

## PROSECUTOR SAYS COPS KNEW THEY GUARDED DRUG MONEY

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Police officers charged in an FBI drug sting were told explicitly that they were guarding illegal drugs and dope money, and they jumped at the chance, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

Defense attorneys, however, asserted their clients were entrapped or unaware drugs were involved.

Six current and former officers -- five from Detroit and one from Highland Park -- plus two civilians went on trial Wednesday in federal court in Detroit, charged with standing guard for an agent posing as a Florida dope dealer.

All the defendants "were told that this is drug money or drug shipments you are protecting," Assistant U.S. Attorney Lynn Helland said in his opening statement.

"You will see no reluctance on the part of these defendants," he told the jury. "You will see no persuasion by any of the undercover agents. . . . You will see eagerness," he said, especially on the part of civilian Willie Volsan and Sgt. James Harris, who allegedly recruited the other officers.

Volsan, asked to provide someone to smuggle a machine gun past Metro Airport security, "laughed and said it would be no problem," Helland said.

Helland said the probe began in 1990 when agents learned Cathy Volsan Curry, Volsan's daughter and Mayor Coleman Young's niece, had police contacts that allowed her to tip her husband, drug dealer **Johnny Curry**, that his phone was tapped.

Volsan's attorney, Timothy Murphy, said Volsan was pressured into getting involved after the agent persuaded his daughter to leave a drug treatment center in northern Michigan and gave her several thousand dollars.

Murphy said, "She went to her father, frightened, and asked him for help. That's where the entrapment is."

Charges against Cathy Curry were dropped.

Attorneys for other defendants said the government had no evidence their clients thought Volsan and Harris had anything but a legitimate security job in mind.

Five people have pleaded guilty in the case in return for lesser sentences.

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