

FBI probes sheriff deputies ' ties to drug ring - During raid of county jail worker's home, agents seize evidence they believe will link officers, two inmates.

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The **FBI** is investigating whether Wayne County **sheriff deputies** may be tied **to** one of Detroit's most notorious **drug rings** , the Puritan Avenue Gang.

Two **deputies** were suspended with pay after the **FBI** conducted a Sept. 13 raid on the Farmington Hills' home of a **deputy** who works in the County Jail. Agents seized cell phones, canceled checks, photos and money order receipts.

According **to** an **FBI** warrant, agents sought evidence they believed would link **deputies to** two jail inmates: Damon "Slim" Brantley of Atlanta and Reginald "Dude" Dancy of Detroit. The men, both 35, pleaded guilty in May **to** leading a **drug** operation that U.S. attorneys said sold at least \$20 million in cocaine and marijuana in Detroit, Atlanta and Birmingham, Ala.

Federal agents seized \$1 million in alleged **drug** profits from Dancy, who ran the Puritan Avenue Gang, according **to** federal papers. Brantley was in charge of the Detroit Boys gang in Alabama.

Indicted in November 2003, the two were housed at Wayne County Jail as cases against them proceeded.

Federal agents raided the Farmington Hills home of one **deputy** seeking "notes, letters, address books and calendars pertaining **to** (his) association with" Brantley, Dancy and other **deputies** , according **to** the warrant.

It also sought photos of him and other **deputies** with the dealers. Phone messages **to** the **deputy** seeking comment weren't returned. The News is not naming him because he hasn't been charged with a crime.

Word of an **FBI** investigation has swirled around the jail for about a week, but the union representing the **deputies** doesn't know what agents are seeking, said Jonathan Jackson, president of the Wayne County **Sheriffs** /Airport Police Local 502.

"There's very little we know," Jackson said. "Because it is an **FBI** investigation, all the parties involved aren't allowed **to** talk about the case."

FBI spokeswoman Dawn Clenney wouldn't comment. John Roach, a spokesman for **Sheriff** Warren Evans, acknowledged the investigation, but would only say the two **deputies** were recently suspended, pending the outcome.

U.S. attorneys this year said the Detroit Boys and Puritan Avenue Gang sold cocaine from 1990-2003. In May, U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts said both gangs were violent menaces.

"(They) not only sold large quantities of cocaine which reached the streets of these cities, but also used intimidation and violence **to** promote their illegal business," she said.

Brantley was sentenced last week by U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds **to** 20 years in prison. Dancy faces up **to** life during sentencing next month.

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Correction: A story on Page 2B on Oct. 16 about the FBI investigating sheriff 's deputies ' ties to a drug ring wrongly attributed a statement to a judge. U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "(They) not only sold large quantities of cocaine which reached the streets of these cities, but also used intimidation and violence to promote their illegal business." (JAnuary 9, 2006 A2)

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