

---

---

**LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**NEWS RELEASE**



---

---

**DATE/TIME OF RELEASE:** 4/13/2018 3:15 p.m.

**NATURE OF STORY:** Lane County Sheriff's Office Terminates Deputy Facing Criminal Charges

**ARRESTED:** Matthew Hitson, 40 years old, Eugene

**DETAILS:**

On March 23, 2018, Matthew Hitson was arrested by the Springfield Police Department for various criminal charges and has remained in custody since that arrest. Hitson had been employed by the Lane County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff for three years in the Corrections Division.

Effective Friday, April 13, 2018, Matthew Hitson's employment with Lane County has been terminated. Since learning of the events involving Mr. Hitson, the Sheriff's Office has responded by the book to address the issue as promptly as possible.

Mr. Hitson has been on UNPAID leave from county employment since his arrest, pending final resolution of his employment status. Mr. Hitson's employment was terminated in accordance with Sheriff's Office policy and the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement with the affected employee labor association, the Lane County Peace Officers Association.

The Springfield Police Department continues its independent criminal investigation. Enforcement action taken against Mr. Hitson has been the same as would be applied to any member of our community. There have been no special considerations given.

The Sheriff's Office desires to see justice fully realized in Mr. Hitson's criminal case. Therefore, we are unable to provide further detail on the criminal investigation, the pending criminal charges, or the employment actions recently taken. The Sheriff's Office remains committed to justice and integrity and we remain fully accountable to this community as we seek final resolution in this case.

*Prior News Release dated March 23, 2018*

On the evening hours of March 21<sup>st</sup>, the Lane County Sheriff's Office was contacted by the Springfield Police Department regarding an investigation they were conducting. The Sheriff's Office assisted the Springfield Police Department in identifying their suspect as 40 year old Matthew Hitson, a 3 year deputy with the Lane County Sheriff's Office in the Corrections Division. The victim is an 18 year old female.

On March 23, 2018, Hitson was arrested by the Springfield Police Department and lodged at the Lane County Jail on the following charges: Rape in the First Degree, Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor (under 21),

---

---

**LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**NEWS RELEASE**



---

---

and Delivery of Marijuana to a Minor (under 21).

All issued Sheriff's Office property has been confiscated, including Hitson's uniforms, badge, identification, and weapon.

The Sheriff's Office is saddened a member of the organization may have been involved in actions that lead to the above charges, and the impact it has on our community. The conduct reported is not acceptable, and fails to meet the standards expected of members of the Sheriff's Office. Hitson has been placed on un-paid administrative leave pending the resolution of the criminal charges. We appreciate the Springfield Police Department's prompt attention to this matter and we will continue to cooperate with their investigation.

The criminal case is being referred to the Lane County District Attorney's Office.



###

**Sent by: Sergeant Carrie Carver 541-682-4179**

---

Byron M. Trapp, Sheriff  
Lane County Sheriff's Office  
125 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Eugene OR 97401

Phone: 541-682-4150  
Fax: 541-682-4522  
[www.lanecounty.org/Departments/Sheriff](http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/Sheriff)  
Email – [sheriffs.office@co.lane.or.us](mailto:sheriffs.office@co.lane.or.us)