

Prosecutor expects William O'Connell indictment soon

By Jack Encarnacao

The Patriot Ledger

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QUINCY — A Norfolk County grand jury, after being recalled, is close to deciding on a sex-crime and drug-trafficking indictment against Quincy development mogul William O'Connell, the special prosecutor in the case said. Andrew DiCarlo Berman said during a Quincy District Court hearing Wednesday that the jury would decide on indictments by the end of July.

The hearing concerned The Patriot Ledger's civil motion to remove the impoundment orders that a judge allowed on a search warrant and other documents related to the O'Connell case.

Judge Robert Ziemian on Wednesday dismissed the civil case and allowed The Patriot Ledger's motion to intervene in O'Connell's criminal case in pursuit of the records.

Berman said O'Connell's indictment would likely kick discussion of the impoundment orders into Norfolk County Superior Court in Dedham.

Ziemian gave Berman and O'Connell's attorney two weeks to come up with a redacted version of the documents that will protect the identity of the alleged victim, a minor, but still be made public.

"The impoundment was made for solely one purpose as far as the court was concerned, and that was to protect the identity of the (victim)," Ziemian said.

O'Connell, 71, who has developed some of Quincy's poshest properties, **was charged in May** with two counts of aggravated rape of a child under 16, two counts of paying a fee for sex and cocaine trafficking.

The charges stemmed from **a search warrant that State Police executed in March in his Marina Bay condominium.**

Berman argued that disclosure of records The Patriot Ledger is requesting would threaten to identify publicly the alleged victim and open her to potential manipulation. He said the records are exhibits the grand jury is considering.

"This is an ongoing investigation," he said.

Berman said that the grand jury was recently recalled, but declined to specify why. Jurors can be recalled for several reasons, including scheduling issues, late developments in an investigation and witnesses requesting immunity.

O'Connell has hired a new attorney, Stephen Delinsky of the Boston firm Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC. At arraignment, O'Connell was represented by **Stephen Neyman of Boston**, who withdrew from the case.

Delinsky specializes in white-collar criminal defense cases. He was chief of the criminal bureau of the state Attorney General's Office from 1977 to 1982 under then-Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti of Quincy. According to **the website of the legal firm he works for**, Delinsky prosecuted white-collar crimes, organized crime, environmental crimes and political corruption cases.

He served on the state's Judicial Nominating Council and was named a "super lawyer" by the New England Super Lawyers magazine from 2004 through 2010.

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