

# Naperville DUI charge dropped against officer

By Christy Gutowski

*Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer*

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A Naperville police sergeant beat a drunken driving allegation Tuesday after prosecutors dropped the case citing insufficient evidence.

Sgt. Alan Trotsky was arrested Jan. 4 after a colleague accused him of impaired driving in the city he took an oath to protect.

Trotsky, 47, admitted he drank about five beers while out with other off-duty police officers at Features Bar and Grill in the city's downtown.

A fellow sergeant, Ernest Knight, said he observed Trotsky's car cross over the double yellow line four times. Trotsky refused to submit to field sobriety and Breathalyzer tests. But Knight said Trotsky showed signs of physical impairment.

The 19-year veteran, however, denied being too intoxicated to drive. His five colleagues agreed, as did a backup Naperville police officer, John Tisol, who assisted with the arrest.

Trotsky's license was due to be temporarily suspended in February. DuPage Associate Judge Bruce Kelsey ruled Feb. 7 during the summary suspension hearing that the backup officer, Tisol, had the least bias and ruled in favor of Trotsky.

The judge also granted a defense request Tuesday to suppress all the evidence, forcing prosecutors to drop the DUI.

It wasn't just the lack of corroboration that hurt the prosecution's case. Knight said he didn't realize it was Trotsky until after curbing the off-duty sergeant's car, but department records showed the arresting officer ran the license plate minutes before the traffic stop.

Defense attorney Terry Ekl questioned Knight's motive in arresting Trotsky. Citing bad blood between the two, Ekl said Knight targeted Trotsky and made false allegations. Knight vehemently denied the charge.

Trotsky, who was on administrative leave, returned to duty Monday. Ekl said the officer is looking forward to putting the incident behind him.

"He's absolutely elated that he was vindicated," Ekl said. "He just wants to move on with his life and be the best police officer he can be."

Knight also faced disciplinary action after being accused of anonymously mailing a department memo to the media urging strict DUI enforcement. Police officials have declined to comment on internal discipline matters.