

Sacto Bee
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Oak Park fire station in harassment inquiry

In one allegation, an obscenity was carved into the ax handle of a female firefighter.

By Elizabeth Hume
BEE STAFF WRITER

The city of Sacramento is investigating several incidents involving harassment directed toward at least two firefighters at Station 6 in Oak Park, Deputy City Manager Richard Ramirez said Tuesday.

"There were a series of incidents of harassment that occurred and we are very close to wrapping up the investigation," Ramirez said. "I can assure you that it is not gender based."

Fire sources told The Bee the investigation involves a number of incidents involving firefighters who have worked at the Martin Luther King Boulevard station.

According to fire sources, in April an obscenity was carved into an ax handle belonging to a female firefighter. After the female firefighter reported the incident, a computer-generated note aimed at "Orange women" appeared at the station. Orange is the assigned color code for Station 6.

Station 6 firefighters gave investigators the privately owned

computer allegedly used to generate the note.

Ramirez said he could not release the details of the incidents under investigation.

Several departments, including Sacramento police, have been involved in the inquiry to ascertain whether other violations have occurred.

The investigation has been going on for at least 10 months.

"We want to be fair and follow our memorandum of understanding with (Sacramento Area Firefighters) Local 522," Ramirez said.

The city expects to conclude its investigation in the near future, Ramirez said.

Brian Rice, the president of Local 522, said the union won't tolerate harassment, but it is the union's job to make certain that the city respects the rights of individual firefighters.

"As individuals and firefighters none of us should tolerate harassing and offensive behavior," Rice said. "When people do things, they also have to be responsible and expect the consequences."

"In an issue of harassment, the city is the absolute agent to end that type of behavior - that is their job. They need to do a correct investigation from gathering evidence and collecting inter-

views - but they have to do it within a person's rights. As a labor union our job is to be the voice of that person. But it is tough because it is members against members."

On Friday, representatives from the city met with union leaders to discuss increasing diversity within the fire department and the investigation.

"The city asked that we make a statement regarding our position on discriminatory, offensive or hostile behavior," Rice said.

Today, the union will send a letter condemning harassing behavior to its 1,500 members at 77 fire stations in Sacramento County.

In the letter, Rice states: "If we can trust our brothers and sisters to cover us in a life or death situation we should also be able to trust their judgment in other areas of firefighter life, the day-to-day living of the fire house."

Rice also said that the investigation is not an accurate reflection of the city's more than 500 sworn firefighters.

"That department is filled with highly qualified men and women who do an outstanding job - they are a good group of people," Rice said.

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Sacramento council more review of c

SACRAMENTO - The City legislation committee decides today to consider an ordinance curfew for school-age youths

The ordinance would be tabled and suspended student crimes during the day. They cracked the truancy laws, said Jones, who proposed the ordinance.

Ordinance opponents questioned if innocent teenage

Council members said they the issue for a more thoroughment issues and discussion w

Four arrested after shc

SACRAMENTO - Four people after randomly firing shots at River where two people were spokesman Sgt. Justin Risley.

A man and his 12-year-old child just west of the Union Pacific day when they saw the young from the north side of the river. They sought cover when bullet where they were fishing, Risley

Witnesses told police that all fired.

When officers responded at detained two 16-year-olds, a 1. Carlos Velez, 19. They also found .22-caliber rifle in nearby bush

All four were taken into custody assault with a deadly weapon charge of a firearm. One of the charged with possession of live Risley said.

Judge OKs axing of law

STOCKTON - A Superior Court that San Joaquin County super their power when they terminate a lawyer hired to defend Sheriff

The sheriff filed suit last month supervisors after the board end Michael Capizzi, Dunn's private concerns about using taxpayer the sheriff in a federal civil right

Dunn has not been charged v

Capizzi, who charged the cost \$101,000 for four months of service continue to represent the sheriff

"It's very disappointing," Dunn shock from the very beginning.

Federal agents are investigating sheriff kicked a man during his three-hour standoff with a sheriff.

Eyewitnesses to murder are mistaken, defense says

By Ramon Coronado
BEE STAFF WRITER

Two security guards who identified the person who shot and killed a man in a restaurant parking lot are mistaken and protecting themselves because of a lawsuit filed over the slaying, a defense attorney said Tuesday in Sacramento Superior Court.

"Their testimony got better as things went along,"

two-week trial, Bogh told jurors that Sacramento police arrested the wrong man.

Deputy District Attorney Rod Norgaard said the two security guards who were in the parking lot during the shooting were "eyewitnesses" who saw Sanchez "cold bloodily empty a gun into the window" of Reyes' car.

"He said he had eye contact,"

night of the killing, someone yanked a gold and diamond cross, valued at about \$2,000, from Sanchez's neck, and he was hit on the left side of his face with a glass.

Defense and prosecution witnesses said Sanchez was cut so badly that he couldn't stop the bleeding. He was arrested later at a hospital where he was seeking