

Judge moves Gourdikian's alleged gun dealing case to September as cops move forward in local probe

Posted by Andre Coleman | Mar 29, 2018 | 0 • | ★★★★★



Vasken Gourdikian

The trial of a former Pasadena police lieutenant accused of illegally selling more than 100 guns and lying on federal forms has been postponed for five months.

Meanwhile, Interim Police Chief John Perez said the department's internal affair's investigation into former Lt. Vasken Gourdikian would continue.

"We will finish the investigation," Perez told the Pasadena Weekly. "The department's investigation will focus largely on policy, but if criminality is uncovered it could be forwarded to prosecutors."

Gourdikian resigned two weeks ago shortly after he was indicted on charges of illegally selling 100 guns online and lying on federal forms.

A second Pasadena officer was suspended in connection with the case.

Gourdikian's trial was set to begin on April 24, in Los Angeles, but on March 22 he was granted a continuance until Sept. 25.

In his ruling, Judge United States District Judge Steven Wilson said that, "failure to grant the continuance could result in a miscarriage of justice" and that "failure to grant the continuance would deny defendant continuity of counsel."

Wilson could be referring to Gourdikian's new lawyer. He parted ways with local attorney Mark Geragos earlier this month. He is now represented by Mark Werksman of the Los Angeles-based firm Werksman, Jackson, Hathaway & Quinn. Gourdikian was suspended with pay more than a year ago after agents with the bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) raided his home in Sierra Madre and removed 57 weapons. After he was indicted, Police Chief Philip Sanchez placed him on suspension without pay.

On Monday, two police officers in Gardena, Carlos Miguel Fernandez, 42, and Edward Yasuhiro Aroa, 47, were indicted on five counts of illegally selling approximately 100 firearms, mostly .38-caliber pistols.

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1:00 pm Family Drop-In Program at the Hu... @ The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

1:00 pm Guided Tour at Norton Simon @ Norton Simon Museum

2:00 pm Alex Film Society Screening @ Alex Theatre

2:30 pm "Beauty Bites Beast" Screening @ Pasadena Public Library, Central Branch

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