

EX-COP GETS 30-YEAR TERM DETROITER SENTENCED IN DRUG CONSPIRACY

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Saying that the only thing former Detroit Police Sgt. **James Harris** regrets "is that he got caught," a federal judge Monday sentenced Harris to 30 years in prison for his role in escorting drug shipments into Detroit.

Harris, 46, who was also fined \$50,000, has been in jail since he was convicted in December after two trials. A codefendant, Willie Volsan, 69, was sentenced Monday to more than 19 years in prison.

Harris told U.S. District Judge Barbara Hackett that the case was an FBI sting operation designed to use him to snare Detroit Mayor Coleman Young.

But Hackett rejected the argument, saying that Harris was driven by greed. She said he took about \$40,000 in payoffs and that he must be made an example of.

"The only thing he regrets to this day is that he got caught," she said.

Hackett also had harsh words for Volsan, who said nothing during his sentencing. Volsan is the father of Cathy Volsan Curry, who was approached first by the FBI concerning Harris' protection of drug shipments.

Curry, who has had a history of drug addiction and associations with drug dealers, is also Young's niece. She was never charged.

"Willie Volsan, there is simply no excuse for what you did," Hackett said during the sentencing. "Your own daughter's life is a tragedy, much of it your doing."

Volsan and Harris were convicted last December of cocaine conspiracy, money laundering and bribery.

Also convicted were Detroit Officer Angela Canoy-Simmons and Highland Park Officer Julandra Young, who are free on bond awaiting sentencing.

Tom Wilhelm and Tim Murphy, lawyers for Harris and Volsan, have filed appeals.

The first trial in September ended in a deadlocked jury. The jury in the retrial, held in Flint, heard five weeks of evidence that the officers took thousands of dollars to guard drug shipments for Detroit gangs. The narcotics and cash were flown into Metro and City airports.

FBI agents posed as Florida-based dealers that Harris' group protected.

The Harris-Volsan case was the third major police corruption trial in recent years.

Last year, former Chief William Hart was sentenced to 10 years in prison for embezzlement, and former police pilot Eugene (Moon) Mullins received 27 months in prison for obstructing a federal investigation of the police aviation unit.

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