

FBI raids Detroit motorcycle club

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DETROIT -- The **FBI** executed a search warrant Saturday afternoon at the headquarters of the Highwaymen **motorcycle club** , carting away boxes and **motorcycles** .

Agents in flak jackets and toting machine guns conducted the **raid** about 2 p.m. as the **club** staged its annual spring **motorcycle** inspection day. The event attracts old and young members and their families. About 500 people, including numerous young children, were inside the **club** and playing outside where a giant inflatable ride was set up, said people present during the **raid** .

The **FBI** closed both sides of Michigan Avenue about two blocks west and east of the headquarters. Police confirmed that the **FBI** 's search warrant was sealed and its contents were not available to the public.

Leona McKinnon stood in tears about a block from the police perimeter. She had brought two of her granddaughters to thank **club** members for paying the \$9,000 funeral bill for her son, Sean Martin, who died in September.

Federal agents stopped her and the girls before they could get close to the **club** . McKinnon said the **raid** should have occurred at a time when there were no children present, as she fingered rings that used to belong to her son and now adorn her necklace .

"This was a family day," she said. "I was shocked. They had to have planned this in advance. If you know in advance you are going to do this, why not wait for a day when the families would not be there?"

By 5:30 p.m., children and their mothers were allowed to leave the **club** . Some men who had vehicles other than **motorcycles** also were allowed to leave, said some people inside during the **raid** .

Michigan Avenue outside the **club** was lined with gleaming custom **motorcycles** . The authorities had them towed two at a time onto flatbed trucks so they could be searched. The trucks had made at least three trips by 5:30 p.m.

Agents declined comment and since the warrant was sealed, it was unclear what the **FBI** was searching for and exactly why the building was raided.

Last October, the **FBI** and Brownstown Township Police conducted **raids** around Metro **Detroit** in a crackdown on alleged drug operations of the Highwaymen.

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