Scout

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stealing $500 from a park district safe, Howard said. He never admitted taking the money, but he paid the district back, she said.

James E. Smith, who replaced Hacker as parks director, said Hacker officially resigned for "personal reasons." He had worked for the district for eight years, becoming interim director last July and permanent director in October, Smith said.

Howard said the task force has no evidence that Hacker sexually abused children during the seven months he was in charge of the park district.

Hacker taught English in the Indianapolis public school system from 1962 until he resigned in controversy over his arrest on the sex charges, a schools official said Wednesday.

He pleaded guilty to taking indecent liberties with the boy, Howard said, but a judge gave him a one- to five-year suspended sentence and placed him on probation for two years under orders that he seek psychiatric treatment.

Hacker was forced to resign as leader of his Indianapolis Boy Scout troop. Indiana Scout officials told parents that they would place Hacker's name on a national "red flag" list of persons unfit to be Scout leaders.

But Ken Walters, director of finance and support services in the Boy Scouts' Chicago office, said Hacker's name never was caught by the computer that annually checks the names of all adult Scout volunteers against the list.

Thomas E. Hacker

"Obviously, he's not on that system," Walters said. "It would have come up."

Spokesman Barclay Bollas at the Boy Scouts' national headquarters in Irving, Tex., declined Wednesday to say whether Hacker's name appears on the list, saying, "We consider that list confidential."

Hacker was held overnight at the Burbank Police Department. He is scheduled to appear at a Thursday morning bond hearing in the Chicago Ridge branch of Circuit Court, Howard said.