

Quincy's O'Connell, Everett woman indicted on sex charges involving girl

By Jack Encarnacao

The Patriot Ledger

Posted Aug 23, 2011 @ 06:08 AM

Last update Aug 23, 2011 @ 07:17 AM

Related Stories

DA releases impoundment motion in O'Connell case

Judge allows phone records to be turned over in O'Connell case

VIDEO: Wealthy Quincy developer William O'Connell pleads innocent to child rape, cocaine trafficking

Media backs Patriot Ledger's push to unseal O'Connell case

Business News

Real Assets Have Been in Real Trouble. Does This End the 'Commodity Supercycle'?

Credit Card Debt Continues Its Steady Decline

Your Smartphone is Easy to Hack, and Your Money Is In It

Suggested Stories

Scituate man seriously injured in Weymouth crash

Quincy man in serious condition after late night...

Two Hanover restaurants to close; 100 to lose jobs

From the Web

Impala Has the Last Laugh with Top-Rated New Sedan Fox Business

The Golf Club That Hosted Caddyshack's Raucous... The A.V. Club

Top 7 Most Awesome Places to See in Paris Travel and Places

Sponsored content What's this?

QUINCY — The underage-sex case against a prominent Quincy developer took an unexpected turn when a grand jury indicted an Everett woman as his co-conspirator in one of the incidents. A grand jury returned a total of 17 indictments Monday against William S. O'Connell, 71, and Phyllis Capuano, 21, on charges that stem from several alleged statutory rapes of a now 15-year-old girl over a two-year period.

O'Connell faces four counts of statutory rape, each of which stem from separate incidents. Capuano's charges stem from one of those incidents, which are alleged to have taken place between June and September of 2009.

O'Connell was indicted on 12 charges; Capuano on five.

Both are charged with committing statutory rape in the 2009 incident, as well as conspiring with and aiding the other in committing their respective crimes. Both are also charged with committing an unnatural and lascivious act.

Andrew Berman, special prosecutor for the Norfolk County District Attorney's office, declined to speak to the relationship between Capuano and the victim.

O'Connell, a homegrown developer whose portfolio includes Marina Bay and the Granite Links golf course, was arraigned in May in district court on two counts of aggravated rape of a child under 16, two counts of paying a fee for sex and cocaine trafficking.

He pleaded innocent to the charges in District Court. His indictment was necessary to bring the case to Superior Court.

The sex for a fee charge against O'Connell was not presented to the grand jury for consideration, said Berman. Asked why, Berman declined to comment.

O'Connell was also indicted Monday for cocaine trafficking. The charge stems from a State Police raid on his Marina Bay condominium on March 31, which Berman said resulted in the seizure of 18.49 grams of cocaine. Possessing more than 14 grams of cocaine is considered trafficking under state law.

Capuano was arraigned on a statutory rape charge against the same victim on June 9 in Quincy District Court. She pleaded innocent, and was released on \$7,500 cash bail.

As terms of her release, Capuano had to surrender her passport, agree not to travel outside of Massachusetts without the permission of a probation officer, have no contact with the victim or any witnesses and have no unsupervised contact with any child under the age of 16, with the exception of her child.

Capuano recently posted a personal ad on a website for people seeking babysitters, SitterCity.com. In it, she wrote that she has "always been around children."

"I love working and playing with kids," the ad reads. "Nothing beats experiencing the world through a child's eyes!"

The four statutory rape charges against O'Connell stem from incidents that allegedly took place in the following time frames: June to September 2009; September 2009 to May 2010; May to September 2010 and September 2010 through 2011.

The unnatural and lascivious act charges against him are said to have taken place on a day between June 2009 and May 2010 and a day between May 2010 and September 2010.

If convicted, O'Connell and Capuano face a 10-year minimum prison sentence on each rape charge.

Arraignment dates on the indictment charges were not set Monday.

READ MORE about this issue.

Jack Encarnacao may be reached at jencarnacao@ledger.com.

Comment or view comments »