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NEWS

UPDATE: Ojai fires assistant city manager amid embezzlement probe from former employer

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Ventura County Star

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What we learned about Ojai Law facility after alleged sexual assault
A 66-year-old woman with dementia was allegedly sexually assaulted at an Ojai care facility. Here's what happened

Key Points

- Carl Alameda has pleaded not guilty to the charges.
- Ojai placed him on paid administrative leave May 15 and fired him the next day.
- He faces up to 33 years in prison if convicted.

(*This story was updated with more information about Carl Alameda's status with the city of Ojai.*)

The Ojai assistant city manager charged with stealing nearly $200,000 from insurance claims meant for his former employer, the city of La Cañada Flintridge, has been fired.

Carl Alameda was terminated from his Ojai position on May 16, the city announced in a statement.

"The city of Ojai is committed to maintaining the highest standards of fiscal responsibility and public trust," Ojai officials said in the statement sent by City Manager Ben Harvey. "In conjunction with this personnel action, the city has initiated a special audit to ensure that all financial transactions have been conducted appropriately and that there has been no misappropriation of funds."

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Alameda was charged with 11 felony counts of embezzlement and 23 counts of insurance fraud, according to a May 15 news release from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office.

Prior to Ojai, Alameda served as La Cañada Flintridge's assistant city manager.

Alameda is accused of sending demand letters between 2016 and 2023 to insurance companies using city letterhead requesting reimbursement for accidents or property damage caused by insured drivers in La Cañada Flintridge, according to the release.

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Once the insurance companies sent payment to the city of La Cañada Flintridge with "Attention Carl Alameda," he would deposit the fraudulently obtained money into his bank account, according to a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department May 16 Nixle release.

"It is a major disservice and betrayal of trust when public officials place their own selfish interests over the communities they serve," said Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman in a statement. "If you exploit your position for your own greed at the public's expense, my office will file charges and hold you accountable."

Carl Alameda. Provided by City of Ojai

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