

Woman testifies police twisted facts on rape

By Darlene McCormick
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WATERBURY — Shaking and near tears, a 44-year-old mother and business woman spun a tale of rape and betrayal in a civil courtroom Friday.

The woman told her story to a jury in an effort to make police pay for allegedly turning on her when she needed them most.

The woman claims in a civil suit that she

was sexually assaulted on Sept. 11, 1993, around 1 a.m. in her Waterbury home while her husband was out of town. An unknown assailant crept into her room, cut her panties off, sexually assaulted her and terrorized her with a gun while her children slept.

During questioning from her attorney, Maureen Norris, the woman said police did not investigate thoroughly and ultimately accused her of making up the whole thing to cover up an affair.

The suit names Capt. Douglas Moran, his brother, retired Capt. Robert Moran, former Lt. Philip Post and the City of Waterbury. In a pretrial memorandum, the woman asked for half a million dollars in damages.

City attorney Cheryl Hricko contended in opening statements that police did a thorough investigation that revealed some oddities and inconsistencies in the case.

Police did not find any forced entry into the home. There were inconsistencies in lab re-

ports and an examination of the scene didn't support the woman's allegations. An outside source interviewed by police also gave them information about what may have really happened that night, Hricko said.

According to the woman, the incident happened on one of the rare occasions that her husband was out of town. He was in Colorado for a wedding.

The woman said she decided to stay at home and not go to the wedding because her

business partner's wife was due to have a baby and someone needed to be at the office.

She gave the following account of the incident:

Sometime in the night she heard footsteps and thought it was her children. She looked up and saw a silhouette of a person.

"I didn't have time to do anything. He jumped on top of me. I remember trying to get

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him off me. I remember screaming out loud."

The woman said she bit her attacker and he pushed her down into the bed and put a pillow case over head and tied her hands behind her back. She said she didn't scream anymore because she was afraid of waking the children and endangering them.

The man cut her panties from behind and got on top of her and began pushing against her. He later penetrated her with his finger. She pleaded with her attacker not to hurt her.

"He put the gun into my mouth. I felt like my head was on fire."

Next he put the gun to her temple. That's when she thought she would die and began to pray.

He asked her where her car keys were and then he got up and left. She remembers hearing him go downstairs and the door shutting.

The woman freed herself and ran to check on her children, who were sleeping. She then picked up the phone to call for help, but the phone line had been cut.

She decided to leave the children asleep, locked in the house while she went for help. She ran several houses away, to the first home with lights on. After telling the neighbor what happened, he called 911 and went to her house with an ax to guard the children while she talked to police.

The woman said she could not give a detailed description of the man, but knew he smelled of mechanical oil and it felt like he had jeans on.

She eventually went to the hospital

which delivered her a tape containing, taking hair and blood samples and checking for semen, which was present. She was also treated for an eye injury. She and her family decided to wait and tell her husband about the incident when he returned from the wedding.

Her trouble with police began after Douglas Moran; a lieutenant at the time, was assigned to the case, she said. About a month after the alleged incident, she and her sister set up a meeting with Moran to give him information about a possible suspect.

Instead of listening to them, Moran took the woman into a room, read her her Miranda rights and accused her of lying about the whole thing. He threatened her with arrest and warned her that she could lose her children, husband and career for making a false report.

He continued to press her for more than an hour, all the time recording the conversation, she said. The woman insisted to the officer that she was being truthful.

"Here he is threatening me with everything I have," she said. "I left there believing I was going to be arrested."

"I have never been unfaithful to my husband. I was the victim. Now, I was being attacked by police," she said. "It was too much for me to bear."

The case is scheduled to continue on Tuesday with cross examination. The trial is expected to last up to four weeks and include testimony from Dr. Henry Lee, a renowned forensics scientist.