

## CONVICT LEAVES COUNTY POSITION - HE'D ADMITTED FELONY IN FEDERAL MONEY CASE

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, March 15, 2003

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The Wayne County Commission is expected to accept the resignation of Commissioner **Keith Stallworth** on Tuesday, a week after he pleaded guilty to a federal felony in connection with a drug case.

Stallworth, who took office as commissioner of District 6 in January, sent a letter of resignation to the commission Thursday. In it, he gave no reason for his decision. He could not be reached for comment Friday.

Stallworth, a 46-year-old Democrat from Detroit, pleaded guilty to one count of structuring a financial transaction to evade federal currency reporting requirements, a 5-year felony.

The former state representative and one-time Detroit strip club owner, was one of 14 people indicted June 27, 2001, on charges of money laundering and drug conspiracy.

In exchange for a possibly lighter sentence, Stallworth agreed to cooperate in the prosecution of the 13 other defendants, including Milton (Butch) Jones, cofounder of the notorious drug gang Young Boys Inc.

Stallworth's resignation was listed as an item of business on the commission's tentative agenda for Tuesday's meeting.

Commission Chair Jewel Ware said accepting Stallworth's resignation was the body's only recourse.

"The commission had no legal authority to remove Commissioner Stallworth following his admission to a federal felony, or to otherwise sanction him," Ware said in a statement. "Mr. Stallworth's voluntary resignation was the right thing to do in that it preserves the integrity of the institution."

Legal troubles have followed Stallworth for some time. In February 2001, he was charged with three felony counts of attempting to obtain a false driver's license and voter registration in Detroit and Inkster.

Stallworth was also barred from entering Canada following a domestic assault conviction in 1997.

Plans to fill the vacancy left by Stallworth's departure have not yet been decided.

Commission officials said there are a number of options on how to fill the vacant seat.

"Because it is only a few months into what is a two-year term, the commission could appoint someone to the seat until a special election is held," said Bill Johnson, a commission spokesman. "It is also possible that the seat could remain vacant until they have an election."

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Caption: Photo

**Keith Stallworth** has been a strip club owner and lawmaker.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Index Terms: KEITH STALLWORTH; WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER ;  
CONTROVERSY ; CRIME

Record Number: 0303150558

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