

# Developer, 71, charged with statutory rape

Monday, May 9, 2011

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A Quincy developer today posted \$150,000 bail after being arraigned on charges of statutory rape and trafficking in cocaine.

A court officer escorted a handcuffed William O'Connell, 71, into the clerk's office at Quincy District Court to take care of administrative matters after Judge Mark Coven told the defense he was not going to treat the developer differently than any other defendant.

"I'm going to treat him the same way we treat every other person," Coven said.

A not guilty plea was entered on O'Connell's behalf. He is charged with two counts of aggravated statutory rape, two counts of soliciting sex for a fee and cocaine trafficking.

"The charges speak for themselves," said Andrew DiCarlo Berman, the special prosecutor appointed by Norfolk County District Attorney Michael Morrissey. "It's something that we take very seriously."

The alleged offenses took place in the spring and summer of 2009 and during various times up until March, Berman said. He added the alleged victim is not a prostitute. The aggravated statutory rape statute applies to victims who are 14 to 16 years old, Berman said.

The investigation against O'Connell is ongoing, and he may be indicted shortly by a grand jury, Berman said.

Coven impounded a police report, and details of the accusations against O'Connell were not revealed during his arraignment. Berman said he requested the report be impounded to protect the alleged victim's identity.

O'Connell was also ordered to stay away from the alleged victim and witnesses,

surrender his passport, have no unsupervised contact with anyone under age 16 and not leave the state without permission from his probation officer. He is due back in court on July 14 for a probable cause hearing.

O'Connell's nephew, Robert, is free on \$500,000 bail on an attempted murder charge. He is accused of shooting Joseph A. Fasano, who was a Milton firefighter, in Quincy. Berman is also handling that case, which will be back in court on May 20.