

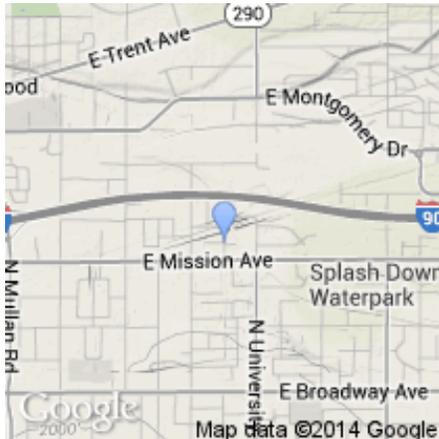
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Gang member accused of arson nearly released due to filing error

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The Spokesman-Review



A filing error nearly allowed a known gang member facing charges of arson and extortion to be released from jail today.

Sherman L. Kinard, 41, is being held in the Spokane County Jail on \$100,000 bond on charges of conspiracy to commit second-degree arson, second-degree arson and possession of an incendiary device.

Spokane County Superior Court Judge Greg Sypolt ruled that there was not enough probable cause to sustain a charge of first-degree extortion.

An affidavit of facts in the case was mistakenly put in a different file whose number was only two digits off from Kinard's case, but the missing paperwork was tracked down during his appearance.

Kinard is a member of the Hoover Street Crip gang in Los Angeles, according to court documents. He was allegedly trying to act as a woman's pimp in California, but the woman said she wanted to go home to Spokane and left, court documents say. Kinard allegedly sent her threatening text messages, saying she owed him money.

The woman's car was set on fire in the 10300 block of East Augusta Avenue on Dec. 14. A witness saw a man fitting Kinard's description standing next to the car and chased him until he got in a car that then drove away. Court documents state that Kinard's fingerprints were found on a Gatorade bottle full of a flammable liquid that was found next to the burned car.

Kinard's criminal history in Washington includes two convictions for delivery of a controlled substance as well as convictions for riot and conspiracy to deliver a controlled substance.

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