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Whittaker

Hearing set to reconvene for former King City police chief

Former police chief Nick Baldiviez is accused of giving patrol car to officer to customize for car shows

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KING CITY, Calif. — Attorneys on both sides argued at a preliminary hearing Friday over whether former King City Police Chief Nick Baldiviez signed off on giving a patrol car to one of his officers to trick out for car shows.

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Monterey County District Attorney Steve Somers presented Department of Motor Vehicles title documents showing the alleged transfer of a King City police car to Patrol Officer Mario Mottu, an officer under the former chief.

An investigator for the DA's office said that when they showed the chief the documents, Baldiviez said it looked like his signature.

While on trial in June, Baldiviez said someone forged his signature on the documents, but the DA asked a signature expert to compare the signature on the title transfer form to other confirmed signatures from Baldiviez. The signature expert said it probably was the former chief's signature but needed to see more examples to be completely sure.

Baldiviez' attorney, Brian Worthington, said the DA has no evidence that proves he lied under oath.

"They cannot prove he perjured himself," Worthington said. "Just because his testimony contradicts their theory of the case, they would have to prove their theory of the case first, which they have not yet done."

Worthington said the DA has not cited any witnesses of the chief allegedly signing the title.

"And again, there is no witness, there has never been a witness presented, I don't believe there is going to be one today who said, 'I saw him sign those two pieces of paper,'" Worthington said.

Originally the King City City Council signed off on the same car being transferred to the youth's explorers program. However, that transfer did not happen. Instead the car was allegedly given to Patrol Officer Mario Mottu to be tricked out for car shows.

The hearing will resume on Nov. 6.



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