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San Diego News

Officer Convicted Of Abusing Authority Seeks New Trial

POSTED: 2:09 pm PDT May 3, 2007
 UPDATED: 6:45 pm PDT May 3, 2007



EL CAJON, Calif. -- An El Cajon police officer convicted of using his position of authority to persuade women in his custody to perform sexual favors wants a new trial because a juror had second thoughts about the verdict, it was reported Thursday.

William Robert Taylor's lawyer filed documents in court saying one juror was pressured into voting for conviction by other members of the jury, The San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

The juror, in a statement filed by defense attorney Alec Rose, said she was intimidated by other jurors and wanted to take back her decision to convict Taylor of several charges, the newspaper reported.

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Taylor, 27, was convicted March 28 of five charges: petty theft for allegedly taking two knives from one woman he arrested; two counts of requesting or taking a bribe; sexual penetration under color of authority; and sexual battery.

In her statement, the juror said, "I have reasonable doubt" on all but the petty theft charges, and "should have voted not guilty," the Union-Tribune reported.

When the verdict was announced, Judge Charles W. Ervin asked each juror individually if they agreed with the verdict and each said yes.

The one juror said in her recent statement: "I wanted to say no but was afraid of the consequences from fellow jurors and in the court in speaking my mind," according to the Union-Tribune.

Rose told the newspaper the pressure other jurors put on the woman amounted to misconduct warranting a new trial.

A May 11 hearing has been set for Taylor's motion for a new trial.

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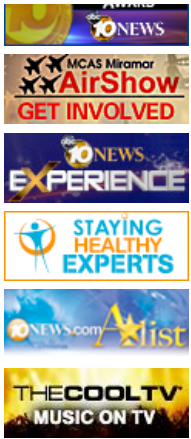
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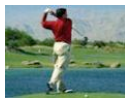
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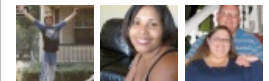
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