Sexual assault, kidnapping charges dropped against Kilgore man

By Ellen Goodacre egoodacre@news-journal.com Reporter  Feb 17, 2016

Caimbrian Austin Walker, 22, is seen in surveillance video taken Dec. 31 at a Kilgore hotel.

Surveillance video from a motel helped dismiss sexual assault and kidnapping charges against a Kilgore man who spent about 40 days in jail after being arrested this past month.
Caimbrian Austin Walker, 22, was held on bonds totaling $220,500 after a woman accused him of holding her against her will, assaulting and then raping her Dec. 31.

Surveillance video from the Executive Inn on U.S. 259 in Kilgore shows Walker and the woman leaving and returning to the hotel room unaccompanied by the other.

On Jan. 4, the woman said Walker called her at her workplace and told her he knew her grandparents were in town and "insisted that she come and see him if she did not want any further trouble," according to an arrest warrant.

She told police that Walker drove her to the motel, rented a room in her name, insisted she stay at the motel and sexually assaulted her four times that night, according to the warrant.

Neither Kilgore police nor the Gregg County District Attorney's Office made efforts to corroborate the woman's statement by speaking with hotel employees or obtaining video footage from that night, Walker's attorney, Daryll Bennett, said Wednesday.

Walker was arrested by Gregg County sheriff's deputies about 7:40 p.m. Jan. 5 at his home in Kilgore.

"There's the camera behind the check-in booth, she signs the thing, she pays for it, she gets the key," Bennett said. "They got a video going in the room at the motel, (of) her leaving, coming back, him leaving, coming back."

Bennett subpoenaed the video footage, and the motel manager delivered the footage Jan. 21, Bennett said.

The attorney then submitted the video and a letter Jan. 22 to the DA's office requesting the charges against Walker be dismissed, he said.
The prosecutor handling the case reviewed the video and requested that an examination hearing be set, Bennett said.

Walker appeared before a Gregg County judge Monday, the sexual assault and kidnapping charges against him were dismissed, and he was released on warrants revoking his bond for charges of assault causing bodily injury, three counts of violating a protective order and evading arrest.

"So he stays in jail all that time, and it just angers me that they put somebody in jail and they just took (the woman's) word he did it," Bennett said. "They don't go to the hotel. I think there ought to be pressure on (District Attorney) Carl Dorrough to at least look into this stuff. If the city of Kilgore didn't want to go look at the video at the motel, at least somebody go ask them at the motel 'Who signed in here?'"

The district attorney's office conducts additional investigation in some cases when necessary, Dorrough said Wednesday, but not in every case.

"Even after law enforcement has packaged up their investigation and sent it to this office, this office continues that investigation, (but) not in every single case," Dorrough said. "But in the end, we rely on law enforcement to conduct the investigation, and on occasion, when the circumstances require it, we also continue investigating."

Kilgore police spokesman and Assistant Chief Roman Roberson did not return calls Wednesday seeking comment.