

Metro & State

SECTION D

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

★ TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1990

City report links ex-corrections director, female employee

By Mark Sherman
Staff writer

Atlanta's former corrections director gave a woman sergeant special favors that included rent-free use of a city-owned house for three months, liberal sick leave and compensatory time, and a Florida trip on city time that had

no business purpose, according to an internal city report.

J.D. Hudson, who retired Friday, and the sergeant have a "bond, association or other connection . . . which transcends the ordinary boundaries of a platonic and/or official capacity relationship," said the report, prepared by the Police Department's inter-

nal affairs unit.

In sworn testimony, both Mr. Hudson, a city worker for 40 years and corrections chief for 15, and the sergeant denied any romantic involvement. "If I were involved with that woman," Mr. Hudson said, "I would have paid rent myself and there would have been no question about it."

Mr. Hudson acknowledged visiting Sgt. Jacqueline Taylor at her city-owned home on the Key Road prison farm, but said it was to get his nails done. "At which time, most times, one of her boyfriends was there or her son was there," he said.

City officials are considering disciplinary action against the

sergeant and her supervisor — a deputy corrections director — whom the report said should have disciplined her.

But there are no plans to seek criminal penalties, said Angelo Fuster, a spokesman for Mayor Maynard H. Jackson.

Mr. Hudson, who first submitted his resignation in December

but did not file the retirement paperwork, leaves with a full pension and no penalty. Mr. Fuster said there would be no further action against Mr. Hudson.

Sergeant Taylor, 29, refused comment Monday. Mr. Hudson called the investigation a "witch

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hunt."

The main allegations made in the report, a copy of which was obtained by the Journal-Constitution under state Open Records laws, are:

■ Mr. Hudson assigned the sergeant the house, which rents for \$175 a month, even though a senior employee had asked first. He then authorized substantial repairs, despite a warning from his administrative chief that the repairs would delay regular maintenance at the prison farm. The lease states that the house is assigned on an "as is" basis to prison officials who are on 24-hour call. The report says Mr. Hudson redefined Sergeant Taylor's duties to fit that criteria.

■ Sergeant Taylor lived rent-free for three months. She claimed Mr. Hudson permitted it because she was having money troubles, but he denied it.

■ With approval from Deputy Corrections Director C.L. James and Mr. Hudson, Sergeant Taylor traveled on city time to West Palm Beach, Fla., in October for a conference that didn't exist. She and



J.D. Hudson

J.D. Hudson said he visited the employee to have his nails done.

Mr. Hudson, who had notified his superiors that he was taking a golfing vacation, flew together on tickets Mr. Hudson initially purchased for himself and his wife, and the pair shared a hotel room for at least two nights.

■ Rent from three of the six houses on the prison farm went to the Corrections Officers Benevolent Fund instead of to the city's general fund. The fund was used for employee cash advances, training, printing and membership registrations. All advances were reimbursed.

The probe was triggered by an anonymous letter from a "concerned employee" sent to then-Public Safety Commissioner George Napper in October, the report said.

Mr. Hudson and the chief witnesses — mainly corrections employees — were "uncooperative, defiant and void of any respect for the department's rules," police Maj. Eugene Robinson, director of the Office of Professional Standards, wrote in a memo accompanying the investigation report.