



Shirley Town Marshal Mike Harrison Suspended

May 18, 2004

By Stacy Cox

General Manager

Shirley Town Council President Kyle Austin informed The Banner late Tuesday evening that Town Marshal Michael Harrison has been charged by the Henry County Sheriff's Department with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Austin said Harrison was placed on paid administrative leave on May 11 after town officials were informed a criminal investigation was underway by the Sheriff's Department regarding Harrison. Due to the late hour in receiving the information, The Banner was unable to confirm the date in which charges were filed or when the court date had been set.

Town council member David Carnes, who is a detective on the New Castle Police Department, is heading an internal investigation to try to determine how the town will proceed. Austin said the extent of their investigation is uncertain at this time.

According to Austin, the council is tentatively planning to hold an executive meeting with Harrison prior to Shirley's regular monthly meeting on Saturday, June 5. A statement will likely be made at the regular meeting, said Austin, to further provide the public with information on the matter.

Harrison has been Town Marshal since 2000. Austin said Deputy Marshal Earl Patterson has been placed in the position of Acting Town Marshal until further notice.