

Jury selection to begin next week in Gastineau sex case

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Former San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputy Nathan Gastineau sits during his preliminary hearing in a San Bernardino Superior Courtroom December 15, 2011. Gastineau, 30, of Redlands, is charged with sexual acts with a teenaged female Explorer. (Staff file photo / The Sun)

SAN BERNARDINO >> Both parties announced they were ready to begin the long-awaited trial for Nathan Gastineau, former San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy suspected of having sex with a teen Explorer in 2010.

On Friday Deputy District Attorney Bobbie Mann and defense attorney Andrew Haynal told Judge William Jefferson Powell that they are prepared to pick a jury next week and possibly present opening statements.

Pretrial motions are scheduled to be heard Monday at San Bernardino Superior Court. Powell said he would order a jury panel starting Tuesday.

Opening statements could begin on Thursday, depending on how long jury selection takes, Mann said.

Authorities claim Gastineau, who worked out of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Highland station, admitted to having sex with a teenage girl in the Explorer program in 2010.

He was arrested on April 22, 2011, and charged about two months later with three counts of lewd acts with a child and three counts of unlawful sexual intercourse.

As of June 2011, Gastineau was no longer employed with the Sheriff's Department, but officials would not say whether he retired or was fired.

Court documents prepared by sheriff's detectives show that investigators found a video and photos of Gastineau, now 33, having sex with the girl when she was 15, authorities said.

Gastineau has pleaded not guilty to the charges. He is currently free on bail.

Powell had previously acknowledged that he was eager to begin Gastineau's trial, which had its first readiness hearing in February. Both attorneys have had full schedules in recent months, which has delayed the trial.