

INVESTIGATORS QUESTION FORMER DETROIT CHIEF

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William Hart, the imprisoned **former Detroit** police **chief** , was back in town Monday and spent almost five hours answering **questions** from federal **investigators** and prosecutors.

But neither his lawyers nor prosecutors would say what the inquiry was about.

Hart had been issued a subpoena to testify before a federal grand jury, his lawyers said. Instead, they worked out an agreement under which Hart would be interviewed in a less formal setting with his lawyers present in the U.S. attorney's office.

Afterwards, his attorneys, Thomas Cranmer and Art Weiss, said Hart had been stoic and cooperative. "I think it is fair to say that **Chief** Hart answered all **question** put to him with candor," Weiss said.

Hart was convicted in May 1992 of embezzling more than \$2.3 million from the police secret-service fund.

He began serving a 10-year sentence at Camp Parks, a northern California minimum security prison camp, in September.

Hart was flown to **Detroit** and whisked into the U.S. District Court building downtown Monday through an underground garage. After questioning, he was taken to the federal prison in Milan overnight to await his trip back to California.

The lawyers said an agreement with federal prosecutors prohibited them from saying specifically what Hart was asked or how he responded to the **questions** .

"It is our position that we can't even confirm that Mr. Hart was here," said Sam Hutchings, spokesman for U.S. Attorney Stephen Markman.

Cranmer did say some of the subjects raised in the interview were "new areas" and not related to Hart's embezzlement conviction.

Hart can still get his prison term reduced if he cooperates with federal **investigators** . Weiss said he hopes that Hart's testimony last December against **Detroit** Police Sgt. James Harris in Flint and Monday's interview will lead to a reduced sentence.

In December, Hart rebutted Harris' contention that Harris was conducting an investigation when he acted as an escort for shipments of drugs and money flown into **Detroit** City and Metro airports in 1991. Harris ended up dealing unknowingly with FBI undercover agents. He was convicted and is awaiting sentencing.

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