

Officer testifies alleged rape fully investigated by police

By Darlene McCormick

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• WATERBURY — Waterbury Police Lt. James Griffin remembers arriving at a rape call seven years ago and seeing an upset woman with nylons hanging from her neck and wrists.

The woman, who is now suing the city for allegedly failing to properly investigate her rape claim, told police she was sleeping when an unknown assailant crept into her Waterbury home.

Her attacker tied her up with panty hose, blindfolded her, sexually assaulted her and terrorized her with a gun while her two young children slept in their rooms, she said. The reported attack took place when her husband was at a wedding in Colorado.

Griffin, who testified in the civil trial on Thursday on behalf of the city, said the woman's complaint was the kind that got the attention of officers on duty that night.

But once on the scene, Griffin, who was a detective and sergeant at the time, said he noticed something odd about the bedroom where the violent sexual assault reportedly took place.

The bed covers were turned down and the contents of the woman's purse, supposedly emptied by her attacker in a quest for money, were in a tidy pile on the bed.

"I thought it may have been inconsistent with a struggle," Griffin said. "It was slept in, but it wasn't torn

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RAPE: Officer disputes alleged victim

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apart."

However, the woman's attorneys have hinted that the woman had straightened up the contents of the purse.

Griffin's testimony helped underscore the city's position that police did a thorough investigation that revealed some oddities in the case.

No forced entry into the home, inconsistencies in lab reports and a crime scene that didn't support the woman's allegations added up to a puzzling case, according to city attorney Cheryl Hricko.

Also, an outside source interviewed by police gave them information about what may have really happened that night.

Other testimony has showed the woman did not have any injuries except an eye injury that was not noticed by police at the scene. The

woman also testified she did not believe there was penetration during the attack, but a rape exam at the hospital discovered semen in the vagina.

The 44-year-old businesswoman who now lives in Woodbury claims police turned on her when they couldn't solve the case right away. Douglas Moran, a lieutenant in charge of rape investigations at the time, 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 police the truth and even offered to take a lie detector test.

The suit names Capt. 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 \$500,000 dollars in damages. Howev-

er, no amount has been specified during the trial so far.

One of the defendants, Robert Moran, took the stand on Thursday as well. Moran, who was his brother's supervisor, said he suggested that the woman be reinterviewed in light of the inconsistencies in the case. Douglas Moran was "very direct" during the interview, which may have made the woman feel abused, Robert Moran testified.

The woman and her husband met with Robert Moran to complain about her treatment during the interview, but asked that Douglas Moran remain on the case.

At the end of the meeting, Robert Moran got the impression they wanted the case to get back on track. To them, that meant looking for the woman's attacker, he said.

The case is expected to continue into next week and include testimony from Douglas Moran.