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Modesto rapper's bail disputed in rape case

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MODESTO --]

A local rapper whose lyrics include references to pimping appeared in Stanislaus Superior Court on Friday morning on charges of rape and false imprisonment.

Devon Tenille Bradford, 34, was arrested in May. The crime is alleged to have taken place in December.

At issue was his \$1 million bail, which his defense attorney said was 600 percent the normal bail amount for the charge of rape.

San Francisco-based defense attorney Cherie Beasley and deputy district attorney Beth Owen painted different pictures of the night in question.

Beasley said the alleged victim was walking drunk late at night in Modesto when she saw Bradford driving and flagged him down. She'd never met Bradford but agreed to go home with him, anyway, Beasley said.

Owen said the woman did not flag down Bradford at the intersection of Tully Road and Briggsmore Avenue; rather, she said, he pulled up next to her in his car and feigned concern for her well-being. It was 9:30 p.m. when he offered to drive her to her friend's house, but instead took her to his apartment, Owen said.

Opposite portrayals

There, the two continued to drink, and the alleged victim told police she felt as if she had been drugged when she awoke naked the next morning and had no recollection of the night before.

The woman told police she could hear Bradford on the phone saying, "I'll break your jaw if you don't make money for me," Owen said.

Bradford allegedly raped the woman after the phone call.

"This doesn't make sense," Beasley said. "My client waited until she was stone cold sober in the morning, when she can fight back ... then all of a sudden he becomes a monster?"

Owen said that after the alleged rape, Bradford made the woman call a man to offer him sex.

"He was acting as a pimp at this time," Owen said. "He brutally raped her and forced her to orally copulate him."

She pointed out that Bradford, whose rapper name is Young Droop, has a song called "Pimp'n So Hard" and was arrested on suspicion of pimping in 2008. He was not held to answer on the case after a preliminary hearing. He also was arrested on suspicion of raping a drugged victim in Merced in 1998 but was never convicted, Owen said.

Bradford was arrested on suspicion of rape and false imprisonment in May, five months after the incident and two months after DNA evidence was returned from the Department of Justice.

"I think the community at-large is at risk with this man out of custody," Owen said.

Beasley questioned why, if her client was so dangerous, more effort was not made to arrest him sooner. She argued that the alleged victim left the house in the morning of her volition and knew what Bradford's car looked like and



Devon Tenille Bradford, 33, was arrested on May 14, 2012, on suspicion of rape, human trafficking, and lewd and lascivious acts, according to police Detective Steve Anderson of the Modesto Police Department. (Modesto Police Department) - Modesto Bee - Modesto Police Department

therefore should have been able to identify him to police.

Beasley gestured to Bradford's mother seated in the audience as she explained his roots in Modesto to show he isn't a flight risk.

Owen spoke of three outstanding charges of resisting arrest against Bradford from September 2010, when he allegedly tried to evade police by jumping out the window of a home.

More court time

His bail was \$1 million; the bail scheduled for a charge of rape is \$150,000.

Judge Marie Silveira reduced the bail to \$300,000 and ordered Bradford to return to court Monday to surrender his passport. However, counsel was called back to court Friday afternoon to swear under oath that he does not have a passport.

As he left court Friday morning, Bradford turned around and mouthed, "I love you," to his mother.

He is scheduled to return to court Thursday for a preliminary hearing, during which, Owen said, she will also argue a case for pimping and human trafficking.

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