

Hamtramck cop suspended after Highwaymen indictment

Detroit News, The (MI) - Friday, March 14, 2008

Author: The Detroit News ; Mike Wilkinson

The **Hamtramck** police department **suspended** -- without pay -- one of its veteran officers on Thursday, the same day he was arraigned for having ties to the **Highwaymen** Motorcycle Club.

Patrol officer Randell Hutchinson was **suspended** by Police Chief James Doyle **after** he was charged with revealing a wiretap to a **Highwaymen** member and with conspiracy to distribute steroids.

Doyle declined to say how long he knew federal investigators were looking into Hutchinson, who was assigned to the Drug Enforcement Agency's local task force. He had been with the **Hamtramck** department for about 17 years, Doyle said.

"Good officer," Doyle said on Thursday. "I have no complaints. I'm surprised by this."

Hutchinson was one of four current or former officers **indicted** this week for their roles with the **Highwaymen**. A federal investigation into the Detroit-based group led to 40 arrests last year. Members are accused of being involved in drug dealing, murder for hire, interstate theft, acts of violence, mortgage and insurance fraud and police corruption.

Also charged were:

¥ David Tomlan, a former sergeant with the Garden City police department who was fired in March 2006. He had been with the department since 1996. According to the U.S. Attorney's office, Tomlan, 35, had become a member of the motorcycle group. Tomlan allegedly lied to agents about his contact with a club member and was also charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine and steroids.

¥ Michael Ramsey of the Brownstown Township police and former Detroit reserve officer Dennis Abraham; both were charged with lying to federal agents and a grand jury. Ramsey allegedly learned about an informant within the **Highwaymen** and Abraham allegedly then warned a club member that someone in the club was an informant.

The feds also filed a criminal complaint against attorney Lee O'Brien for allegedly lying to federal agents in the **Highwaymen** case. O'Brien was accused of lying about the sale of a stolen car he got from Sean Donovan, a **Highwaymen** member he was representing.

Donovan was also charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana and a prescription pain killer.

The **Highwaymen** , founded in Detroit in 1954, gained infamy in the 1970s when some members were convicted of bombing and raiding homes and clubhouses of rivals.

If convicted, the suspects face sentences ranging from 5-20 years in prison and fines as high as a \$1 million.

Edition: online

Section: Metro

Page: 00

Company Name: #keywords2#

Index Terms: SUBURBS ; POLICE ; FRAUD ; ETHICS ; BEHAVIOR ; POLICE-AS
CRIMINALS ; GANGS

Record Number: det33139744

Copyright (c) The Detroit News. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.