

FBI SAYS COPS TOOK DRUG ROLES WILLINGLY AGENT TESTIFIES NIECE OF MAYOR LED THEM

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South Florida drug dealer Mike Diaz minced no words.

"What I'm interested in first is just bringing in drug money," he told Willie Volsan as they sat and talked in Volsan's Cadillac in October 1990.

"OK," said Volsan.

"Taking it to the . . . bank and cleaning it," the dealer said.

Volsan's answer: "We'll take you there, take you back. We're . . . at your service."

Drug dealer Diaz turned out to be undercover FBI Special Agent Mike Castro.

A tape of the conversation made by the FBI was played Monday in federal court in Detroit. Prosecutors are trying to prove that Volsan and police officers he helped recruit put themselves at the service of a man they thought was a drug trafficker.

The officers guarded purported shipments of drug money and cocaine through Metro and City airports to suburban banks and hotels, the FBI said.

The chief conspirators were Volsan, father of Mayor Coleman Young's niece Cathy Volsan Curry, and Detroit Police Sgt. James Harris, a former bodyguard for Cathy Curry, the FBI alleges.

Five other current and former officers from Detroit and Highland Park and one other civilian are charged with joining the scheme. Four other officers and a Cleveland attorney have pleaded guilty in the case.

Castro spent Monday afternoon on the witness stand describing the initial stages of the sting.

Its purpose was to ferret out police who the FBI said had tipped Cathy Curry that the phone of her husband, drug dealer **Johnny Curry**, was tapped.

While working undercover, Castro talked to Cathy Curry in Marquette in July 1990, where she was in drug treatment. She told him that she had police contacts that warned her of the taps.

Castro, carrying a hidden microphone, met Cathy Curry the next month at Metro Airport.

The undercover agent told her, "I come to Detroit with this dope money. I'm worried about getting robbed. . . . You know, by these street hoods."

He told her, "You tell your partner, your contact, whoever, we will take well care of him. He gives us information, he tells us when the heat's on."

Cathy Curry subsequently introduced Castro to her father. Charges against Cathy Curry were dropped.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Lynn Helland tried to punch a hole in a defense argument that Volsan knew Castro was an agent and was playing along in an attempt to run his own, unspecified sting against the FBI.

Helland introduced a May 1991 tape in which Volsan expressed surprise as Castro, in a phone call as arrests were under way, revealed to him that two of his supposed drug associates were actually FBI agents.

"And the funniest thing," Castro said, "is that I'm one too.

Testimony is to continue today.

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