

MAN WHO TESTIFIED ON COPS IS ARRESTED

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Author: JIM SCHAEFER FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The lawyer for a man arrested Thursday in southwest Detroit said police targeted his client because he testified in a recent federal trial of eight Detroit police officers.

Clifton White, 28, was arrested about 1:30 p.m. at a friend's house on a felony warrant charging him with receiving and concealing stolen property, police said.

"I think it's a clear act of retaliation," said Detroit lawyer Kevin Ernst.

Police denied any wrongdoing.

The arresting officers work in the 4th (Fort-Green) Precinct, the home station for eight fellow officers who stood trial earlier this year on charges they violated the constitutional rights of drug dealers, pimps and prostitutes.

White was among those who testified that he was a victim of the police.

Last month, jurors acquitted the officers, saying they did not believe witnesses like **White**, who have criminal histories.

White also was arrested last November in the 3rd (Vernor) Precinct after police said they found him riding in a stolen car. The disposition of that case could not be checked late Thursday, but Ernst said **White** never was charged.

Last week, police obtained an arrest warrant charging **White** with possession of a stolen all-terrain vehicle. That led to Thursday's arrest.

Ernst said 10-12 officers, including two supervisors, descended on a home to arrest **White**. Police disputed that that many officers were used.

"This is a high-crime area with a lot of serious crimes," Ernst said. Normally, "they wouldn't commit those kinds of resources to serve a warrant for that charge."

A judge released **White** on personal bond later Thursday.

In February, he filed suit against the city and several police officers, claiming malicious prosecution. That suit is pending.

Cmdr. Donald Parshall of the 4th Precinct denied that the officers in Thursday's arrest acted improperly.

"The arrest had absolutely nothing to do with the trial," Parshall said.

He said Ernst exaggerated the number of officers involved. Five officers helped arrest **White**, including two supervisors who were there to ensure the arrest was done properly, he said.

Contact JIM SCHAEFER at 313-223-4542 or schaefer@freepress.com

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