

Alderman Ouellette resigns following sex assault arrest

By TED SIEFER
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MANCHESTER - Alderman Russell Ouellette has resigned following his arrest earlier this week on sexual assault charges.

Ouellette submitted his resignation from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to the Office of the City Clerk on Wednesday.

"It is with regret that I write to inform you of my resignation effective immediately. After serving on the Board of School Committee for eight years and on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for four and a half years, I plan to take time now to focus on my family," Ouellette wrote in the letter. "It has been a great honor and a pleasure to serve the citizens of Manchester and the residents of Ward 11. I will cherish the memories and the great accomplishments we have worked together to achieve. I wish all of you the best going forward."

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen will hold a special meeting on Thursday to schedule election for Ouellette's Ward 11 seat to coincide with the 2012 primary and general election.

Ouellette turned himself in to Manchester police on Monday after warrants were obtained for his arrest on two counts of sexual assault and one count each of simple assault and false imprisonment — all misdemeanors.

Ouellette is scheduled to be arraigned on Thursday.



The charges stem from a 911 call July 12 made by a woman who said she was a passenger in a red pickup truck and was in a "bad situation," according to police.

Shortly after, police said they stopped a red pickup truck being driven by Ouellette on Maple Street near Valley Street.

Ouellette, a U.S. Postal Service worker, was elected alderman in 2007. He previously served on the Board of School Committee.

Ouellette's arrest prompted calls for his resignation from several aldermen and Mayor Ted Gatsas, who said on Monday, "As elected officials, we are leaders in our community and we should be held to higher standards."