

## **Feds target stash seized from gang - Officials ask judge to take cash, motorcycles of Metro Detroit band of alleged meth dealers.**

Detroit News, The (MI) - Monday, September 12, 2005

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DETROIT -- Federal officials, who say a heavily armed Metro Detroit motorcycle **gang** has illegally sold drugs since 2001 and even hidden methamphetamine in a stuffed duck, have asked a judge to make the **gang** forfeit the proceeds.

The U.S. Attorney's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration say the Forbidden Wheels Motorcycle Club has distributed methamphetamine and cocaine across Metro Detroit since 2001.

U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy has made the destruction of the illegal methamphetamine trade a top priority. He assigned a coordinator to oversee investigations of the drug in eastern Michigan.

Nationally, the DEA has mounted a campaign, dubbed "Operation Wildfire," to stop meth distribution.

Forbidden Wheels members repeatedly flew to California in 2004 to get shipments of methamphetamine and met with the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club in Banning, Calif., according to a federal complaint filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Detroit. Agents searched the group's main clubhouse on the 21600 block of Fenkell in Detroit on April 1, and say they found a hidden room behind a false wall.

"Agents had to force entry through over 10 metal doors," the complaint said.

It also said they found cocaine, methamphetamine, more than \$6,000 in cash, a bulletproof vest, two Harley-Davidson motorcycles, nine weapons and a T-shirt that read "Snitches are a dying breed."

They said they also found drug ledgers, financial records and cocaine.

Investigators also searched the homes of club leaders on April 1 in Southfield, Warren and Howell. A search of a home in Southfield turned up a black box "containing a stuffed duck which contained suspected methamphetamine, assorted ammunition and packaging bags," federal agents said in the complaint. The methamphetamine was found to be genuine.

The U.S. Attorney's Office asked U.S. District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds to forfeit the \$6,147 **seized from** the Fenkell club and \$6,025 **from** three Comerica Bank accounts in Livonia connected to the club. The office also asked to forfeit 1986 and 1994 Harley-Davidson motorcycles **seized** at the club, along with a third motorcycle **seized** in Howell.

James L. Feinberg, a Detroit lawyer for the club, did not return a call seeking comment.

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Company Name: #keywords2#

Index Terms: DRUG TRAFFIC ; INVESTIGATION ; GANGS; DETROIT

Dateline: DETROIT

Record Number: det22362487

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