

NEWS

NKY council member arrested and charged with sexual abuse, police say

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Feb. 2, 2026, 4:05 p.m. ET

A Northern Kentucky council member and local attorney has been arrested and charged with sexual abuse according to court documents.

Highland Heights Council Member Jesse Hockenbury, 32, was arrested Feb. 1 and has been charged with misdemeanor sexual abuse in the third degree. Hockenbury was taken to the Campbell County Detention Center. He has since been released on bond after posting \$5,000 the same day he was arrested, according to the Kentucky court system.

There were no details about the offense in the court documents on Feb. 2.

Hockenbury was elected in 2024 and is still a council member, said Highland Heights city manager Michael Giffen on Feb. 2. The city council's next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 3.

"Anybody charged is innocent until proven guilty," Giffen said. "He's still a councilmember and can do what he pleases at this point as an elected official."

City administrators such as Giffen and the mayor have no control over Hockenbury's role regardless of whether he is convicted.

"The only people that can remove a council member are the current city council members," Giffen said.

In October 2025, Hockenbury was appointed [treasurer of the Campbell County Republican Party](#).

The Highland Heights Police Department began its investigation involving Hockenbury on Jan. 21, according to a news release from the department which also contained no details about the offense.

The Enquirer has left voicemails and messages for Hockenbury to request a comment but did not immediately receive a response. No attorney information was available on court documents.

Hockenbury's next court date is an arraignment scheduled on Feb. 23.