

Heading for showdown on Dec. 14

By Michaelangelo Conte
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The feud between Union City Mayor Brian Stack and Police Chief Charles Everett has been ratcheted up, with Stack ordering Everett to undergo a psychological evaluation-which he passed.

“If anyone needs to be seen by a psychologist, it’s this mayor, public safety director and assemblyman, who now also wants to be the police chief,” Everett’s attorney, Timothy Smith, said yesterday before a court hearing in the case between the two.

“There has to be something wrong there. It’s further evidence of harassment.”
State Superior Court Judge Maurice Gallipoli set a date of Dec. 14 yesterday for the courtroom showdown between the two.

Stack was not in court and could not be reached for comment.

Over the past few months, the mayor has filed waves of disciplinary charges against Everett. He also changed city regulations to bar Everett from entering the police station while he’s on vacation or sick leave. Stack also barred Everett from speaking to the media without his prior approval.

In response, Everett filed a complaint seeking a ruling that the new regulations are illegal. He is also asking that the hearing on the disciplinary charges against him be postponed until after there is a court ruling.

Following closed door negotiations with Gallipoli yesterday, attorneys for the two agree to move forward on the court hearings and the disciplinary hearings simultaneously. However, rulings on several of the administrative charges will be postponed until after a ruling in the courts.

Stack’s attorney, Gerald Dorf, called it a “two track” approach. Dorf would not comment on the possible repercussions of the disciplinary hearings for Everett.

Disciplinary charges are confidential but they will likely come out when the two parties file briefs with the court, which are due by Nov. 3

Administrative hearings on disciplinary charges are usually not open to public, but Smith said he will push to make Everett’s disciplinary hearings open.

Hudson County Assistant Prosecutor Tom Carroll monitored yesterday’s court session to keep an eye on the case.

“We are just concerned about the public safety ramifications of the litigation,” Hudson County Prosecutor Edward DeFazio said.