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When will Rochester's risk dial drop?

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## NEW ARTICLES

## Police accuser denies role as police informant

Written By: postbulletin Administrator | Oct 18th 2003 - 5am.

By Joshua Freed

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS -- The man who accused two Minneapolis police officers of sodomizing him with a toilet plunger denied being a police informant for one of the officers, contradicting a report published Friday.

The Star Tribune, quoting unidentified sources, reported that the alleged victim, Stephen Porter, had been a confidential informant for officer Jeffrey Jindra. The newspaper said it was unclear whether Porter was still informing for Jindra or other officers at the time of the alleged assault.

"I'm not an informant. Never will be," Porter said at a news conference at The City, Inc., a social services agency. Flanked by several local civil rights activists, he said, "My whole life's changed. I'm scared. I don't know what to do."

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The FBI is investigating Porter's claim that Jindra assaulted him with a toilet plunger after a drug raid on Monday. Jindra, 43, and Todd Babekuhl, 41, have been suspended. Attorneys for both officers have denied wrongdoing.

Spike Moss, vice president of The City, Inc., suggested that the idea that Porter was an informant was leaked in an effort to get him killed.

Porter acknowledged that he was guilty of his earlier drug convictions, including one stemming from an arrest for cocaine possession in January when police said they found crack cocaine hidden in his

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Mayor R.T. Rybak planned a "community meeting" to talk about the alleged assault.

It's unclear how seriously Porter was injured, if at all. The Star Tribune reported that sources familiar with the medical report filed by a doctor who examined Porter on Monday night said his injuries were consistent with his report of soreness and tenderness of the rectum. After he was released from custody Wednesday, Porter walked at a normal pace for a block from the jail to a parking ramp. But he has appeared hunched and moved more slowly at news conferences on Wednesday and Friday.

The seeming inconsistencies prompted questions about his medical condition. Moss jumped in before Porter could answer, saying Porter's medical condition was none of the media's business. He ended the news conference a moment later.

Police spokeswoman Gail Plewacki said earlier this week that the department didn't have the medical report and couldn't release it if it did because of state privacy laws.

Jim Michels, the attorney for Babekuhl and other officers involved in the raid -- but not Jindra -- said his clients have been meeting with the FBI for interviews.

"No one has indicated that they observed or heard anything out of the ordinary," Michels said. "In fact they said it was one of the more boring search warrants that you ever do."

"We're cooperating because we want to get this done as soon as possible," he said, "because we believe the evidence is going to exonerate the cops."

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## Suggested Articles

**HOCKEY** Mar 1st 2021 - 10pm

### Boys hockey: Winona takes down JM in OT

**BASKETBALL** Mar 1st 2021 - 9pm

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**BASKETBALL** Mar 1st 2021 - 9pm

## Monday's Rochester boys basketball results

**BASKETBALL** Mar 1st 2021 - 9pm

### Opshal's 3-pointer at buzzer lifts Goodhue

Goodhue players, including  Will Opsahl (front right), stand for the National Anthem before a boys basketball game against Stewartville earlier this season. Opsahl hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer on Monday to lift Goodhue past Triton 60-57. (Joe Ahlquist / (jahlquist@postbulletin.com

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