South Side nightclub. She said she supports herself through erotic performances, in which clients arrange for her to "perform" at their houses or elsewhere for money, the complaint says..."

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11242/1170870-53-0.stm>

Former city police officer found not guilty on prostitution charges

Michael Johns resigned from Pittsburgh Police Bureau

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<http://www.wtae.com/news/local/allegheny/former-city-police-officer-found-not-guilty-on-prostitution-charges/-/10927008/20149720/-/10do82xz/-/index.html#ixzz2XpWFRknG>

PITTSBURGH —A former Pittsburgh police officer was found not guilty Tuesday on prostitution charges, but was convicted of several others. Michael Johns, 45, who was accused of running a prostitution ring, was found not guilty of those charges.

A jury did find him guilty of attempted insurance fraud, possession with intent to deliver heroin, obstruction, official oppression and making false reports... Johns was arrested in August 2011 after investigators said he paid for rental cars for the women, helped them obtain drugs and allowed them to use his home computer to post online ads. Johns later resigned from Pittsburgh Police Bureau after charges were filed. He is free on bond and scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 14.