

2 MORE COPS FACE CIVIL RIGHTS CHARGES OFFICERS JOIN 8 OTHERS ACCUSED OF SHAKEDOWNS

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A federal grand jury returned indictments Wednesday against two more Detroit police officers accused of ripping off crime suspects and innocent citizens last year.

The officers were identified as **Dennis Radford** of the gang squad and Keith Thompson of the 6th (Plymouth) Precinct. Both were charged with conspiracy to violate civil rights, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The officers were suspended with pay pending a police commission meeting today when they were expected to be taken off the payroll. They also were expected to be arraigned today in U.S. District Court.

In September, indictments were handed down against eight 6th Precinct officers accused of staging crack-house raids to steal drugs, money and guns. Officials say they also planted evidence on people, stole money and dope from dealers in exchange for immunity and shot at their victims for no apparent reason. Their trial is scheduled for April 7.

The indictment accused Thompson of stealing \$150 from a juvenile narcotics suspect in January 1996 and, while booking him, writing down the wrong birth date so he would be treated as an adult and held in jail.

Thompson's attorney, Richard Morgan Jr., said the charges lodged against the 30-year-old officer are untrue. He called Thompson "a good kid" who has never missed a day of work and who has never been in trouble during five years on the job.

Morgan said his client's career could be destroyed by a drug dealer who lied about his age. "The kid told him he was 17," Morgan said.

The indictment also accuses Thompson and another officer of stealing \$313 from a juvenile they took into custody for a narcotics violation in July 1996.

It said Radford and other officers responded to a bogus rape report phoned in by another officer in February 1996. About \$450 was taken from a person at the home. Another occupant was falsely accused of possession with intent to deliver heroin. The officers are accused of fabricating their reports about the incident.

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