

**Source tells 10News sheriff's deputy busted in prostitution sting likely won't be fired**

**Deputy Stuart Rea received probation, fine**

June 11, 2013 by Dan Haggerty

SAN DIEGO - 10News has learned that a local sheriff's deputy busted in a prostitution sting will most likely not be fired.

Deputy Stuart Rea is a pilot for the department's ASTREA helicopter. He has been on the force since 1991.

**In January, he was busted soliciting who he thought was a prostitute. He arranged the meeting on Craigslist with an undercover police officer.**

When he met the woman at a Howard Johnson hotel, she recognized him right away, but he did not recognize her. It turns out he actually trained her at the academy.

Rea admitted to that, and 10News has been following the paperwork in court.

Last week, Rea showed some paperwork of his own, proving that he completed a prostitution impact panel course and an HIV education course. His charge was dropped to disturbing the peace.

**Through it all, Rea has never missed a county paycheck. He has been working a desk job instead of flying, but a source tells 10News that is about as strict as his punishment may get.**

10News was told, internal affairs will now take a look at the case and determine if he can fly again, but odds are he will not be fired...

Rea will receive three years probation and a fine of about \$550.

**It is very expensive to train helicopter pilots, and what a waste of taxpayer money to fire someone who only *solicited* a woman he *thought* was a prostitute... since she wasn't actually a prostitute but was a fellow cop, then it is no big deal for him to have solicited *her* for commercial sex... After all, if a San Diego cop like Daniel Dana can actually RAPE a REAL prostitute and get probation, why should this outstanding helicopter pilot police officer get fired and lose that lucrative paycheck? It just wouldn't be fair... now would it?**