

# Capitola Chief:

*Supervisor*

# Matthews

# Arrest

# Routine

11/31/80

Capitola Police Chief Bob Allen said today the arrest of Supervisor Chris Matthews early Wednesday morning was the result of a routine stop of a suspected drunken driver and not politically motivated as Matthews has suggested.

Matthews, who was booked, then released on his own recognizance from County Jail after his arrest on Highway 1 near Park Avenue at 1:40 a.m., had told The Sentinel he suspected the car stop could have been politically motivated.

Matthews' arrest followed a dramatic Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday at which Marilyn Liddicoat stepped down as chairman under pressure created by personal attacks on Matthews, including a public statement accusing him of being "an immoral, drunken bum." Liddicoat also said her decision to step down as chairman was based on what she claimed was a threat on her life by Matthews, a charge Matthews has denied.

Matthews told The Sentinel Wednesday he was handcuffed by the Capitola officer after Matthews said he had asked if the officer knew who he was and if the arrest was politically motivated.

According to the officer's report, Matthews was "arrested" prior to telling the officer he was a county supervisor.

Matthews said he drove onto Highway 1 in Santa Cruz and did not leave the highway prior to being stopped by Officer Mike Arroyo, a position which is contrary to Arroyo's report of the incident.

The report indicates the officer first observed Matthews in a county car headed southbound on Highway 1 approaching the Park Avenue offramp.

The officer wrote in his report that he observed the right turn signal flashing on Matthews car, indicating an exit on Park Avenue. But, the report said that instead of exiting onto Park Avenue, the vehicle stopped on the offramp for about 30 seconds, then accelerated across Park Avenue back onto the freeway.

The officer said he followed Matthews for two-tenths of a mile before putting on his red lights and pulling over the supervisor. During the time he followed Matthews, the officer indicated that the tires on Matthews' auto were riding on and crossing over the dividing line.

Chief Allen said this morning, "The arrest was so routine that I was not even notified until the next morning . . . This (type of arrest) falls within the purview of the officer to determine who is or is not driving under the influence."

Matthews, who receives an allowance from the county for using his personal auto on county business, said he was using the county car because his was in a garage for repairs. The county administrator's office said today that supervisors are authorized to use county vehicles in that instance.