

Rape story reiterated in court

Woman suing police for not believing her

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WATERBURY — A 44-year-old business woman and mother suing Waterbury police for allegedly failing to properly investigate her rape claim, stuck to her story under cross-examination by city attorneys Tuesday.

During almost a full day on the stand, the woman was adamant that the attack took place Sept. 11, 1993, around 1 a.m. in her Waterbury home.

But city attorney Cheryl Hricko maintains 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 reports, 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.

The woman testified during the first day of trial on Friday that she was sleeping when an unknown assailant crept into her room while her husband was at a wedding in Colorado. Her attacker tied her up with panty hose, blindfolded her, sexually

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assaulted her, and terrorized her with a gun while her two young children slept in their rooms, she said.

The woman claims police turned on her when they couldn't solve the case right away. They threatened her with arrest and accused her of making up the story to cover for an affair, she said.

The woman has testified she has remained faithful to her husband throughout their marriage. She maintains she told the police the truth and even offered to take a lie detector test.

The suit names Capt. Douglas Moran; his brother, retired Capt. Robert Moran; Lt. Philip

Post, and the city of Waterbury in the suit. In a pretrial memorandum, the woman asked for half a million dollars in damages. However, no amount has been specified during the trial so far.

Hricko asked the woman about her account that she bit the man's finger or hand. The woman had previously testified her assailant had on gloves.

The woman explained that she bit the glove, which may have been leather.

Hricko asked the woman about the man's voice, which she described as someone talking through clenched teeth. The woman told police the voice could have belonged to a black man or someone with a Jamaican accent or perhaps

someone disguising his voice.

The attorney also questioned the woman about her account to police that the attacker did not have an erection.

The woman said she felt wetness but did not think penetration occurred. According to testimony, a hospital examination found semen was present in the vagina.

The woman has testified she could not give a detailed description of the man but knew he smelled of mechanical oil and thought the man had jeans on.

When questioned about her treatment by police, the woman said Douglas Moran read her her Miranda rights and then told her she would lose her children, husband and career for filing

a false report. She said he taped their meeting, which lasted over an hour.

When she and her husband complained to Robert Moran and Post, they were secretly recorded, she said.

Nothing was done on her case until she complained to Waterbury State's Attorney John Connelly, she said. Connelly asked to listen to the tape made by Moran but was told it had not recorded properly, she said.

However, the woman's lead attorney, Maureen Norris, was able to produce the second recording made by police. The woman's complaints heard on the tape, some seven years ago, were consistent with her testimony about her treatment by police.