



SHERIFF MATT HILBRECHT

MARSHALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marshall County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff's Office Terminates School Resource Officer Following Investigation.

Marshall Co, KY - Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht has released a public statement regarding the recent termination of a school resource officer (SRO) employed by the Marshall County Sheriff's Office. The action was taken after an administrative investigation and independent review by the Kentucky State Police (KSP).

On May 12, 2025, the Sheriff's Office initiated an internal investigation based solely on a rumor - no formal complaint was filed by a student, parent, or school faculty member. Despite the lack of a formal report, Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht acted immediately, placing the officer on administrative leave with pay on May 13.

On May 14, as additional information emerged suggesting potential criminal conduct, the Kentucky State Police was contacted to conduct an independent criminal investigation.

"Even though I had worked with this gentleman for over 20 years, I did not hesitate to address the issue head-on," said Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht. "I hold every member of this office to a high standard of conduct especially those working closely with our children."

By May 21, based on evidence gathered during the internal review indicating inappropriate communication the officer's employment was terminated. He has not been on paid leave since that date.

On conclusion of their investigation, the Kentucky State Police presented the case to a grand jury, which resulted in an indictment for the charge of harassment.



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In response to social media speculation alleging the existence of inappropriate photos or more serious offenses, Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht emphasized:

"Neither our investigation nor that of the Kentucky State Police found any such material. If anyone believes they have credible evidence that was not turned over, I strongly encourage them to contact the Kentucky State Police directly."

State law KRS 15.520 prohibits public comment during the due process period for law enforcement officers. Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht acknowledged the public's concern over the delayed communication and added:

"That restriction did not reflect inaction or a lack of concern. I've spent 26 years serving this community, 17 of those in the detective division - most of that time investigating child abuse cases. I take the safety of our children personally, and I acted as soon as I had enough evidence to do so."

Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht concluded by reaffirming the department's values:

"We acted swiftly, we followed the law, and we made the right decision. The trust of this community matters deeply to me, and we will always work to be worthy of it."

Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht