

FBI SEARCHES COP'S HOUSE AS JURY PROBES CORRUPTION

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Amid **a** grand **jury** investigation into alleged **corruption** at the Detroit Police 5th (Jefferson) Precinct, **FBI** agents with drug-sniffing dogs raided the **house** of an officer from the precinct.

The agents who raided Rodney Rice's northeast-side **house** searched through his **house** plants, garage, and his wife's pocketbook. But they came away with only **a** mask, photographs of suspected drug dealers, **a** journal and Rice's second police badge, which they said was counterfeit.

Rice is one the targets of **a** federal grand **jury** convened about two weeks ago to **probe** allegations that officers on the afternoon shift of the precinct are taking money in exchange for protecting drug dealers, according to Rice's lawyer, Michael Rataj.

Also on Friday, the agents raided the home of another 5th Precinct officer, finding drugs and packaging envelopes, **a** law official said.

About **a** dozen officers have been questioned before the **jury** , Rataj and **a** number of police officers said.

Detroit Police Chief Isaiah McKinnon said Friday, "It's obvious we have had an ongoing investigation into some Detroit police officers. We're going to work ...to bring the investigation to **a** successful conclusion."

Rice, **a** 36-year-old father of three, won the officer-of-the-year award for the city in 1994 and has made numerous drug arrests.

Rice maintains his innocence, and two years ago filed **a** slander suit against the city for the department's aggressive investigation into his alleged bribe-taking and drug trafficking. Rice has been arrested twice but never convicted, once for breaking and entering and felonious assault, and once for misdemeanor assault and battery.

"They're trying to railroad me because of my lawsuit," Rice said Friday **as** agents searched his home. "They have ruined my good name."

Rice said he uses the orange mask for hunting, the photographs of the drug dealers were from warrants he was given when he arrested the dealers, and he said he does have **a** second badge -- **a** violation of department policy -- but many officers do.

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Caption: Photo

Rodney Rice

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