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Desert Hot Springs Planning Commissioner Dean Gray arrested

Police say Gray arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor domestic assault



City Planning Commissioner Dean Macdonald Gray, 62, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of misdemeanor domestic assault and on a misdemeanor warrant out of Joshua Tree that accused him of driving on a suspended license, according to Desert Hot Springs police Chief Dan Bressler. / Desert Sun file photo

DESERT HOT SPRINGS — City Planning Commissioner Dean Macdonald Gray, 62, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of misdemeanor domestic assault and on a misdemeanor warrant out of Joshua Tree that accused him of driving on a suspended license, according to Desert Hot Springs police Chief Dan Bressler.

Gray was expected to be detained at the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility in Banning, according to Riverside County Sheriff's Department jail records.

Gray's file on the jail website, however, was incomplete as of 9:30 p.m. Tuesday. It did not contain charges or details about bail or where Gray was arrested. Gray's booking time, according to the website, was 3:48 p.m. Tuesday. A sheriff's department spokesman said Gray was still being processed into the jail system Tuesday night.

Bressler said he did not know details of the arrest.

Desert Hot Springs Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts said Gray and Gray's partner are his good friends. He saw Gray being arrested.

"They had a domestic dispute this morning," Betts said.

"I received text messages from (Gray's partner) and calls from Dean to come down there," Betts said. "When I got there the police were there."

Betts added he showed up to help but hadn't seen the police report to know what charges Gray might face.

"It's a personal matter between two people in their private lives — a difficult situation in a relationship — but at some point in time they've got to work it out," Betts said.

Betts, who recommended Gray for the Planning Commission post, doesn't believe the incident will threaten Gray's membership on the commission.

Desert Sun reporter Reza Gostar contributed to this report.