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TOP STORY

## Sheriff's officers who were under investigation both leave their jobs

Feb 20, 2021

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LOGAN – Two officers from the Hocking County sheriff's office who were taken off active duty while an outside agency investigated whether they violated office policy both have left their employment with the sheriff, one by retirement and the other by resignation.

Chief Deputy David Valkinburg and Lt. Edwin Downs had been under investigation for what an office spokesman described as possible "internal policy violations."

Sheriff Lanny North released the following statement Friday regarding the officers:

"Recently, I issued a statement in response to questions regarding Chief Deputy David Valkinburg and Lieutenant Edwin Downs being placed on administrative leave after I had been informed of alleged misconduct regarding internal policy violations. In an effort to remain transparent, I wanted to inform you of recent events. Due to the allegations, I requested that an outside agency conduct an internal investigation on our behalf to avoid any question of impropriety. During the course of this investigation, the two individuals voluntarily ended their employment with the sheriff's office; Chief Deputy Valkinburg retired and Lieutenant Downs resigned."



North went on to say, “Had the internal investigation substantiated allegations of misconduct, the appropriate internal discipline would have been issued. However, due to the fact that the two chose to end their employment before the investigation was completed, the ability to issue any discipline was lost, as they are no longer employees of the Hocking County Sheriff's Office.”

