



73°

Undersheriff no longer officer



MAY 04, 2012 8:45 AM • BY WHEELER COWPERTHWAIT — WHEELER@ELKODAILY.COM

ELKO — Undersheriff Rick Keema is no longer a peace officer.

Keema was required by Nevada law to become certified as a peace officer within one year of being appointed as undersheriff by Elko County Sheriff Jim Pitts.

That window expired Feb. 25. Keema was hired as undersheriff on Feb. 24, 2011.

Pitts applied for a six-month extension for Keema to become certified Thursday at a meeting of the Nevada Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training in Carson City, but his request was denied.

"He does not have powers as a peace officer," Tim Bunting, deputy director of the Nevada POST, said.

Keema can still work at the sheriff's office as an administrator but may not exercise any powers as a peace officer, which include the power of arrest, Bunting said.

The category 1 training would have taken 17 weeks at the academy, with a minimum of 480 hours.

Neither Keema nor Pitts could be reached for comment.

POST Commissioner Chris Perry said he abstained from voting because his department, the Nevada Department of Public Safety, has Keema under investigation.

The investigation will be forwarded to the Elko district attorney within the next couple of days, he said.

[Top of Page](#) [Home](#) [Full Site](#)

© Copyright 2012, [elkodaily.com](#), 3720 Idaho St Elko, NV