

## CHARGES DETAIL COPS' DRUG COVER ONE SUSPECT ALSO SMUGGLED MACHINE GUN

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After being told that a Mac 10 machine gun was needed to kill somebody, a former cop tucked it inside his uniform pants Tuesday and smuggled it through security at Detroit Metro Airport.

Other cops this week promised to keep drug-sniffing dogs at bay while cocaine was unloaded from an airplane. Still others provided protection for a man carrying large bundles of cash they were told were profits from illegal drug sales.

Several took envelopes stuffed with thousands in cash.

These are among the allegations of the FBI sting investigation -- which caught 11 present and former police officers from Detroit, Highland Park and Royal Oak Township -- that paint an unsettling picture of cops accepting money to help bring drugs into a community in the grips of a 6-year-old crack epidemic.

Also charged in the case are two relatives of mayor Coleman Young -- his niece, Cathy Volsan-Curry, and her father, Willie Volsan -- and another civilian.

Of the 14 people charged in the case, nine were released Tuesday on personal bond after appearing before U.S. Magistrate Virginia Morgan. One, Detroit Police Sgt. **James Harris** , accused of being the ringleader, posted 10 percent of a \$25,000 bond. Three will appear later, and one, civilian Dwayne Thomas, is being sought.

Court documents released Wednesday provide detailed accounts of several incidents in which defendants appear methodical in helping protect people they thought were large- scale cocaine traffickers.

According to the documents:

On Sunday, an FBI undercover agent told Harris, Detroit police officers Charley Nichols, Booker Fullilove and Lionel Dickens and former police officer Glen Roberson that a load of "stuff" was coming into City Airport on Tuesday.

He said he needed professionals to protect the load, which was going to Monroe. The officers agreed, and the agent gave them each an envelope containing \$2,000 in cash. Harris told the agent that the four officers were well aware of what was going on.

On Tuesday, the agent, Harris, Fullilove, Nichols and Dickens met at about 8:30 a.m. and the agent told them he was concerned about drug-sniffing dogs at the airport. Dickens told the agent that the officers would make sure they were not a problem.

At about 10:30 a.m., an FBI airplane landed at City Airport carrying about 100 kilograms of fake cocaine and one kilogram of true cocaine. Harris, Fullilove, Dickens, Nichols and Roberson scouted the airport, then provided surveillance for the transfer of contraband to a waiting car.

A convoy lead by Harris drove to a Holiday Inn in Monroe and the officers provided security while the packages were transferred to another car.

Harris then advised the other officers that the deal was done and he would meet them at a police department locker room to "take care of it."

Harris accepted payment for the day's work shortly afterward, and was arrested. Teams of agents then began a roundup of the other suspects.

In all, authorities say, several such transfers occurred during the eight-month investigation.

Court documents also said that on Tuesday, former Highland Park police officer Michael Gardenhire -- also charged in the case -- allegedly was paid to smuggle a Mac 10 machine gun through security at Metro Airport.

The \$2,000 deal was set up by an undercover FBI agent who told Gardenhire that the machine gun was needed so an associate could kill someone causing problems in the agent's drug business, the affidavit said.

The early stages of the investigation involved an unusual player, according to authorities. Imprisoned Detroit druglord Richard (White Boy Rick) Wershe helped undercover agents make contact with Volsan-Curry.

Gail Light, a spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Corrections, said Wershe -- sentenced to a prison term of life without parole -- was removed Monday from the state prison in Marquette by U.S. marshals.

According to affidavits, undercover agents paid Volsan-Curry to introduce them to individuals willing to protect drug shipments and assist in the transport of large quantities of cash.

A key figure in the case is Harris, a former homicide detective and former member of Young's security detail whose job recently has been to protect Volsan-Curry and her family.

Young, when asked Wednesday about the arrests, said: "It's a personal thing. I feel it deeply, but I have no statement."

Harris, according to court documents and federal authorities, recruited most of the officers and former officers into the scheme.

Arguing for a tougher bond, Assistant U.S. Attorney Lynn Helland described Harris as the "ringleader" of the group and said he was a greater risk to flee because he faces up to life in prison if convicted.

As more details of the investigation began to emerge, Detroit's City Council asked Police Chief Stanley Knox for a report detailing what steps the department was taking to root out corruption. Knox said Wednesday that the officers would be suspended without pay.

"This incident is just a bump in the road," Knox said. "We'll keep going. We'll keep our heads high. . . . We're not going to drop our heads because of a few people."

Those charged, in addition to Harris, Gardenhire, Dickens, Fullilove, Nichols, Volsan, Volsan-Curry, Thomas and Roberson, were: Detroit officers Angela Canoy-Simmons, Cleopatria Forris and Martrice Hurrah; Highland Park officer Jolandra Young; and Royal Oak Township officer Clarence Cooper.

Caption: Photo Color DAYMON J. HARTLEY

: Detroit Police Sgt. **James Harris** is escorted by a federal marshal into court for arraignment on charges of helping guard a drug shipment. Eleven current and former Detroit and suburban officers were charged with accepting money to guard shipments of cocaine and drug cash. Cathy Volsan Curry \*\*\*

Memo: SEE ALSO METRO AND METRO FINAL EDITIONS 1A

Edition: METRO EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 1A

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