

Deputy sheriffs union sues Civil Service Commission

Panel denies deputies protections enjoyed by other county employees, lawsuit claims

By Bob Cuddy

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The Deputy Sheriffs Association has sued the county Civil Service Commission after it failed to help a deputy who filed a grievance.

The deputy went to the commission after the sheriff ignored his complaint about the transfer of another deputy to his station.

Deputy Michael Neufeld complained about the transfer of an unnamed deputy to the station in Oceano where he worked. The specifics of Neufelds complaint about the unnamed deputy are being withheld because it is a personnel matter.

After the sheriffs administration declined to reassign the deputy, Neufeld filed a grievance with the Civil Service Commission, which is an avenue for employees who cannot achieve what they consider fair treatment in their departments.

The commission said it had no jurisdiction in the case.

That perspective leaves deputies without the same protections other county employees have, according to the DSAs attorney, Alison Berry Wilkinson.

Wilkinson said the litigation is still at a very preliminary stage.

The transfer of the unnamed deputy occurred in 2008, and Neufeld and the DSA filed suit in 2009.

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