

Rising Sun Police Officer Arrested, Accused Of Voter Fraud

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By Mike Perleberg



Lowell Ross Colen. Photo via Indiana State Police.

(Rising Sun, Ind.) – A Rising Sun Police officer is facing 13 felony charges related to submitting fake voter registrations, perhaps in an effort to get his father elected to city council.

Lowell Ross Colen, 42, was arrested on Wednesday on charges including Ghost Employment, Official Misconduct, Forgery, and Voter Fraud.

Indiana State Police said a four month long investigation into the activity began in June after the agency was made aware of the allegations. Investigators determined that Colen was influencing people to vote in Ohio County's primary elections this past May.

"While doing so, he allegedly filled out absentee applications and ballots for individuals who were not eligible to vote in Ohio County. Colen allegedly forged signatures on some of the applications and ballots and submitted them to the Ohio County Clerk's Office," said ISP Sgt. Stephen Wheelles, public information officer for the ISP Versailles Post.

Wheelles added that state police also learned that Colen was allegedly in a police uniform and on duty in his official capacity as a Rising Sun Police officer when some of this activity took place.

State Police turned their findings over to the Dearborn-Ohio County Prosecutor's Office for review. On Wednesday, a warrant was issued out of Ohio Circuit Court for Colen's arrest.

Rising Sun Chief of Police David Hewitt said that Colen is currently off work due to an unrelated workman's compensation injury from last month. for that reason, his workman's comp status has to be determined by city attorney prior to department disciplinary action. Hewitt said specific guidelines and state statutes must be followed, "but suspension is inevitable."

It has not been confirmed by Colen or investigators, but getting Colen's father elected to Rising Sun City Council may have been the motivation behind the voter fraud. Former Ohio County sheriff Francis "Swede" Colen won the only contested race in Ohio County this past May. That race was for the Democrat nomination for Rising Sun City Council District 1.

"Swede" Colen defeated James McDaniel **in the May 5 race** (<https://web.archive.org/web/20170227234104/http://eaglecountryonline.com/local-article/indiana-votes-2015-primary-election/>), 273 to 161 votes.

When asked if the illegal activity may have influenced the outcome of the election, McDaniel said, "I would like to know, yes." McDaniel did not indicate that he called the voter fraud to law enforcement's attention.

Colen's name is set to appear on the ballot this November 3 general election. He will face Republican candidate Patty Huff.

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sadstatetolivein • [October 22nd, 2015 at 3:56 am](#)

wonder he would still be charged if he or his father had been a republican, like the ones charging him.



Againsttaxes • [October 22nd, 2015 at 3:57 am](#)

So back to old time politics in Rising Sun. The FBI needs to come in and investigate not the state police. Kinda funny how he gets arrested right before the election!!!! Also is there a investigation going on for the freezer from the school that was located by the new boat ramp??? I bet not!!!



testcase448 • [October 22nd, 2015 at 4:23 am](#)

sadstatetolivein So we don't need stricter voter ID laws say the treasonocrats



MisterObvious • [October 22nd, 2015 at 4:52 am](#)

Dumb move Mr Colen. That being said, this is what Rising Sun has become. From the politicians, to the casino, to the school system, to the law, that place is a mess!

The people of RS decided that they did not want Mr McDaniels to represent them. Ross didn't sway the election enough for that to happen. McDaniels has been pouting ever since. So what do the politicians do, convince a relative of McDaniels to file for the office for the OTHER party. And that relative just happens to be a vice principal in the wreck of a school system.

In RS, it's who you are, who you are related to, and where you go to church.



kpb • [October 22nd, 2015 at 7:48 am](#)

MisterObvious Just wondering how what he did has to do with the rest of people that live in Rising Sun? Just because one person does something that isn't right doesn't mean the rest of us should be blamed or shamed for it. I know plenty of great people in Rising Sun but it people like you that give other towns bad names. I'm sure there is plenty of "bad" people in the community that you live in and how would you like it if everyone made their opinions of you based of what someone else has done or the town you live in? Think about these things before you going smashing other communities just because one person made a bad decision.



transplantfromky • [October 23rd, 2015 at 7:01 am](#)

i agree with MisterObvious Mr McDaniles got bet fair and square and cried like a baby because of it and know as his a family member running for him Small town politics are crazy and people with money think they own that town well just know this MONEY WILL NOT BUY A SEAT IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN !!!!!!!!!!!



Againsttaxes • [October 23rd, 2015 at 2:21 pm](#)

Great comment transplantfromky. I hope the people from Rising Sun realize the person running against Colen is Mcdaniels SISTER. So he loses and the sister runs against him??? So when the sister doesn't want to do it or has to step down who do they appoint????? Mr McDaniels. Wow!!! I may be Nostradamus of 2015.



spankyleatherlips • [October 24th, 2015 at 10:16 am](#)

No one wanted him on the RSPD to begin with. I've had my doubts about his education and general comprehensive reading skills. It is sad
* Colen is currently off work due to an unrelated workman's compensation injury from last month. for that reason, his workman's comp status has to be determined by city attorney prior to department disciplinary action. Hewitt said specific guidelines and state statutes must be followed, "but suspension is inevitable."

* how clever, wonder if he tripped in the Subway Parking Lot getting into his Police Car.



SingleMom38 • [October 24th, 2015 at 8:45 pm](#)

Patty Huff is a good honest person. She was a teacher n coach when I was younger.. Go gossip about someone else!!!!



testcase448 • [October 25th, 2015 at 4:57 am](#)

Doughnuts can be heavy on quantity, lift with your legs!



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