

DETROIT COP AIDED SUSPECT, POLICE SAY INDICTMENT ALLEGES TIP-OFF IN DRUG PROBE

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A Detroit police officer assigned to a special gang task force was indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday for allegedly tipping off a suspect that he was the target of a drug investigation, police said.

The officer, **Mark Hull**, 33, had been placed on administrative duty the past six weeks at the Police Department's mounted patrol stables while the FBI gathered information to present to the grand jury, according to Benny Napoleon, executive deputy chief.

"He has just violated everything so many of us have worked for," he said of Hull. "He's a bad guy, pure and simple."

Napoleon did not disclose the name of the suspect, but he said "it's a person we believe was involved in narcotics trafficking and, quite possibly, some murders."

Napoleon said he got word of the indictment at about 3 p.m. Wednesday and did not know the specific charge against Hull.

But he was clearly disturbed by the allegations. If they're true, he said, Hull, a 10-year cop, could have endangered other officers.

"It's always disappointing and disheartening to know that officers who are sworn to uphold the law stoop to the level of becoming involved in criminality," Napoleon said.

"Considering that we have officers who put their lives on the line every day to stop crime, to know that we have someone who is trying to help criminals is extremely disheartening. On the other hand, we support the FBI fully in their efforts to indict this officer."

Hull could not be reached for comment late Wednesday. Napoleon said Hull is expected to turn himself in to federal authorities today.

A woman who answered the telephone at Hull's listed address on Detroit's west side identified herself as the officer's mother but said she was unaware of any indictment.

"Whatever it is, I don't want to talk about it," the woman said. "Whatever it is, it's not true."

The indictment of Hull comes six weeks after four Detroit cops were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges that they ran a Texas-to-Michigan cocaine pipeline. Napoleon said that case is unrelated to Hull's legal problems.

Hull joined the force in April 1986, one of about 1,000 Detroit cops hired without extensive background checks. Several others hired then have also faced legal problems.

To earn the assignment on the metropolitan gang suppression task force and get loaned to the FBI meant Hull must have impressed his superiors, Napoleon said. Hull has also worked in tactical services, narcotics and the gang squad.

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