



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:
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Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Former mayor arrested for assault, stalking

Poulsbo, Wash. -- A former mayor of one of Kitsap County's incorporated cities is now in custody for suspicion of assault and stalking.

Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives initiated an investigation, earlier this week, into certain actions, conduct and demeanor of former Poulsbo Mayor Richard Allen Mitchusson. The investigation was conducted at the request of Poulsbo Police Department.

Mitchusson, age 70, of Poulsbo, was taken into custody by detectives at 2:40 p.m. this afternoon, during a vehicle traffic stop in downtown Poulsbo.

Sheriff's detectives developed probable cause for Mitchusson's arrest, after uncovering a pattern of criminal behavior that included unwanted personal advances and inappropriate sexual contact with at least three adult women who are known to Mitchusson. The investigation revealed that these actions occurred at the victims' residences or places of employment during the period from January 2008 – March 2009.

Following his arrest, Mitchusson was transported and booked into Kitsap County Jail for two counts of assault, 4th degree (with sexual motivation) and one count of stalking. Total bail amount was set at \$50,000.

Detectives believe that there is a strong possibility that there are additional victims who have not yet been identified. Those who believe that they are a victim, or who may have information about this investigation, are asked to contact Detective Chad Birkenfeld at (360) 337-5619 or Detective Steve Duckworth at (360) 337-5669.

Mitchusson will most likely make an initial appearance, regarding the arrest charges, at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow in Kitsap County District Court.

Mitchusson was Poulsbo's mayor for 13 years, from 1985 – 1999.

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