

## GRAND JURY PROBING COPS FOR POSSIBLE DRUG-GANG TIES

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A federal **grand jury** is investigating at least nine Detroit police officers **for** crimes that range from shaking down drug dealers to helping Detroit gangs keep control of city streets, police and other officials confirmed late Tuesday.

The officers involved work in the 6th (Plymouth) Precinct. They have been the target of an internal affairs review **for** more than three months, said Benny Napoleon, executive deputy chief. The **grand jury** was impaneled about two weeks ago.

Napoleon would only say the officers were being investigated **for** "narcotics-related" crimes. He said investigators suspect the officers were working together.

But sources close to the investigation said the investigation is part of a two-year probe by federal and local undercover police into southwest Detroit gang members, more than 60 of whom were arrested Sunday in a sweep.

The sources told the Free Press under condition of anonymity that some of the officers under investigation have close **ties** to the gangs and are suspected of helping them in several criminal enterprises that include drug running. The sources also said at least one of the officers is under investigation in a southwest Detroit killing that investigators originally had believed to be gang-related.

None of the officers has been arrested, but several were suspended and the rest were moved to "non-sensitive" assignments about a week ago, Napoleon said.

He said most of the officers are in their 20s and 30s.

The officers have been questioned by agents of the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. They are expected to be questioned by the **grand jury** within the next several weeks.

John Goldpauh, who represents five of the officers, said his clients received subpoenas early last week. He said they "have not been told what the investigation is all about."

Two officers were added to the probe list after being accused by a drug dealer of collecting \$2,000 in protection money just hours before an undercover narcotics raid on the northwest side.

Police searched the lockers of the two officers and found drugs in one of them, backing up the suspect's claim, the sources said.

The sources said the officer whose locker contained the drugs explained that he often used them to make small drug busts seem larger.

"We are all very saddened by officers who become involved in these kinds of activities," Napoleon said.

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Memo: CORRECTION RAN April 10, 1997

getting it straight

\* A federal **grand jury** impaneled two weeks ago is investigating Detroit police officers from the 6th (Plymouth) Precinct **for** narcotics-related crimes. A story in some Wednesday editions incorrectly stated that the **grand jury** also was investigating police involvement in gang activity. See related story, Page 1A,

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