

## **WERSHE JR . REPORTEDLY HAD INSIDE POLICE DATA, PHONE LIST**

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Federal drug agents last June seized Detroit police investigators' reports on drug kingpin **Richard Wershe Jr .** plus a list of names and phone numbers of city police officers during an unsuccessful drug raid where **Wershe** was found.

The raid was at the Lafayette Park home of Cathy Volsan Curry, a niece of Detroit Mayor Coleman Young. No drugs were found and neither **Wershe** nor Volsan Curry was arrested, according to law enforcement officials.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the phone list included one top police official, at least two supervisors and other officers, including some members of the mayor's security detail. At least two of the officers on the list had been assigned to guard Volsan Curry at Young's order because of threats against her, police officials said.

The list and the investigative reports were turned over to the Detroit Police Internal Affairs Section, which is investigating reports that up to 125 police officers are involved in crack cocaine use or traffic.

The list and reports found with **Wershe** would appear to add weight to his claim that he has considerable information to trade with authorities about police corruption.

Wayne County Prosecutor John O'Hair said Wednesday he would consider a deal with **Wershe** , but has had no contact with him.

"We're always willing to listen," O'Hair said. "After we hear what he might have to say, then we would have to make the determination based on the facts as they are and what's in the best interest of the people of Wayne County."

O'Hair said, "The question is purely academic at this point. But to say 'never' is awfully final."

**Wershe** and his lawyer, William Bufalino II, met briefly with police investigators Tuesday at the Scott Correctional Facility in Plymouth Township, where **Wershe** is a prisoner.

"They said they would get back to me today," Bufalino said Wednesday evening. "They haven't so far."

**Wershe** is serving a life term after being convicted in January of possession of 17 pounds of cocaine. He faces another life term if convicted on a pending charge of possession of 11 pounds of cocaine.

Cathy Volsan Curry, 23, is the wife of Johnny Curry, who is serving a 20-year federal prison sentence on cocaine charges.

**Wershe** 's father, **Richard Wershe Sr.**, who has been jailed on a federal conviction for possessing gun silencers, has said his son and Volsan Curry dated last summer.

On Tuesday, **Wershe** , 18, indicated through Bufalino that he could provide information about corrupt police officers in trade for immunity from prosecution and dismissal of the pending case against him.

Bufalino acknowledged that **Wershe** would have to offer significant information to expect help. But he said **Wershe** has more than enough information to justify a deal.

Investigators have indicated particular interest in an interview **Wershe** had with federal agents in January at his request, before he was sentenced on the cocaine charge.

Bufalino has denied **Wershe** co-operated with the agents, but in a summary of their meeting with **Wershe** , federal investigators said **Wershe** made the following allegations:

- \* That he paid a Detroit police narcotics sergeant \$10,000 to guarantee that no drug raids would occur at a crack house in northeast Detroit operated by **Wershe** and that the sergeant soon demanded another \$50,000.

The sergeant, who was unavailable for comment Wednesday, also is suspected of stealing \$7,000 after a drug arrest and stealing cash and cocaine during raids at crack houses, police investigators said.

- \* That **Wershe** met with a Detroit police officer who wanted **Wershe** to sell him bulk cocaine so he could resell it.

That officer, contacted by the Free Press, said he once arrested **Wershe** on a drug charge, but had no other dealings with him.

- \* That another sergeant was leaking investigative information and other sensitive police data to a major east side drug ring with which **Wershe** once was affiliated.

- \* That two of Detroit's largest cocaine traffickers are brothers who are the sons of a Detroit police officer.

- \* That he once stored 154 pounds of cocaine in the Oakland County apartment of a former Detroit sports figure.

## CUTLINE

**Richard Wershe Jr .** , left, stands with his attorney, William Bufalino II.

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