

## Suspended Florence police officer enters misdemeanor domestic violence plea

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[2016 Cop Domestic Violence](#) Max Ryan Dotson

“There was no finding of guilt, he entered a best interest plea,” his attorney Jon McGee said. He said as a part of the agreement Dotson was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years. During that time, Dotson must undergo an assessment by officials with the Peace Program, which is a batterers’ intervention program.

“After the assessment, a determination will be made on any type program he must complete,” McGee said.

According to court officials, under the terms of the pretrial diversion agreement, Dotson pleaded guilty, but the judge does not accept the plea until Dotson finishes the terms of the agreement, which includes completing the Peace Program and not being arrested, and paying mandated fines over the next two years. If that happens the charges will be dismissed.

According to city prosecutor Heath Trousdale, pretrial diversion agreements are offered to first-time offenders for offenses such as driving under the influence, domestic violence, some drugs charges and thefts.

According to police, Dotson, and his wife, were both arrested April 29, on domestic violence charges third-degree.

Records indicate that Dotson, who has been with the department since 2007, was on unpaid administrative leave with the department. The unpaid leave was due to a recommendation of dismissal filed by Chief Ron Tyler against Max Dotson, which is still pending with the Florence Civil Service Board.

Records indicate, the charges against Dotson’s wife are still pending and she has an upcoming hearing in municipal court on Thursday.

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