

Stallworth Should Resign from Wayne County Board - Pleading guilty to financial dishonesty disqualifiesthe commissioner from office

Detroit News, The (MI) - Monday, March 10, 2003

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Wayne County Commissioner **Keith Stallworth** should resign from the commission. He entered a guilty plea Friday in Detroit Federal Court to filing a false currency transaction report -- a felony.

The precise legal authority of his fellow county commissioners to remove him is murky. But under his plea agreement, he reportedly will have to serve up to seven months in jail and spend two or three years on probation.

Under the plea deal, according to published reports, the government dropped other charges of conspiracy to distribute such drugs as heroin and cocaine.

Stallworth's guilty plea acknowledged that four years ago he directed another person to purchase four cashier's checks -- which guarantee payment -- in amounts totaling \$20,000. The checks should have indicated that they were owned by Stallworth, but instead indicated some one else as the owner.

The nature of the charge -- financial duplicity -- should disqualify Stallworth for a position of trust on the county commission. After all, the commission ultimately makes decisions on a multimillion-dollar budget.

Stallworth will be dealing with his own legal problems and possible jail time. He is in no position to help his constituents. For their sake, and the sake of his fellow commissioners, he should do the dignified and graceful thing and remove himself from office.

Edition: No Dot

Section: Editorial

Page: 08A

Index Terms: COUNTY ; GOVERNMENT ; OFFICIALS ; CRIME ; FRAUD ; IMAGE ; NEGATIVE ; EDITORIAL

Record Number: det15383218

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