

FLINT JURY FINDS POLICE GUILTY IN DRUG RETRIAL TAPES HELP CONVICT THREE OFFICERS, CIVILIAN

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, December 23, 1992

Author: WILLIAM KLEINKNECHT Free Press Staff Writer , e Press Staff Writers JEFFREY S. GHANNAM and , ERT MUSIAL contributed to this report.

FLINT -- Federal authorities scored another victory over police corruption Tuesday when a **jury** convicted three officers and a civilian of attempting to protect interstate **drug** shipments.

The officers accepted thousands of dollars to act as escorts last year for **drugs** and cash flown into Metro and City airports, the **jury** concluded after reams of audiotape and video evidence during the five-week federal trial.

The supposed Florida **drug** dealers the suspects protected were undercover **FBI** agents.

One tape showed Harris and Volsan meeting with the supposed **drug** dealers on a yacht in Florida.

U.S. District Judge Barbara Hackett ordered the two alleged ringleaders, Detroit Police Sgt. James Harris and Detroiter Willie Volsan, jailed until sentencing on cocaine conspiracy, money laundering, bribery and other charges. No date was set.

Hackett allowed the two other defendants, Detroit Officer Angela Canoy-Simmons and Highland Park Officer Julandra Young, to remain free on bond after their conviction on the same charges.

The **jury** of seven women and five men took less than two days to reach the verdict. Jurors declined to comment as they filed out.

The convictions were particularly satisfying for federal prosecutors because the case had ended in a hung **jury** last September in Detroit federal court. Four other police defendants were acquitted in the first trial.

"We spent a lot of time and resources on this and we're obviously very pleased with what the **jury** did today," said U.S. Attorney Stephen Markman.

Timothy Murphy and Thomas Wilhelm, attorneys for Volsan and Harris, said they were not surprised by the verdicts, given all the evidence.

But both had harsh words for the **FBI** 's handling of the **sting** . They criticized the use of Cathy Volsan Curry, niece of Mayor Coleman Young, to build a case against her father, Willie Volsan. An **FBI** agent posing as a **drug** dealer met Curry while she was in **drug** treatment and convinced her to introduce him to corrupt police.

"The **FBI** has no business using a vulnerable young woman to **get** at her father," Murphy said. "In this case, I don't agree that the ends justify the means."

Attorneys for Canoy-Simmons and Young declined comment.

The convictions capped the third successful prosecution of corrupt Detroit police this year.

Former Chief William Hart was sentenced to 10 years in prison in August for embezzling more than \$2.3 million.

Former police pilot Eugene (Moon) Mullins was sentenced in August to 27 months for obstructing a federal investigation of the police aviation unit.

Federal scrutiny of the department continues. Hart is expected to testify next month before a grand **jury** further probing the secret service fund.

And the **FBI** is investigating allegations that City Councilman Gilbert Hill took payoffs from a major **drug** organization while he was a police commander in the mid-1980s. Hill has vigorously denied the allegations.

Markman declined to comment on whether Hart would testify, or on the status of the probe of Hill.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 1A

Index Terms: POLICE ; CRIME ; DRUG; COURT ; VERDICT

Dateline: FLINT

Record Number: 9202170937

Copyright (c) 1992 Detroit Free Press