

## SCANDAL OVER MAYOR'S SECURITY TEAM SPURS CHANGES

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Author: M.L. ELRICK FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER. Staff writer Jim Schaefer contributed to this report.

One year after the leader of Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's embattled security team was reassigned, a top police official said major changes have been made to bring order to a team that was essentially run without rules.

"There was no standard operating procedure that I know of," Assistant Police Chief Walter Shoulders said last week. "I'm not saying that one never existed. We weren't able to locate one."

Officer Loronzo (Greg) Jones was removed as leader of the mayor's police security team on June 18, 2003. He currently works in the police reserve unit.

The Free Press reported last year that Jones, a high school football teammate of Kilpatrick, more than doubled his salary in 2002 by billing the city for overtime. Former security team members also accused Jones and Officer Mike Martin of running the 20-member security team like tyrants.

Neither Martin nor Jones could be reached for comment late Thursday.

Allegations that Jones and Martin billed the city for overtime they did not work and covered up accidents in city cars created a crisis for Kilpatrick last summer. The mayor stood by his friends, even after Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox said they "received inordinate amounts of overtime pay." Cox said he did not find evidence accidents had been concealed.

Shoulders said his review of the 18 months Jones and Martin ran the security team confirmed the newspapers' findings. He said an audit the police Professional Accountability Bureau did last year faulted the security team's payroll timekeeping, finding among other things that overtime requests were not documented properly.

Shoulders said he must approve all overtime requests now.

He also said rules for how the elite unit should be run are being finalized. One change is that a police officer can no longer command the unit.

"Not while I'm here," Shoulders said. "Certainly, if I had known it was going on then, I think I would have said something."

Shoulders said he now reviews all candidates for the security team and hasn't accepted anyone with "a major disciplinary history." He did not say what constitutes a major disciplinary history.

Martin, who transferred out of the team in May 2003 but returned in January, has been suspended at least five times since joining the department in 1989. The cases against him included cursing at restaurant employees and suburban police officers, failing to prevent his department-issued gun from being stolen, cursing at police and drinking too much while off duty, calling a supervisor a foul name and firing his gun during an altercation while off duty.

Kilpatrick spokesman Dave Manney declined to comment on Martin's return to the security team and referred all questions to Shoulders.

The Free Press reported last year that overtime payments ballooned Martin's salary of \$45,488 to about \$72,000 in 2002 and that he is best friends with the brother of a convicted drug dealer.

Shoulders said he did not know about Martin's friendship with Donald **Parker**. **Parker**'s brother **Dean** killed himself in 2001 while holding a teenage girl hostage. Police seeking him on a new drug charge were closing in when **Dean Parker** shot himself.

Shoulders said Martin has paid for his mistakes and should not be judged by his associates.

"When people have paid their dues, whatever has happened in the past, they have the same privileges as the rest of the people in this country, from the White House on down," he said. "I also have some relatives who are criminals. I know them. I have spoken to them. . . . That doesn't mean my life should be restricted."

While Shoulders faulted Jones and Martin for the way they ran the security team, he blamed their inexperience.

"There was no adequate oversight and supervision," he said. "They really did think they were doing what they thought was right, but you learn on this job from experience and age."

He said Jones and Martin would not be disciplined for problems with the security team.

"You've got to be able to show intent," he said, adding that one of his goals in overseeing the security team was to separate Jones and Martin.

"To me, it was almost like having two kids in the house with no parents over there," Shoulders said. "How can you fault the kids . . . when something goes wrong?"

Contact M.L. ELRICK at 313-223-3327 or [elrick@freepress.com](mailto:elrick@freepress.com)" Staff writer Jim Schaefer contributed to this report.

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