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Patrolmen ensnared in gambling probe: 2 IPD officers suspended, but chief denies they took bribes from operators of 'pea shake' games.

Indianapolis Star [Indianapolis, Ind] 17 Sep 1993: A.1.

Abstract (summary)

The actions against the police officers followed a yearlong investigation by Indianapolis Police Department undercover officers and FBI agents into allegations that gamblers tried to bribe policemen. Marion County Prosecutor Jeffrey Modisett said the grand jury is investigating bribery charges and that Cumberlander and another alleged gambling club operator, Anthony Fields, are targets.

Full Text

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The building at 2802 North Central Avenue, mentioned in a story Friday about police officers being suspended in a gambling probe, is no longer an afterhours club. It now houses a Pentecostal church called A More Excellent Way, which has a congregation of about 25 people.

JANET E. WILLIAMS; R. JOSEPH GELARDEN; JAMES L. PATTERSON Jr.

Indianapolis Police Chief James Toler suspended two patrolmen Thursday as part of an investigation into allegations that gamblers paid protection money to lawmen.

A state excise policeman, who admitted he was in a "pea shake house" when it was raided by city police Tuesday, is also under investigation.

The actions against the police officers followed a yearlong investigation by Indianapolis Police Department undercover officers and FBI agents into allegations that gamblers tried to bribe policemen.

Gamblers paid as much as $20,000 to an undercover policeman investigating the bribery charges, Toler said. The case has been referred to a Marion County grand jury.

Toler said he suspended Patrolman Kenneth N. Dancler, 32, for 30 days and Patrolman Kendall J. Moore, 33, for 10 days for nine violations of departmental rules, including "not taking lawful police action" against illegal gambling.

Toler said he found insufficient evidence to take immediate action against a third policeman, Patrolman Charles W. Crocker Jr.

Donald J. Okey, chief of the state excise police, said he ordered an internal probe into the actions of excise policeman Arnold Cooksey.

Cooksey, a 21-year veteran, said he was in a pea shake house Tuesday when it was raided by police. "Cooksey said he was visiting a friend," Okey said. Excise police enforce state liquor laws.

All four officers are named in a 77-page sworn affidavit. It was filed in court Monday when police and FBI agents obtained warrants to search five alleged gambling operations known as pea shake houses and the home of one of the alleged gambling operators, Rudolph Cumberlander.

Cumberlander told IPD Patrolman Phillip Scrogham, who was working undercover, that he was paying bribes to Cooksey, the affidavit said.

The raids were conducted Tuesday, and Cumberlander was arrested on a charge of bribery. He was freed later in the day on a $3,000 bond.

Cumberlander declined to comment.

Marion County Prosecutor Jeffrey Modisett said the grand jury is investigating bribery charges and that Cumberlander and another alleged gambling club operator, Anthony Fields, are targets.

Modisett said there may be other targets, but prosecutors aren't prepared to identify them. "There are other people who warrant investigating. We'll follow the evidence where it leads," Modisett said.

Dancler and Moore were suspended for violating departmental rules prohibiting them from working in or around gambling establishments, Toler said.

However, he emphasized, "No police officers are involved in any bribery case as far as I'm concerned. All the information we have has been turned over to the prosecutor."

Two undercover policemen developed information about gambling and bribes at reputed gambling houses owned by Cumberlander and Fields, Toler said.

Modisett-Toler feud

Modisett is upset with Toler because the affidavit names three prominent Indianapolis Democrats, state Sen. Glenn Howard, state Rep. William Crawford and City-County Councilman Monroe Gray. The two men feuded in letters about naming the officials.

Neither Toler nor Modisett would comment on the dispute. However, late Thursday, Toler said the yearlong investigation is now in Modisett's hands.

In the affidavit, Cumberlander identified Howard, Crawford and Gray and Mary Artist, director of United Northwest Area Inc., as members of an advisory board for operators of gambling houses called the "Concerned Few."

Robert Young, who identified himself as president of the Concerned Few, said the group existed only to funnel charitable

donations to the needy. The four officials are not part of the group, Young said.

Howard, Crawford, Gray and Artist are not accused of any crimes, and Modisett said they are not targets of the investigation.

Crawford, Gray and Artist all said they weren't on the Concerned Few's advisory board. Howard could not be reached for comment.

"I'm not involved with the Concerned Few," Gray said. "I think Rudy (Cumberlander) started throwing off names."

Crawford led an effort in the state legislature two years ago to legalize pea shake gambling. The effort, also supported by Howard, was defeated.

