

The Courier-Journal

Sunday, February 13, 2000

LOCAL NEWS



[Local News Index](#) | [Local News Archives](#)
[C-J Extra](#) | [The Courier-Journal Home Page](#)

Lawyer for Berry seeks trial delay New accuser is added to sodomy case

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- The attorney for Micro-City Government founder Ron Berry said he will ask the court to delay Berry's trial in order to prepare a defense against an additional accuser.

Berry is scheduled to go to trial on sodomy charges March 6 in Louisville. The new charges stem from the accusations of a man who tried unsuccessfully to intervene in a federal lawsuit against the city of Lexington.

Prosecutors won approval to add the new accuser to the case on Friday.

"I don't want to have new charges heaped on me 23 days before trial," Berry's lawyer, William E. Johnson of Frankfort, said in court Friday.

Circuit Judge Lewis Paisley said that he might "unconsolidate" the cases, meaning that Berry would be tried separately on the two counts of sodomy with which he was charged last month.

The existence of the accuser became public knowledge after the city announced it was paying \$450,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by four men who said they were sexually assaulted by Berry when they were boys.

The four men alleged that the city should have more closely investigated rumors of Berry's sexual deviance and stopped funding Micro-City, a social and educational program for inner city youths.

Two trials of Berry on sodomy charges have ended in mistrials.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Michael Malone said the new charges should be included in the March trial because they were similar, happened around the same time and occurred under similar circumstances.

According to Malone, the new accuser says he met Berry when he was 12 years old and was receiving free lunches at Micro-City. He says that he was assaulted until he was 16 and that Berry offered him incentives to keep quiet about the incidents, Malone said.

[BACK TO NEWS DIGEST](#)

[TO NEWS ARCHIVE](#)