

PROSECUTOR SEEKS TO CUT HART'S SENTENCE

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Federal **prosecutors** asked a judge Wednesday **to** knock a year off the 10-year embezzlement **sentence** of former Detroit Police Chief William Hart in return for **Hart's** help convicting another officer.

U.S. Attorney Alan Gershel made the request in a letter filed with U.S. District Judge Paul Gadola, who sentenced Hart last Aug. 27.

Gershel said the decision **to** request a break for Hart "was not easily made" and added that Hart lost a chance for more time off by refusing **to** help **prosecutors** widen the embezzlement case that put him in prison.

Hart, convicted of stealing more than \$2.3 million from the department's Secret Service fund, testified in a separate corruption case last year against former Sgt. James Harris.

Harris was charged with guarding drugs and money shipped through Detroit Metro and City airports for FBI agents posing as drug dealers in a sting operation intended **to** ferret out crooked cops.

Harris testified he knew they were federal agents, but played along **to** do his own undercover investigation on instructions from Hart. The goal, Harris testified, was **to** protect two other targets of the probe: Mayor Coleman Young's niece, Cathy Curry, and her father, Willie Volsan.

But Hart, flown in from a California prison, testified that Harris was not working undercover. Harris was convicted and got 30 years.

Hart's testimony "was credible and compelling, and effectively rebutted" Harris, wrote Gershel and Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Weier.

Hart asked for nothing in return at the time, leaving Harris' attorney unable **to** discredit him by suggesting he was lying **to** save himself, the letter said.

Gadola is not bound by the one-year recommendation, and may choose **to** exceed or reject it.

The letter also showed **prosecutors** unsuccessfully attempted earlier this year **to** get Hart **to** implicate others in the secret service fund case.

Hart was interviewed for 3 1/2 hours April 19, but "repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and provided no information with which **to** continue the investigation," Gershel and Weier wrote.

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