

## Desert Sun

Estimated printed pages: 3

July 29, 2003

Section: Local

Page: B1

### DHS officials get into skirmish

*Jose Paul Corona*

*Staff*

*The Desert Sun*

Committee member claims city manager assaulted him

By Jose Paul Corona

The Desert Sun

DESERT HOT SPRINGS - A member of a city committee claims he was assaulted Monday by the Desert Hot Springs city manager at City Hall.

Alex Bias, chairman of the city's Economic Development Commission, claims he was assaulted by City Manager Jerry Hanson during a meeting.

Hanson disputes the claim.

Bias filed a battery report with the Desert Hot Springs Police Department after an 11 a.m. meeting the two had on Monday came to an abrupt end.

"He quite literally pushed me and shoved me into the foyer," Bias said. "Jerry grabbed me by the arm and turned me around and started to push me out of (his) office."

Hanson claims that he merely escorted Bias out of his office.

"I'm not in that great of shape and I'm not that big," Hanson said. "I was not physical, I just guided him out."

Bias was "gently" nudged out of the door, said Candi de Lima, assistant to the city manager.

"He was not forceful in the least," de Lima said of the altercation, which she witnessed. "I can bear witness to the fact that he was not forceful."

According to Roy Hill, the city's director of public safety, Bias did file a complaint against Hanson and it is being investigated.

No arrests have been made and no one was cited after the incident, Hill said.

The two men met at the request of Bias and were scheduled to discuss issues related to the Economic Development Commission and the city's beautification committee.

Bias said he had planned to have someone else attend the meeting with him to avoid any incidents. When he was not able to have somebody join him, Bias said he asked Hanson whether it would be OK if he tape-recorded their conversation.

Hanson said he told Bias that recording the conversation would be fine.

"But I don't know what that's all about," Hanson added.