



CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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FORMER RIVERSIDE POLICE CHIEF PLEADS GUILTY TO DUI

RIVERSIDE -- Today, March 25, 2010, Russell Scott Leach, the former police chief of the city of Riverside, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

Leach, 62, did not appear at the Riverside Hall of Justice for his arraignment and his attorney entered the guilty plea on his client's behalf.

Leach was sentenced to 30 days of electronically monitored home detention and placed on probation for three years. He must complete the 30-day sentence by August. Leach also was ordered by Commissioner Bambi Moyer to pay fees and fines totaling about \$1,700.

Leach was pulled over by Riverside police officers at 2:51 a.m., Feb. 8, 2010. The driver's side tires on Leach's city-owned Chrysler 300 were missing and the rims nearly disintegrated. Leach was not arrested after being pulled over.

The next day, Feb. 9, 2010, the California Highway Patrol, Inland Division, was asked to conduct an investigation into the circumstances which led up to Leach being stopped by the Riverside police officers.

The CHP investigation revealed that Leach had taken several prescription medications and consumed about four alcoholic beverages at his home on Feb. 7. All the medications have strict warnings against the consumption of alcoholic beverages and the operation of a motor vehicle. CHP investigators also determined that Leach had driven to a club in San Bernardino County the evening of Feb. 7 where he consumed at least seven alcoholic beverages that night and into the early morning hours of the next day. An employee of the club told officers that she was so concerned about Leach driving that she offered to get him a taxi, but he declined.

Once pulled over, Riverside police officers detected Leach having objective symptoms of alcohol and/or drug intoxication.

The case, RIM10003229, was prosecuted by Supervising Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Weissman.

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