

SCALED-BACK SEARCH FOR TOT NEEDS BIG TIP

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Livonia police are no closer to finding 4-year-old **D'Wan Sims** than the day almost two months ago that his mother said he disappeared during a shopping trip.

Tips on the police hot line -- 1,071 at last count -- have dwindled to almost nothing.

"We're still actively pursuing every tip we get; but the case is no closer to a conclusion than on Dec. 11," Livonia Police Detective Sgt. Ken Marlow said Tuesday.

"We're just waiting for that one tip that says he's alive and well or that somebody saw someone do something with him."

Nine days after **D'Wan** was reported missing, police said they didn't believe Dwanna Harris' story that she lost her son at Wonderland Mall in Livonia. He didn't appear in any mall surveillance tapes. The mall still is offering a \$5,000 reward for information.

At one time, as many as 40 full- and part-time Livonia officers were working the case, with help from Michigan State Police, the FBI and other federal authorities. Now Marlow and Detective Sgt. Jim Howton are the only ones assigned to the case full time.

Marlow said he frequently talks to the FBI, which still is assisting him, but he has not talked to Dwanna Harris or any of her family members in more than two weeks.

Repeated calls to the home of Dwanna Harris' mother, Beverly Harris, were not returned.

Also Tuesday, a supervisor in the office of the Florida Auditor General said that office is about 30 days from completing a welfare fraud investigation of Dwanna Harris and her friend, Kelly Lewis of Miami.

Harris was issued more than \$2,200 in welfare and food stamps from August through December from Florida's Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

The government assistance was mailed to Lewis' Miami address, records show. Harris has said she and **D'Wan** stayed with Lewis in July and August.

"Her checks were being cashed down here and apparently the proceeds were sent up there" to Michigan, Vince Basilice, Miami area supervisor for the auditor general, said Tuesday.

He said both Lewis and Harris could face charges.

The Livonia police hot line is 1-313-421-1920 anytime.

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