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Phila. investigator reported in violation of residency rule

By Allison Steele
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The chief investigator for the Philadelphia Police Advisory Commission, an agency created to handle reports of police misconduct, is living in New Jersey in violation of a residency requirement, according to the City Controller's Office.

Wellington Stubbs II also failed to disclose income earned from a second job in Camden, the Controller's Office alleged. The case has been presented to the Managing Director's Office, which has jurisdiction over the Advisory Commission.

Stubbs, who has been employed by the city since 2002 and according to payroll records is paid \$45,016 a year, could not be reached yesterday. The Managing Director's Office did not return a call for comment.

Stubbs has a residence in Southwest Philadelphia, said First Deputy City Controller Harvey Rice, but investigators say his primary home is in New Jersey, where he lives with his wife and children. Details about his immediate family and where their home is located were not released.

The Controller's Office is recommending that Stubbs be asked to resign, Rice said. "We believe he does not live here, so he should not be employed by the city," Rice said.

The Police Advisory Commission is charged with investigating complaints of police

misconduct and studying the department's methods.

The investigation was triggered by the Inspector General's Office, which asked the Controller's Office to look into Stubbs' residency.

City employees are given six months from their hire date to move into the city if they do not live there already. Employees can request that the time period be extended to a year. Stubbs never asked for an extension, Rice said.

Stubbs has a car registered in New Jersey and a mailing address there. In addition, he lists New Jersey as his primary address in employment records at his second job. Stubbs works night shifts four times a week at the Center for Family Services, a so-

cial-services agency in Camden.

Rice said Stubbs has earned outside income the entire time he has been employed with the city, but has never disclosed it as required. Investigators said he filed no financial-disclosure forms last year.

When investigators confronted Stubbs with their findings, he admitted that he had another job and acknowledged that he had not disclosed the additional income. He also said he "routinely" stayed in New Jersey, but did not agree that it was his full-time address.

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Police-panel investigator vows to fight misconduct rap

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As chief investigator of the Police Advisory Commission, Wellington Stubbs II sleuths to uncover police misconduct.

But last week, Stubbs found himself at the center of his own misconduct scandal, when City Controller Alan Butkovitz accused him of violating city residency requirements by living in New Jersey and failing to fully disclose outside income as the city requires.

Yesterday, Stubbs, through his attorney, vowed to fight the accusations when he attends a still-unscheduled disciplinary hearing at which he faces termination.

"We deny [the charges] categorically," his attorney, Brian J. Zeigler, said.

Butkovitz accused Stubbs of maintaining his primary residence in South Jersey, noting that investigators saw him at least 14 times at a Camden County home owned by his wife.

Stubbs, a city employee since 2002, says he lives in Southwest Philadelphia.

The controller also reported that Stubbs' vehicle has New Jersey tags and insurance, that he receives mail in New Jersey and that he certified New Jersey as his primary residence on mortgage-refinancing paperwork.

He also held a second job in New Jersey for seven years for which he listed the Garden State as his home state, according to the report.

"The violations are so egregious and so accumulative that it's just completely implausible to make an argument that he forgot [to report the outside income]," Butkovitz said.

Still, Zeigler maintains that Stubbs is guilty only of "being a good father" to his two elementary-school age children, including a special-needs daughter.

"He and his wife are separated. He's taking care of his family, who live in New Jersey [with their mother]," Zeigler said. "He goes and visits the kids often - that's normal; there's nothing illegal about that. That's what we want people to do in our society."

Zeigler acknowledged that Stubbs' name is on some New Jersey records, but only because his children live there. Stubbs also has utility bills proving his residency in Southwest Philly, he added.

The Controller's Office gave its findings to the city Managing Director's Office for review. City officials didn't respond to requests for comment yesterday.

Stubbs' case is one of 20 residency investigations the Controller's Office has conducted in the past year, spokesman Harvey Rice said.

Ten remain under investigation, four were deemed unfounded, five resulted in terminations and one (Stubbs' case) is listed as pending, Rice added.