

## MAYOR'S RELATIVES PROTECTED FOR YEARS COP UNIT DESCRIBED IN HART'S THEFT TRIAL

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, February 22, 1992

Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

Detroit Mayor Coleman Young's niece, Cathy Volsan Curry, got special police protection for 3 1/2 years because of an alleged death threat from Richard (White Boy Rick) Wershe's drug gang while she was dating Wershe, said a member of the secret police detail in federal court on Friday.

The police crew watched her and her mother, Juanita Clark, as Curry -- then married to dope lord **Johnny Curry** -- ran around with some of the city's major drug dealers and their relatives, police Sgt. Donald Simms testified in the federal corruption trial of former chief William Hart.

Hart is charged with looting \$2.6 million from a police fund. Trying to stave off his indictment, Hart told federal authorities last year that part of the missing money went to protect the mayor's relatives, but provided no details.

While it was known that Cathy Curry had police protection, Simms' testimony for the first time revealed its scope and duration.

The police crew -- as many as four officers working 24 hours a day, seven days a week -- rented a house near the home of Clark, the mayor's sister, and leased vehicles and used undercover police cars on the stake-out.

The circle of callers at the home included the upper echelon of Detroit's drug world and people who were the focus of intense police and news media attention.

**Johnny Curry** is serving a federal prison term for running one of the largest drug rings on Detroit's east side in the mid-1980s. Wershe, now serving a life sentence without parole for drug trafficking, took over and became a drug boss while still a teenager.

Simms said his crew prevented "people from the underworld" from going into the house, but that Cathy Curry came and went with them.

Although Clark did not want them inside her house, Curry sometimes sneaked them in after her mother went to bed, Simms said.

The detail began in 1987 and lasted into 1991, Simms said. At times, Curry and her mother were given round-the-clock protection, but at other times the detail would be cut back to 16 hours a day, he said.

Simms said the protection was initially expected to last just three weeks but evolved into a long-term assignment.

Curry's father, Willie Clyde Volsan, is under federal indictment with several Detroit police officers for allegedly providing protection for drug shipments and money laundering.

Caption: Photo

: Cathy Volsan Curry \*\*\*

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Index Terms: WILLIAM HART ; DETROIT ; POLICE ; COURT ; TRIAL

Record Number: 9201070587

Copyright (c) 1992 Detroit Free Press