

LOCAL

Former St. Joe police chief's license revoked for sexual harassment



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ST. CLOUD — A former St. Joseph police chief's license was revoked by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training after an investigation revealed improper behavior that included workplace talk about women's breasts and the display of a sex toy in his office, according to POST Board records.

Joel Klein was placed on administrative leave from the St. Joseph Police Department in April 2018 amid undisclosed allegations of misconduct. He resigned in May.

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The Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST board) conducted an investigation, then revoked Klein's license effective Jan. 24 for sexual harassment, according to a POST settlement agreement and consent order requested by the St. Cloud Times.

The POST document is public record under Minnesota statute as a final disciplinary action.

According to the agreement signed by Klein, the POST investigation found he had conversations with women about "exchanging sex for additional vacation time," said "all he wanted to do was have sex with college girls," and made comments about colleagues' breast sizes.

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Klein, according to the document, also created "an inappropriate training scenario" which

asked employees "to simulate a criminal necrophiliac act."

Attempts to reach Klein Tuesday were unsuccessful.

Klein appeared with legal representation before a POST committee in October. He waived his right to a formal hearing; there was no trial or "adjudication of fact."

Klein had worked with the St. Joseph Police Department since 2001. He became chief in 2013.

The city was barred by law from releasing the internal affairs report or commenting on the substance of the complaints because of a state law that says St. Joseph is too small to be subject to releasing such complaints.

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The city identified and made plans to address workplace harassment training, whistleblower and retaliation policies and a police audit system as a result of the investigation, according to past reporting.

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Read the full document here: