Franklin police prosecutor on paid leave following arrest on stalking charge

By CAITLIN ANDREWS and LEAH WILLINGHAM
Monitor staff
Saturday, July 28, 2018

A Franklin police prosecutor is on unpaid leave after being arrested Thursday afternoon in Concord on charges of stalking, trespassing and receiving stolen property.

Christopher Ahern, 41, of Epsom has been charged with two misdemeanors offenses – stalking and receiving stolen property – and a violation, which stem from a domestic incident, according to Concord police.

According to complaints filed in Concord district court Friday, Ahern engaged in a “course of conduct ... which could cause a reasonable person (the victim) to fear for her personal safety or the safety of a member of that individual's immediate family” by entering her residence without permission at 2 a.m. on June 2. He then tried to enter the victim’s residence again on July 26.

Ahern is also accused of using a stolen house key and entering storage unit belonging to the victim after he first entered the victim’s residence, according to the complaint.
Detective Sgt. Robert Buelte said Ahern was arrested in the Concord downtown area at the victim’s residence.

Franklin city manager Judie Milner said Friday morning that Ahern is on unpaid administrative leave. He has worked for the city since 2009.

Ahern is Franklin’s prosecutor as well as a part-time police officer with the Franklin police department.

He represents the victims of criminal acts and prosecutes those arrested or summoned for misdemeanor and violation offenses by the Franklin Police Department, and assists the Merrimack County Attorney’s Office and the Attorney General’s Office in preparing criminal cases for felony-level offenses that occur within Franklin, according to the city’s website.

Milner said the city is considering options on how to fill prosecutions in Ahern’s absence. She said they’re considering working with Tilton and the county attorney’s office.

“We are working on a plan on how to fill that gap,” Milner said. “We suspect we will be able to soldier on.”

Ahern waived his arraignment Friday morning. He was released on $2,500 personal recognizance bail with orders to have no contact with the victim. He is not allowed to possess a firearm or consume any alcohol or drugs.

(Caitlin Andrews can be reached at 369-3309, candrews@cmonitor.com or on Twitter at @ActualCAndrews.)