

Notification of News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(MONTGOMERY, Ohio) – On Wednesday, July 16, The City of Montgomery has announced the findings of an internal investigation conducted in its police department relative to an incident where some police officers were found to have possessed certain unauthorized testing materials associated with the State of Ohio's licensing procedure for use of the Intoxilyzer instrument.

"The City's investigation revealed that some officers had copies of an outdated test for the Intoxilyzer that they were using as study guides, and should not have had them in their possession," said Police Chief Don Simpson. "This reflects negatively on these officers and our department and I have recommended various levels of discipline for the eight officers involved."

The City's investigation began on April 9th 2008, shortly after it was notified by the Ohio Department of Health that certain officers were accused of possessing unauthorized copies of previous tests utilized by the department in its testing procedures. The Ohio Department of Health is the agency that certifies police officers to utilize Intoxilyzer equipment within the State of Ohio.

The City is in process of implementing the discipline for the officers involved in this incident. Three officers have received oral counseling and five officers were recommended for suspensions of one to two days in length. All of these officers remain on duty but have had their permit to utilize the Intoxilyzer instrument suspended pending completion of the internal investigation and further action by the Ohio Department of Health.

The results of the Montgomery investigation were released shortly after a report was issued by the Ohio Inspector General on alleged instances of "cheating" on the test by the Ohio State Highway Patrol office in Canton, Ohio. In the highway patrol case, officers possessed answer sheets to the test being administered and had those answer sheets with them during the testing process.

"The Montgomery situation differed from the Ohio State Highway Patrol case in that some Montgomery officers had copies of outdated tests that they were using as 'study guides,'" stated Simpson. "They did not have answer sheets for the test, nor were they administered the test by ODH on April 9th."

"The Ohio Inspector General does not have investigation authority over the City of Montgomery, and as a result, we conducted our own investigation into this matter," added Simpson. "Our investigation also found no evidence the material was used during any prior tests by any Montgomery officer."

"We are confident that we have addressed all issues and our police department will continue to provide excellent services to our Montgomery residents and our community," added Cheryl Hilvert, Montgomery City Manager.

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