

Holyoke mayor Alex Morse's cousin, Nicholas Duclos, pleads innocent to drunken driving and other charges

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NORTHAMPTON — Nicholas Duclos, a cousin of [Holyoke Mayor Alex B. Morse](#), pleaded innocent to drunken driving and other charges Monday in Northampton District Court. Duclos was arrested Saturday driving the mayor's city-issued vehicle.

Duclos, 22, of 83 Beacon St., [Holyoke](#), was arrested early Saturday by Northampton police after he drove onto the Nagle Walkway near the former Union Station restaurant off Pleasant Street. Duclos failed field sobriety tests at the scene and blew 0.114 and 0.122 on successive Breathalyzer tests at the police station, far higher than the legal limit of 0.08, according to police documents.

Duclos told police he had been at Bishop's Lounge with Morse and had taken the mayor's Ford Taurus, with Morse's permission, to go get some food. According to police documents, Morse later told police he did not give Duclos permission to take the car and did not know it was missing until he realized his keys were no longer in his jacket pocket. A police check showed the car is registered with the Holyoke Police Department.

According to police reports, the arresting officer observed the Taurus traveling east on Main Street at about 35 miles per hour — 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit — shortly after midnight. The car ran a red light, turning illegally onto Pleasant Street, with the cruiser in pursuit. The vehicle then drove onto the bike path and stopped. Duclos got out and walked toward the cruiser, police said.

The officer wrote that he detected a strong odor of alcohol both inside the car and on Duclos. Duclos said he had consumed two Long Island iced tea drinks at Bishop's Lounge and was on his way to Mimmo's pizzeria, the report states.

Police later interviewed Morse, who denied he had given his cousin permission to take his car.

Morse, 25, was the youngest mayor in Holyoke history when he was elected in 2012. He was re-elected last year. He told police he and Duclos were at a party at Bishop's Lounge; the bar's Facebook page lists the evening's event as "King of Northampton," a gay-friendly dance party series hosted at the venue.

The mayor later issued a statement saying, "This situation has left me feeling betrayed and disappointed. Nick made a stupid decision and he should have known there was absolutely no reason for him to have taken the car."

According to police documents, Duclos was driving with a suspended license at the time of his arrest Saturday. Duclos lost his license in January, 2012 for failure to pay a citation and various fees.

Duclos was charged with operating under the influence of alcohol, operating with a suspended license, using a motor vehicle without authority, speeding and failure to stop.

Judge W. Michael Goggins released him on his own recognizance and continued the matter to March 14.

Below, a series of police narratives included with the court file. One document, a statement to police by Alex Morse, has not yet been obtained by The Republican.

[Northampton Police Documents Related to Arrest of Nicholas Duclos](#)