

## MAYOR YOUNG'S NIECE IS WELL-KNOWN TO U.S. AGENTS

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Cathy Volsan Curry, 26, charged Tuesday in a federal drug protection probe, is no stranger to federal law enforcement officials.

In 1987, Volsan Curry, niece of Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, was listed as an unindicted co-conspirator in a federal drug probe that resulted in a 20-year prison sentence for her husband, **Johnny Curry**, whom federal investigators had accused of running one of Detroit's largest cocaine rings between 1979 and 1987.

Investigators said in court documents Volsan Curry's husband, then 29, and his twin brother, Leo Curry, provided crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana to east side dope houses and used "enforcers or hit men . . . to intimidate persons."

In 1987, while her husband was in federal prison awaiting trial, Volsan Curry dated Richard (White Boy Rick) Wershe, according to Wershe's father. Young Wershe was sentenced in 1988 to life in prison without parole on cocaine charges after federal agents accused him of being a major east side cocaine supplier.

In an unsuccessful 1987 federal raid on Volsan Curry's Lafayette Park town house, agents said they found Volsan Curry with Wershe, police investigative reports on Wershe's drug arrest and names and phone numbers of police officials. Neither Wershe nor Volsan Curry was arrested at the time.

Officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said later that the phone list included the names of 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 on Young's order to guard Volsan Curry at one point because of threats against her, police officials said.

In December 1990, Volsan Curry was arrested on a felony contempt charge after allegedly failing to appear before a federal grand jury probing a \$2.6-million theft from the Detroit Police Department's secret service fund.

The fund was set up to pay police informants and to finance undercover drug buys and other undercover operations. Volsan Curry had been subpoenaed to testify about secret service funds that were used to pay for police surveillance on her home because of danger associated with her relationships with Curry and Wershe, people familiar with the case said at the time.

It was not immediately clear whether she ever testified. She declined to comment on the arrest then and neither would Young.

Volsan Curry is the daughter of the mayor's sister, Juanita. Volsan Curry's father is Willie Volsan, who also was charged in Tuesday's federal sting operation. In the 1970s, federal investigators said Volsan met several times with a man described as a top Detroit dope dealer, but Volsan was never arrested.

In 1987, after Volsan Curry's husband was indicted, Young refused to comment on the indictment, calling it a "personal matter."

One of Young's associates, who spoke on condition that he not be named, said then: "It would be an understatement to say he's unhappy. Cathy's always been kind of like a daughter to him."

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