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News

Hearing Postponed for Former Police Officer, Girlfriend Charged in Prostitution Sting

New preliminary hearing dates are set for April 5.

By Jenna Staul | Email the author | March 29, 2011 | Print | 0 Comments |

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The <u>preliminary hearings</u> have been postponed for a former Pittsburgh Police detective and his girlfriend charged last week in a <u>Moon prostitution</u> <u>sting</u>.

Former detective Talib Kevin Ghafoor, 55, of East Liberty, and Sabina Earlene Sailer, 43, of Florida, now are scheduled to appear on April 5 before District Judge Mary Murray in Coraopolis District Court. Their hearings were postponed today after witnesses failed to appear in court.

Ghafoor is charged with three counts of felony prostitution and conspiracy and one count of possessing instruments of crime, a misdemeanor. Sailer is charged with three counts of felony prostitution and conspiracy and one count of misdemeanor prostitution.

Moon Police said she was soliciting customers for sex on a local classified advertisement website.

Frank C. Walker II, the attorney representing both Ghafoor and Sailer, said his clients will plead not guilty to the charges.

"We're just looking forward to defending the charges in court," Walker said. "The charges are what they are."

The couple, who walked into district court holding hands, were arrested Wednesday when an undercover <u>Moon Police</u> detective arranged to meet Sailer at the <u>Courtyard by Marriott</u> hotel on Cherrington Parkway. Sailer was arrested after agreeing to have sex with the detective in exchange for money, according to Moon Police.

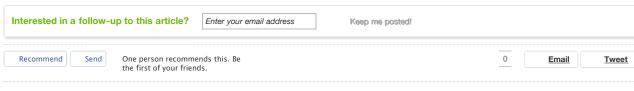
Sailer, who previously has been convicted on prostitution charges, told police that Ghafoor, whom she identified as her fiancee, brought her to the hotel. Police found Ghafoor unarmed in the hotel parking lot.

Both Ghafoor and Sailer were released from Allegheny County Jail last Thursday after posting bail.

Ghafoor resigned from the Pittsburgh Police Department in 2008 after more than 20 years with the department. Prior to retiring, he was being investigated for giving contradictory testimony in a homicide investigation but was not charged with any wrongdoing.

Check back with **Patch** coverage of the hearings.

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