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Inkster cop says he just did as he was told

He seeks dismissal of perjury charges

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One of the Inkster police officers charged with perjury in a 2005 cocaine case wants his charges dropped because he says he was following the direction of the trial prosecutor and judge.

In a motion to dismiss his charges, the cop, Robert McArthur, said he wanted assurance before testifying falsely in the drug trial that "he would be protected" by the orders he received from then-prosecutor Karen Plants and then-Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Mary Waterstone.

McArthur argues that his testimony was "in good faith and reasonable" because he believed he was getting lawful guidance from court officials.

Plants, McArthur and Inkster police Sgt. Scott Rechtzigel are charged with conspiracy and perjury. The state Attorney General's Office contends they conspired to hide the fact that a key prosecution witness was a paid police informant in the cocaine case. Waterstone is accused of allowing the false testimony to stand and not telling jurors that prosecution witness Chad Povish was in fact an informant who was promised a cut of any seizures.

McArthur's lawyer, Douglas Gutscher, said Monday there is no finger-pointing among the defendants. The motion shows that "everyone was trying to address a legal question in the best way they could," he said.

The attorney general's spokesman, John Sellek, said the office is "confident in our charges."

Rechtzigel's lawyer, David Griem, said police were merely trying to protect a man who helped get 47 kilos of drugs off the streets. "Citizens come forward if they know the police will protect them," he said.

The attorney general filed the perjury charges in February after a 9-month investigation into the troubled cocaine case against Alex Aceval and Ricardo Pena. The men later pleaded guilty after the initial prosecutions were overturned because of the false testimony.

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