

Mayor's aide is charged in assault - Kilpatrick's press secretary pleads not guilty to domestic violence, resisting arrest; he's out on bond.

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DETROIT -- Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's press secretary Matt **Allen** pleaded not guilty Friday to domestic violence assault and resisting and obstructing charges after he allegedly shoved his wife into a wall of their Indian Village home during a pre-dawn dispute.

Later Friday night, **Allen** announced at his lawyer's office that he was immediately checking himself into an undisclosed treatment facility.

"Clearly I have a problem," he said. "The gravity of today has not escaped me ... the past 24 hours have forced me to take a very hard look at myself."

Allen, 42, who broke down when he publicly apologized to his wife, took no questions after his brief statement.

Earlier at the brief court hearing, **Allen** was released on a \$10,000 personal recognizance bond after his arraignment in 36th District Court. He was directed to take an anti-domestic violence class, participate in alcohol monitoring and ordered to have no contact with his wife, **Tania Allen**.

"These are very serious charges," **Allen**'s attorney Richard Steinberg said, but added that the incident was a "quarrel between and a man and a woman" and that **Allen** would be cleared.

He said he had spoken with **Tania Allen** via telephone before the arraignment and that she wanted the couple to work toward a resolution.

Resisting arrest is a felony punishable by up to two years in prison and domestic violence assault is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

The incident occurred at about 2:30 a.m., when **Allen** returned home after attending a downtown Detroit fundraiser with other members of the mayor's staff.

According to police records, **Allen**'s wife said the incident began with an argument over Matt **Allen**'s vehicle, at which point he became upset, "grabbed (her) neck and shoved her into (a) wall, then pushed her into the bathroom, then grabbed her again and shoved her head into the window."

The window broke, police said, bruising **Tania Allen**'s forehead.

After the arrest, according to a police report, **Allen** belittled the police officers.

"You're some racist cops," **Allen** shouted at police while he was handcuffed and being taken to the station house on East Nevada.

Steinberg said the description was an exaggeration of what happened.

Mayor Kilpatrick issued a statement late Friday saying **Allen** 's employment status has not changed and asking for public support for **Allen** and his wife.

"Matt has shown great remorse for his actions and we hope everyone will respect him and his family as they work through this very difficult period in their lives," the statement said.

On Thursday night, **Allen** and others from the mayor's staff attended the 2007 Press Club "Steakout" at the Marriott Hotel in the Renaissance Center. It was a fundraiser for the Detroit Press Foundation's journalism scholarship program and the Detroit Goodfellows organization, which provides Christmas gifts to poor children.

Previously a Fox 2 news assignment editor, **Allen** has worked about 18 months for Kilpatrick.

In September, **Allen** drew scrutiny when he admitted that for the past four years he had registered his vehicle at his parents' suburban home even though he was living in Detroit, where insurance rates are higher.

Caption: **Tania** and Matthew **Allen** get ready for the 35th annual Fash Bash in August, 2005. Matt **Allen** is arraigned before Magistrate Charles W. Anderson III in 36th District Court in Detroit on Friday.

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