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REFLECTIONS OF A PRIVATE EYE: Sean Mullen, vice president of Stoughton's National Investigation Bureau Inc., believes that former WRKO talk-show host Reese Hopkins is '100 percent innocent.'

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Private eye supports accused ex-'RKO host

While ex-WRKO gabber **Reese Hopkins** cools his heels in a **New York** prison, he's getting some big time help on the outside from a **Stoughton** gumshoe.

A private investigation firm whose president is a consultant for the TV show "**48 Hours**" has taken on the child rape case against the former **Hub** talk radio host.

Prosecutors say Hopkins raped the girl in a **Manhattan** apartment in 2004. The alleged victim was a friend of his girlfriend's daughter.

Hopkins has said he didn't assault the girl and was living and working in **Connecticut** at the time.

A private eye for 14 years, Mullen has met with Hopkins twice behind bars, reviewed his case and is working closely with his defense attorney.

"He wasn't even in that state when the alleged incident occurred," Mullen said. "We're putting pieces together that he wasn't there at the time. He couldn't have done it."

A spokeswoman for the **Manhattan** district attorney's office declined comment. A possible trial date has been set for Nov. 4.

Those leading the effort to boot the leaders of the **Boston Globe's** biggest union have enough signatures to get the ball rolling for a recall election.

But the top target isn't going down without a fight.

Boston Newspaper Guild rules spell out that 20 percent of the membership needs to sign a peti-



HOPKINS

tion for a meeting where a recall election is put to a vote.

One union source said yesterday that they have "surpassed" that number of **John Hancock's**.

Guild president **Dan Totten** doesn't want to play by those rules.

Totten has told members via e-mail that the Guild by-laws don't apply and they have to follow the more complex ones set by the **Communications Workers of America**.

In another e-mail, Totten said the recall effort hurts the union and "makes the union more vulnerable to the **Globe** management and **The New York Times** labor actions against us."

Totten didn't return a call yesterday.

Meanwhile, the deadline for final bids on the **Times-owned** broadsheet is reportedly at the end of the month.

The **Taylor** family, which used to own the paper, has visited the **Morrissey Boulevard** location several times over the last few weeks, according to a source. **Platinum Equity**, a **West Coast** private equity firm, is also in the running.



MEDIABIZ
Jessica HESLAM

Sean Mullen, vice president of the **National Investigation Bureau Inc.**, believes Hopkins is "100 percent innocent."

Mullen became interested in the case after reading about it in the newspaper.

"It didn't seem right," Mullen told **MediaBiz** this week. So he reached out to the financially strapped Hopkins and took him on pro bono.

Hopkins has been at **Riker's Island** for nearly a year awaiting trial for allegedly raping a girl when she was 11 and 12 years old. He was arrested last October, days after **WRKO-AM (680)** axed him amid budget woes.

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