

Journal Inquirer.com

NORTH-CENTRAL CONNECTICUT'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Towns > East Windsor

Judge orders former EW official accused of strangling daughter to undergo evaluation

Print Page

By Ed Jacovino
Journal Inquirer

Published: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:33 AM EDT

A former East Windsor Police Commission member accused of strangling his youngest daughter and throwing her down a flight of stairs in his East Windsor home is not well, another daughter told a judge on Wednesday.

Former police commission member Gilbert Lowell, 81, has been unstable since September after undergoing a medical procedure and receiving a drug suspected to have long-lasting mental and emotional side-effects, his eldest daughter, Yvonne Turgeon, told Judge Richard W. Dyer during arraignment proceedings for her father in Enfield Superior Court.

"The person that came home from the hospital is not our father," she said.

The daughter who was injured in the incident was in court for the hearing but did not address the judge.

Lowell had been held in lieu of a \$25,000 bond prior to his arraignment. East Windsor police arrested him Tuesday on charges of second-degree strangulation, third-degree assault, second-degree threatening, and first-degree unlawful restraint.

Dyer ordered Lowell to undergo a medical and mental health evaluation. He allowed Lowell to be released on a \$25,000 nonsurety bond so his family could take him for the evaluation.

Dyer also ordered him not to have contact with the daughter he is accused of assaulting, and he must give up his gun and other weapons — something he told the judge he already did voluntarily.

According to police, Lowell is accused of threatening to kill his youngest daughter and throwing her down a set of five stairs to the basement of his home at 70 Reservoir Ave. in East Windsor.

A neighbor saw the daughter bloodied and walking down the street and drove her to East Windsor Town Hall to meet an ambulance, police said. She received six stitches for a two-inch gash under her chin, her dislocated jaw had to be reset, and she has bruises covering her body, according to court officials and documents.

Lowell lives at the home with the daughter he is accused of hurting. It had been his home but he signed it over into her name recently and continues to live there, his lawyer told the judge.

Lowell was a member of East Windsor Police Commission from 1987 to 1991 and served as a Marine. He retired as a machinist from East Windsor Tool and Dye Company.

The daughter told police their argument had been over her planting flowers in the yard, court documents say. Lowell told police his daughter threw the first punch but he didn't want to argue with her side of the story, the documents say.

The daughter told police that when the incident started, she knew something was up because her father "didn't look right," the documents say.

Sandra Davis, Lowell's public defender, asked Dyer to lessen the charges against Lowell from second-degree assault, a felony, to third-degree assault, which is a misdemeanor, but Dyer declined to do it because of the cut the daughter suffered.

"This is serious, despite the defendant's age," Dyer said. "Despite his age, he's a strong ex-Marine."

The daughters plan to take Lowell for a medical evaluation before he's scheduled to return to court on June 16.

Copyright © 2010 - Journal Inquirer

[x] Close Window