

Local History Room  
Winter Park Library

City of Winter Park  
Dw  
Fire Department  
1990-99

# Report says police chief didn't harass firefighter

□ An outside investigator backs Winter Park, but the Civil Service Board still must rule on the sexual harassment case.

*Orlando Sentinel*  
By Karen Pankowski

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF 8-26-92

WINTER PARK — An investigator hired by the city has found no evidence that Police Chief Jim Younger sexually harassed a female firefighter, a report released Tuesday said.

Lt. Fire Inspector Lyn Wright accused Younger last month of making unwanted sexual advances toward her while he oversaw the fire department as public safety director.

But investigator John Caven wrote that he found no cause to believe Younger was guilty of sexually harassing Wright, based on interviews with 41 witnesses.

Wright said she stands by her allegations and is waiting for the outcome of the city's Civil Service Board investigation, which she requested.

"It's just like advertising," Wright said. "They bought and paid for this report. It's obviously going to reflect what they want to promote, which is that they feel this never took place."

In a statement attached to the investigator's report, City Manager Tony Barrett said the city believes Caven's report "correctly sets forth what occurred, what did not occur, and also sets forth a correct conclusion." Barrett said the allegations did not justify any action against Younger.

Younger said, "It's not over. It's still active litigation with the Civil Service Board." He declined further comment except to say, "I wish my mother would have lived to see this report." His mother, Mamie Younger, died Saturday.

Kenneth "Kip" Marchman, Civil

Service Board chairman, said Chief Examiner Larry Mosley is expected to report on the status of his investigation at the board's Sept. 1 meeting.

"I don't know what, if anything, he has found out," Marchman said. "But we will consider as a board what steps, if any, need to be taken."

Caven's report, dated Aug. 21, said the case "presents a classic divergence of testimony by the principals." Many of Wright's key allegations were denied by Younger, leaving Caven to try to determine whether or not events happened that could be considered sexual harassment, the report said.

The 18-page report focused on seven instances that Wright said made up the basis of her complaint. During one conversation, Wright said Younger asked what she would do for a promotion. In two cases, Wright accused Younger of pulling her to his chest and rubbing her face and hugging and stroking her back.

Younger denied the conversation and such conduct, the report said.

Caven said he found one witness, other than Wright, who had first-hand knowledge of any of the events Wright based her allegations on.

"The vast majority of these witnesses also had no knowledge of any conduct which could be characterized as sexual harassment occurring in either of the departments, especially by Younger," Caven wrote.

In a related aspect of the case, Marchman said an appeal by Chief Fire Marshal Steve Painter was supposed to have been heard today but would be rescheduled. Painter was suspended for three days without pay for not notifying superiors of Wright's intent to write the letter. Painter said he did so when he had the letter several hours later.