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KSU's new interim police chief is suing UK

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The new interim chief of the Kentucky State University police department is a former University of Kentucky assistant chief who has a pending lawsuit against UK.

In a reorganization announced Thursday, KSU said Stephanie Bastin "is replacing" Chief Donnie C. Turner, who had been employed by KSU for 22 years.

There was no specific explanation for Turner's departure, and university spokeswoman Felicia Lewis said she had "no comment beyond what was stated in the press release."

Bastin, who is not related to Lexington Police Chief Ronnie Bastin, could not be reached for comment. The KSU police department referred questions to Lewis.

In a pending lawsuit in Fayette Circuit Court, Bastin claims that she was forced to leave the UK department for not persuading an officer to dismiss a citation against a senior school administrator.

In that suit filed in July 2006, Bastin said she was "commanded" by UK's then-Associate Vice President Ken Clevidence, who oversaw the police department, to persuade the officer to dismiss the citation. Bastin refused because that would have been a violation of state law, according to the lawsuit.

"Her refusal was a motivating factor in the termination of her employment," said the lawsuit, which was filed against Clevidence and UK's board of trustees. Clevidence retired in June.

UK says Bastin retired on Feb. 28, 2006.

The lawsuit maintains she was "compelled to leave" and "wrongfully discharged from her employment." It also alleges gender discrimination.

Bastin's lawsuit does not reveal the name of the senior school administrator who received the citation or the officer who gave it.

No trial has been set in that case, although a date might be scheduled as early as Monday, said Bastin's attorney, **Robert Abell**.

Meanwhile, KSU President Mary Evans Sias said all other existing positions within the KSU police department are being evaluated. Lewis said she did not know how many positions there are within the department.

The reorganization places emphasis on "improving campus security, increasing effectiveness and achieving accreditation for the department," according to the KSU release.

"Campus safety is a high priority, and training is key," Sias said in the release.

KSU's release also said it will seek accreditation through the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police. The organization's Law Enforcement Accreditation Program focuses on police departments enhancing their overall effectiveness and professionalism.

Bastin, who was at UK 28 years, said the KSU reorganization will involve more "community policing."

"There is so much more to law enforcement now than enforcement. I'm very service oriented," she said in the release. "University law enforcement is a specialized field because there is so much we can offer to the university community."

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