

St. Petersburg Councilman Resigns, Commits Suicide



FRIDAY St. Petersburg City Council Chairman John Bryan attends a hearing in Family Court involving allegations he sexually abused his two adopted teenage daughters and a former nanny for the family. A judge tells Bryan to move out of his house and stay away from his teen daughters and his wife.

2:30 p.m. Bryan submits a letter of resignation. He does not explain his reason for resigning. The letter, dated two weeks ago, mentions his family.



3:45 St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker, left, acting City Council Chairman James Bennett, center, and Police Chief Charles Harmon hold a news conference to talk about charges against Bryan.

5:45 Times reporter Dan DeWitt finds Bryan's body slumped over a golf cart. He apparently committed suicide.



Police Were Investigating Allegations Of Sexual Abuse

By CARLOS MONCADA
The Tampa Tribune

ST. PETERSBURG — City Council Chairman John Bryan was found dead by a newspaper reporter Friday afternoon, the same day he resigned amid a criminal investigation into whether he sexually abused two of his adopted daughters and a nanny.

St. Petersburg Times reporter Dan DeWitt went to Bryan's Floral City weekend home seeking an interview about 5:45 p.m. and found him in the detached garage, slumped over a golf cart.

The garage was "pretty full of smoke," said Neil Brown, the newspaper's executive editor.

Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawdy confirmed that the 50-year-old, two-term councilman had committed suicide. Paramedics pronounced Bryan dead at the ranch-style home, which is situated on a large wooded lot about two miles east of U.S. 41.

A note was found in the house. Officials would not elaborate on its contents.

Friday afternoon, St. Petersburg Police

Chief Charles "Chuck" Harmon confirmed the criminal investigation into Bryan at a news conference, saying it did not involve Bryan in his official capacity as an elected council member.

Harmon said he could not provide details or answer questions because the investigation is ongoing.

However, a court spokesman said Bryan attended a hearing in Family Court on

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Judge told him to stay away from daughters.

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