

Ex-Philly cop faces trial in girl rape case

The Associated Press

Updated: 11/30/2010 12:20:42 PM EST

PHILADELPHIA—The trial is under way for an ex-Philadelphia police officer accused of repeatedly raping and assaulting a girl from the age of 12.

Jury selection wrapped up Monday in the trial of 51-year-old Tyrone Wiggins. He retired from the force on Nov. 18, 2009, one day before he was arrested on charges including rape, aggravated indecent assault and corruption of a minor.

Authorities Wiggins mentored the girl for two years before the assaults began then continued the abuse for eight years.

Defense attorney **Scott Sigman** says his client denies the charges. He says Wiggins was a karate instructor who was close with all his students.

The alleged victim is now a 25-year-old Philadelphia police officer. She was scheduled to testify on Tuesday.

Sex abuse trial begins for exPhilly officer

The Associated Press

An ex-Philadelphia police officer claims that accusations of sexual abuse were leveled at him only after he told his alleged victim to admit her history as a drug dealer to department officials.

An attorney for 51-year-old Tyrone Wiggins says his client will testify in his own defense over allegations he began sexually assaulting one of his karate students when she was 12 years old then continued the abuse for eight years.

Wiggins' trial opened Tuesday with the alleged victim telling the court of a series of sexual encounters that began when she was in sixth grade.

The now-25-year-old woman is a Philadelphia police officer. Wiggins claims she accused him of wrongdoing because he'd told her to tell department officials she'd previously sold drugs.

Wiggins left the department in November 2009.