

# Firehouse complaint is X-rated

*Oakland Sentinel*  
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OF THE SENTINEL STAFF 3-92

WINTER PARK — The city's Civil Service Board has been asked to look into a complaint that firefighters watched pornographic movies while on duty.

Two Civil Service Board members said the board expects to discuss the complaint at its next meeting in April.

In a letter last week, Winter Park attorney Russell Troutman asked for the investigation. He wrote that Battalion Chief Jim Knackert testified in a deposition for an unrelated personnel matter that he "brought one pornographic tape for viewing on shift in which he and his girlfriend were the co-stars."

City officials said the incident happened at least six years ago and that Knackert was reprimanded. They said pornographic films are not shown in the department now.

Fire officials "have assured me there's no such thing going on," City Manager Tony Barrett said.

In an interview, Knackert said he had brought in and viewed the tape with several other firefighters as "kind of a joke thing" six or seven years ago when he was a firefighter. He said he regrets showing the videotape, but he said other firefighters used to bring in such movies as well.

Knackert said he has not seen any pornographic movies shown on the job since that incident, nor would he allow it, now that he is a battalion chief commanding a shift.

However, Judy Manor, the department's only female firefighter and a 10-year veteran, said in an interview that several times in the past five or six years she left the room when firefighters said they were going to watch pornographic films. But she could not remember the last time firefighters said they were going to watch an X-rated movie on the job.

Acting Fire Chief Larry Grainger stressed that pornographic movies are not being shown in the firehouses.

Troutman said he filed the citizen's complaint Feb. 28 because he thought it was wrong that city employees had viewed pornographic films on the job and because it is unfair to female firefighters.

Knackert said Scala and Troutman raised the issue to get back at him because he recommended that Scala be demoted for disobeying an order last year. The Civil Service Board reinstated Scala in February but suspended him for 15 days.