

## 2 charged with voter fraud in Worcester

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WORCESTER -- Two local men are facing charges of voter fraud from the Nov. 5 municipal election.

Mark Atlas, 50, was accused of voting at the Ward 6, Precinct 5 polling station at 337 Greenwood St. under someone else's name.

Richard Suchocki, 57, has been accused of assisting Mr. Atlas by providing him with the name and address of another registered voter. He was arraigned Monday.

When that registered voter went to the precinct to cast his ballot, he appeared to have already signed in, said Sgt. Kerry Hazelhurst. An officer working there overheard the conversation and looked into what happened. A poll worker remembered the name of one of the men and police investigated.

"Both individuals were brought in and questioned, and based on the information they received (police) were able to charge them," Sgt. Hazelhurst said.

Mr. Suchocki declined to comment.

Mr. Suchocki's lawyer, William J. Bladd, said his client "denies that he has done anything wrong." Mr. Bladd added that he expects "he will be exonerated of all charges."

Mr. Atlas could not be reached for comment. Timothy J. Connolly, spokesman for District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr., said Mr. Atlas did not appear for Monday's arraignment in Central District Court and will be issued another summons to appear in court.

Both cases will be continued on Jan. 28.

Sgt. Hazelhurst said the case is "very unusual."

“I work for the polls as well and I’ve never had that kind of a problem,” he said.

Both Mr. Connolly, who has been in his current position since 2006, as well as Joshua D. Meduna, the assistant director of elections since 2007, said they have never encountered such a case.

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