

## HILL SAYS VIDEO VENTURE , FBI PROBE AREN'T LINKED

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In 1986, then-Detroit Police Cmdr. Gilbert Hill and a few friends tried to cash in on his role in Eddie Murphy's "Beverly Hills Cop" movie by forming a **video** production company in Detroit.

Four months later, Hill said, the business **venture** failed because he and the main investors -- Willie Clyde Volsan and Detroit Police Sgt. James Harris -- didn't know anything about producing **videos** and films.

On Sunday, Hill was defending himself from implications in a WJBK-TV (Channel 2) report linking the business **venture** with a federal probe of corruption among Detroit police and city officials.

"There's no way that any objective or fair-minded person could ever link those two things," Hill said.

In a lengthy report leading off the 6 p.m. newscast Sunday, WJBK reporter Vince Wade revealed the previous business relationship of Hill, Volsan and Harris.

Volsan and Harris were among 13 people -- including 11 current or former Detroit area police officers -- arrested in an FBI sting in which agents posing as drug dealers paid police officers to provide protection for what they said were shipments of either money or cocaine.

The two civilians arrested were relatives of Detroit Mayor Coleman Young: his brother-in-law Willie Clyde Volsan and Volsan's daughter Cathy Volsan-Curry. She is apparently still married to convicted drug dealer Johnny Curry despite a divorce filing.

In a procedural move, federal charges were dropped in June pending action by a federal grand jury.

On June 6, Hill -- now a Detroit City Council member -- told reporters that he apparently had been a target in the FBI sting operation. He said he met twice with men he said he believes were undercover agents. Hill said he refused their offers of giving him so-called expense money.

He said he only met with the men because his friends Volsan and Harris urged him to do so.

Last week rumors began circulating from law enforcement sources about Hill having more than a personal friendship with Volsan and Harris. Reporters began to check into the business partnership involving Metro International Productions Inc., formed in October 1986, and Cadieux Development Co., formed by Volsan and Harris in January 1987.

Because of his role in "Beverly Hills Cop," Hill had gotten some commercial work on television. He and the other investors wanted to produce **videos** or movies, capitalizing on **Hill's** name recognition, he said Sunday.

He formed Metro Production with his chief assistant Philip Wooldridge, author Jason Lovette, Harris and Volsan. He said everything about the company was aboveboard.

Volsan "was going to put up the money," Hill said. He thought it was either a bank loan or money from Volsan's wife.

Volsan was linked, but never convicted, in several federal drug investigations. But Hill said: "I have never seen him commit a crime; I have never even heard him talk about committing crimes. I have never even seen him smoke a cigarette.

"It was a legitimate attempt at what should have been a great business opportunity," Hill said. ". . . But as it turned out, none of us knew what we were doing."

Cadieux Development paid \$100,000 on a \$215,000 land contract to purchase a **video** production company on Cadieux, but by April 1988 the company defaulted on the contract, according to state and county records. Metro Production never did produce any **videos** or any other real business, Hill said.

Hill said only that Volsan and Harris lost money on the deal and that the rest of the investors had "sweat equity" in the company.

Hill said he has not committed any crime, and stories such as this hurt his reputation.

Neither Volsan nor Harris could be reached Sunday. Neither has publicly commented on the federal drug sting.

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