

S.J. OFFICER ACCUSED OF FALSE SOLICITATION AUTOGRAPHS: A FORCE VETERAN ALLEGEDLY USED CITY STATIONERY TO ASK FOR MEMORABILIA.

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When a veteran San Jose police officer began soliciting celebrity autographs on city stationery, he wound up with more than just a friendly letter from singer Lionel Richie to hang on his wall.

He also got an arrest warrant last week charging him with a misdemeanor count of falsely soliciting for charity - a crime for which he could face a year in jail.

Officer David Paul **Paulides**, 40, aroused suspicions after he was seen using city stationery on the department's computer printers. **Paulides** also sent and received large quantities of unofficial mail at the department, police reports say.

None of those activities fell within his duties as a court liaison officer, prompting an internal investigation that began last September.

"He's an autograph hound," said Assistant District Attorney Karyn Sinunu, who filed the complaint last week in Municipal Court. "It was a stupid thing to do - to spend your time enhancing your personal collection when taxpayers are paying for you to work."

Suspicions were heightened when the police department received a phone call from a Los Angeles publicist asking to speak with **Paulides** about the "Police Hall of Fame," and a letter from the Lionel Richie Fan Club which enclosed an autographed compact disc by the singer.

As it turned out, **Paulides** had solicited autographs from such people as newswoman Diane Sawyer, astronaut Mae Jemison, model Carol Alt, exercise guru Jack La Lanne and Ivana Trump - allegedly by falsely claiming he was working on a city project.

In the letter to Trump, for example, **Paulides** wrote: "You are a great role model for young women. . . . I've been given the task by my city to develop a display for our lobby of successful businesswomen. . . . We are respectfully requesting an autographed photo for our display. . . . Your success on a professional as well as personal level make you a superior businesswoman and mother."

Several of the celebrities had returned autographed photographs of themselves.

Paulides attorney Daniel Jensen claims it was all an unfortunate misunderstanding. "He feels badly and is embarrassed," Jensen said.

Jensen said that the officer was gathering the autographs to serve as teaching aids for a class he had taught and that **Paulides** had envisioned hanging the pictures in the department's lobby.

"They were to be inspirational examples of people who've done very well," Jensen said.

Authorities, however, say there was no authorized "Hall of Fame" being developed for any lobby. They could find nothing **Paulides** was associated with in an official capacity that would give him the authority to seek autographs on the department's behalf.

Paulides was one of several instructors who taught a city-sponsored organizational development class, but he had not taught the course since March.

Police spokesman Officer Louis Quezada said **Paulides** is on vacation. Quezada could not say what sort of job action the department might take against **Paulides**. Jensen, however, said possible repercussions range from disciplinary action to termination from the department where **Paulides** has worked since 1980.

Paulides surrendered to authorities last week and was released. He is expected to be arraigned next month in Municipal Court.

