

MOTIVE CITED IN STALLWORTH ID CASE STATE SAYS CONVICTION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE KEPT HIM FROM CANADA

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Prosecutors in one of the criminal cases pending against state Rep. **Keith Stallworth**, D-Detroit, have developed an alternative theory about what motivated him to allegedly obtain a bogus driver's license.

According to documents filed Thursday in Wayne County Circuit Court, Stallworth may have wanted to use the fake ID to cross the border into Canada after he was barred from entry in July 2000 because of a domestic assault conviction in 1997.

Attorney General Jennifer Granholm's office earlier notified the court it suspected Stallworth was motivated by a desire to conceal financial transactions related to the alleged sale of a topless bar he owned in Detroit.

Stallworth was charged in February with three felonies in Wayne County related to his alleged application in October for a driver's license and voter registration in his brother's name. Earlier this month, the U.S. Attorney's Office named him as a co-conspirator in a violent drug ring to which he allegedly contributed by laundering money from the ringleaders.

Stallworth, who could not be reached Thursday, has declared his innocence to all of the charges.

State authorities said they were unaware of the domestic violence conviction until their investigation turned up Stallworth's attempt to go from Detroit to Windsor.

According to records filed by the attorney general Thursday, Stallworth was charged in October 1996, a month before he was first elected to office. The records, from Inkster District Court, indicate that he was found guilty in April of the following year, and ordered to perform community service and pay \$809. The records do not identify the victim of the assault, but give an Inkster address for Stallworth, who by then was representing a district in Detroit.

Inkster court officials said they could not locate records of the case Thursday. The documents filed by the state Thursday appear to indicate that Stallworth is seeking to have his guilty plea on the domestic violence charge set aside.

The attorney general is asking the court to allow prosecutors to use the border incident and the alleged money laundering as evidence of motive in the driver's license case.

A spokesman for state Rep. Kwame Kilpatrick, D-Detroit, the Democratic leader in the House, said Thursday that lawmakers had not been aware of the domestic assault conviction. But he said he did not expect it to have an immediate impact on the position of House leaders about Stallworth, which has been to express concern while waiting for further court proceedings.

The Legislature is on its summer recess and will return to the Capitol in September.

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Caption: Photo

State Rep. **Keith Stallworth** has said he is innocent of the charges against him.

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