

TALKS WITH WERSHE JR . COLLAPSE

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Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

Efforts collapsed Thursday to work out a deal between convicted cocaine dealer **Richard Wershe Jr .** and law enforcement officials for information **Wershe** has promised on Detroit police corruption.

After a meeting at the Scott Correctional Facility in Plymouth, where **Wershe** is serving a life sentence, each side accused the other of demanding a blank check for co-operation.

"We're at an impasse," said **Wershe** 's lawyer William Bufalino II. "They want to use Mr. **Wershe** and leave him by the wayside."

"The meeting . . . was totally unproductive," said Wayne County Prosecutor John O'Hair. "Mr. **Wershe Jr .** wanted to impose conditions that were totally unacceptable to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office."

Bufalino said the officials wanted **Wershe** to talk before any deal could be struck. O'Hair said that **Wershe** wanted ironclad guarantees first.

Despite the apparent deadlock, O'Hair left a door ajar for compromise.

"As I have said all along, we're always willing to listen to anybody," he said. "If we're approached again, we'll be willing to listen."

Assistant Prosecutor Patrick Foley, head of the Organized Crime Task Force, and investigators from the police Internal Affairs Section met for less than an hour with Bufalino, **Wershe** and **Wershe** 's mother, Darlene Carr.

Wershe , 18, is serving a life sentence without parole for possession of 17 pounds of cocaine. He also is awaiting trial in Recorder's Court on charges of possessing another 11 pounds of cocaine.

Foley, who represented O'Hair at the meeting, refused to comment on the session or to characterize it in any way.

Last week Bufalino said **Wershe** -- believed by authorities to have been one of the major cocaine suppliers to Detroit's east side -- has valuable information about corrupt Detroit police officers that he was willing to trade. Police investigators have said up to 125 officers are being probed for possible involvement with cocaine.

After the meeting Thursday, Bufalino said **Wershe** is seeking "assistance" with his pending cocaine case, with property or cash forfeiture cases against his family members and immunity from prosecution for any involvement with police corruption.

Wershe 's information would "help cure the cancer that has spread through a small portion of the Detroit Police Department," Bufalino said.

According to a federal investigative report, **Wershe** claimed to have paid a Detroit narcotics sergeant \$10,000 for protection. The sergeant, according to the report, then tried to get a payment of \$50,000.

Bufalino has denied that his client co-operated with federal authorities, but said Thursday that the information **Wershe** is offering the prosecutor can be fully corroborated and that **Wershe** was willing to take a polygraph examination.

But **Wershe** can't help "while he's buried under this jail," Bufalino said.

CUTLINE

Bufalino

Caption: Photo

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