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Ex-candidate gets bail in mayor-assault case



Updated: Oct 05, 2012 02:12 PM By MATTHEW CHAYES

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A former candidate for Saddle Rock Village trustee was released on \$750 bail Friday after he was arraigned on charges of punching and assaulting the village mayor.

Nassau County District Judge Christopher Quinn also issued an order of protection, prohibiting Sasha Masri, 32, from having any contact with Mayor Dan Levy.

While holding keys in his fist, Masri punched the right side of Levy's face and then body-slammed the mayor to a bench at Village Hall on Wednesday, according to court papers.

Levy needed 14 stitches to close a head injury and his shoulder was fractured in three places, prosecutors said.

Meir Moza, Masri's attorney, denied the allegations, saying his client was protecting himself after a verbal disagreement between the two men had escalated.

Masri was released shortly after noon, after his family posted bail, and was kissed and embraced by his mother.

Asked about the incident, Masri said he was injured and offered: "He [Levy] knows what happened. He'll give you an explanation."

Moza said the mayor got into his client's face and shouted insults at his family as a scuffle broke out.

Masri, of 35 Bluebird Dr., is charged with second- and third-degree assault and possession of a dangerous weapon. Masri also had a tablet of Suboxone, a narcotic, and he was charged with drug possession, police said.

It was unclear what, if any, specific issue touched off the confrontation, village officials said. But Moza said his client, an accountant, has made allegations of financial improprieties against Levy.

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