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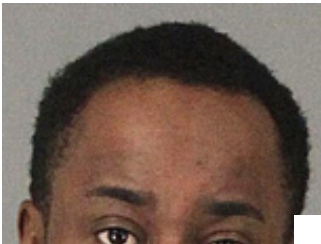
Jerome Clay, 41, had been charged with raping a woman from his church, court records say

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BY SARAH BURGE / STAFF WRITER

Published: Nov. 21, 2014 4:44 p.m.



A rape charge against a Perris pastor was dismissed on Friday, authorities said.

Jerome Anthony Clay, 41, who was arrested in March and has been free on bond, had pleaded not guilty to allegations that he raped a woman who attended his church, Riverside County court records show.

At the time of his arrest, Clay was a pastor at Compassion Church on 5th Street.

A judge dismissed the charge in response to a motion made by the prosecution, Riverside County court records show.

“After further review of the case, it was determined that, based on the current state of the evidence, we would not be able to prove the case to 12 jurors beyond a reasonable doubt so the case was dismissed in the interest of justice,” John Hall, a spokesman for the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office, said in an email.

Defense attorney Kia Feyzjou said he had provided evidence that the allegations of rape were false.

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“It really came down to credibility,” Feyzjou said.

Contact the writer: 951-368-9694, sburge@pe.com

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