

December 23, 2005

**Section:** City&Region

**Edition:** Final

**Page:** B2

## POLICE FILE REMAINS CONFIDENTIAL JUDGE IN SUIT TIED TO TIME CARDS SAYS THAT COULD CHANGE

*Beth Musgrave, Herald-Leader Staff Writer*

Information about the investigation of a former assistant Lexington police chief accused of falsifying her time cards will remain confidential for now, a Fayette Circuit Court judge ruled yesterday.

But, if the personnel files of former Assistant Chief Sandra Devers prove relevant to a police officer's whistle-blower case, the information they hold can be made public, said Fayette Circuit Court Judge Mary Noble.

Lt. Daniel Hegeman, a 32-year veteran of the department, filed a lawsuit against the city in April, saying that, after he reported that Devers had falsified her timecards, he was transferred to another division.

Devers, the city's first female assistant chief, later retired before disciplinary actions against her could be completed.

The city has denied Hegeman's claims. Officials also have argued that Hegeman failed to exhaust administrative remedies before going to court.

As part of the discovery process, **Robert Abell**, Hegeman's attorney, asked for information about the police department's investigation of Devers -- including copies of her timecards, memos to and from the department regarding her pending disciplinary action and the internal affairs file.

The city, in its response, said it would turn over the documents only if Abell and Hegeman would agree to keep the information confidential.

Noble, after hearing oral arguments from both sides yesterday, noted that Hegeman had a right to look at the police investigation file, but that Devers was still entitled to privacy.

Noble ruled that information from the files could not be made public unless it proved relevant to Hegeman's claims of a conspiracy to bury evidence against Devers and that he was punished for bringing the timecard issue to light.

Noble also ruled that the identity of another officer who allegedly falsified a timecard in 2004 was not relevant to Hegeman's claim that the department retaliated against him for reporting that Devers "falsely represented" that she was working for part of January but was actually on vacation.

Hegeman was working in the bureau of administrative services under Devers but was later transferred

to the bureau of patrol services on Old Frankfort Pike.

---

Copyright (c) 2005 Lexington Herald-Leader



- [News](#) |
  - [Business](#) |
  - [Sports](#) |
  - [Entertainment](#) |
  - [Living](#) |
  - [Shop Local](#) |
  - [Classifieds](#) |
  - [Jobs](#) |
  - [Cars](#) |
  - [Real Estate](#)
- 
- [About Kentucky.com](#) |
  - [About the Real Cities Network](#) |
  - [About the McClatchy Company](#)
- 
- [Terms of Use](#) |
  - [Privacy Policy](#) |
  - [Copyright](#)