

Document: Girl says she told rape suspect O'Connell her age

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The Patriot Ledger

Posted Sep 27, 2012 @ 08:18 AM

Last update Sep 27, 2012 @ 08:19 AM

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QUINCY — The girl alleging she had a sexual relationship with William O'Connell when she was 14 told an investigator that O'Connell was aware of her age and cautious about getting in trouble.

The statements are contained in a search warrant affidavit The Patriot Ledger fought in court to have released after O'Connell's attorney and the lawyer prosecuting him moved to shield the document from public view.

The document was released Wednesday after an appeal period expired on the Supreme Judicial Court's ruling that there was not good cause to keep it impounded.

O'Connell, a prominent Quincy developer, is awaiting trial on statutory rape charges for his interactions with the girl.

In the affidavit, the girl claims O'Connell, 72, would frequently comment about her age and that he could get in trouble for their 2009 relationship.

"When asked if he ever said more about her age, (the girl) said that he would say things like, 'Oh you're so young, you're just a baby,'" reads the affidavit, which a judge ordered redacted to protect the girl's identity.

The document also contains several explicit details about the alleged sexual encounters between O'Connell and the girl in his Marina Bay condominium. The Patriot Ledger is not publishing that material and will not post the document to its website because of the explicit sexual content and because there are places in which the victim's name is not redacted. The affidavit is a public document at Quincy District Court.

O'Connell's attorney, Stephen Delinsky, who fought the release of the affidavit because he argued it would infringe on his client's fair trial rights, said the girl lacks credibility.

"Those statements in the affidavit are lies," he said. "We're going to have substantial evidence at trial to demonstrate that she lied to people all the time about her age. She posted on Facebook that she was over 18 years old."

Delinsky said the girl was a "street prostitute" at the time she made the statements about O'Connell, and that O'Connell denies having any sexual contact with her.

Special prosecutor Andrew Berman said he thinks the girl is "remarkably credible" as a witness and that he is confident "any jury who hears her testimony is going to come to the same conclusion."

According to the affidavit, the girl told an investigator that O'Connell once said he wanted to take her to Florida and needed her birth date to arrange the trip.

"When she told him her birth date ... he did the math and told her that he could not take her out of state," reads the affidavit, which was written by State Police investigator Kathleen Prince.

The affidavit supported the warrant authorities used to search O'Connell's Marina Bay condominium and uncover what the district attorney says was a safe that contained 18.49 grams of cocaine in his bedroom closet. The girl told the investigator about a safe containing cocaine that she had seen O'Connell open. She said he later sniffed the drugs.

She also detailed what she said O'Connell bought for her during their relationship. She said he would give her cash and also a credit card to use to buy clothes, \$1,500 worth each time.

"He had an account with Victoria Secret and she would order things by using his cellphone and giving the item number over the phone," the affidavit reads. "He told her that it was because he wanted to take (care) of her and it was not because of the sex."

The girl also said O'Connell bought her cellphones to use to call him at an Asian market in North Quincy.

Also indicted as O'Connell's co-conspirator is 22-year-old Phyllis Capuano of Everett, who the girl knew as "Cookie."

The girl said Capuano introduced her to O'Connell in the summer of 2009, and was also sexually involved with O'Connell. The girl said her first sexual encounter with O'Connell also involved Capuano, and that she began to see O'Connell about once a week after they were introduced.

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