Going undercover

The bribery investigation began when Patrolman Scrogham, assigned to the North District, was approached by some owners of after-hours clubs and gambling dens to provide security and tip them off about police raids.

Scrogham contacted his superiors, and arrangements were made for him to wear a concealed recording device when he met with the club owners.

The initial contact was made with Marvin Keith Colbert, the owner of an after-hours club called MGM at 2802 North Central Avenue. He arranged for Scrogham to meet with the owners of Big Fella's, also known as the Frederick Douglass Club Inc., at 3469 North College Avenue.

The owners of Big Fella's, Cumberlander and Fields, were concerned that Scrogham had confronted three IPD officers - Dancler, Crocker and Moore - who appeared to be working in the parking lot outside Big Fella's, the affidavit said.

Cumberlander told Scrogham he wanted the officer's help in providing security at his club, where card games are held, according to the affidavit.

The affidavit said Cumberlander promised to pay Scrogham $100 a week to watch the club's parking lot and "to inform Cumberlander of any police-related information concerning the club."

Those payments began in October and were turned over to IPD investigators and FBI agents, who joined the investigation.

Sgt. Earnest R. Hudson Jr. of IPD's organized crime division said in the affidavit that Cumberlander made weekly payments to Scrogham, often with $100 bills.

Other allegations

The affidavit said that during the course of the investigation:

Scrogham reported seeing Crocker working inside Big Fella's as the doorman, letting customers in and out.

Scrogham met IPD Detective Elmer E. Combs inside Big Fella's.
Combs told Scrogham that "things were fine at the club."
Early in the investigation, Scrogham said Dancler and Crocker refused to allow him into Big Fella's without a warrant. Scrogham said he believed Dancler was responsible for security at the club.
In July, Dancler told Scrogham he was going to be off during the month and had arranged for a couple of Marion County sheriff's deputies to work at Big Fella's in his absence.
On July 5, Dancler admonished a policewoman for ticketing cars illegally parked outside Big Fella's. Dancler told the policewoman, "You know I work part time here - the least you could do is hit for me (call me on the police radio) before you start writing tickets."
On Aug. 14 at Big Fella's, Craig Ratliff, a Marion County special deputy, was working as a security guard.
In January, Scrogham got a raise - an extra $100 a week - to provide the same kind of services at another club owned by Fields, the Playhouse of Champions at 816 West 30th Street.
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IPD officer is charged with murder: Drug dealer and suspected shooter in alleged scheme also is charged.

Gillaspy, James A; Gelarden, R Joseph. *Indianapolis Star* [Indianapolis, Ind] 16 Dec 1997: A.1.

Abstract (summary)

JAMES A. GILLASPY; CONTRIBUTING; R. JOSEPH GELARDEN Authorities filed murder charges Monday against a veteran Indianapolis police officer and an alleged triggerman who described himself as the officer's partner in a scheme to rip off crack cocaine dealers.

Full Text

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JAMES A. GILLASPY; CONTRIBUTING; R. JOSEPH GELARDEN

Authorities filed murder charges Monday against a veteran Indianapolis police officer and an alleged triggerman who described himself as the officer's partner in a scheme to rip off crack cocaine dealers.

Patrolman Myron A. Powell, 35, a seven-year member of the Indianapolis Police Department, and Michael A. Highbaugh, 33, a convicted drug dealer, were charged in the slaying Thursday night of David Hairston.

Both suspects also were charged with attempted murder, and Highbaugh also was charged with illegal possession of a handgun. The maximum prison term for murder is 65 years.

Hairston, 29, a suspected drug dealer, was killed in his Pike Township home. Investigators theorize that the shooting in the Robertson Village housing development near 38th Street and Guion Road occurred after Hairston refused to cooperate with Powell's attempt to steal drugs and money.

Marion County sheriff's deputies found more than 2 pounds of cocaine and $22,000 in a closet. An additional $74,000 and a gun were found inside a blood-spattered safe that Hairston's killers apparently tried to carry with them.

Marion County Prosecutor Scott Newman said Highbaugh, the alleged triggerman, has denied any involvement in the shooting. But, according to the prosecutor, Highbaugh implicated himself and the patrolman in a scheme that could explain the killing.

Highbaugh's admissions came after he surrendered to authorities Saturday, the prosecutor said.

Newman said Highbaugh told investigators that Powell had been taking cocaine from drug dealers for three to four years and giving it to him to sell "for money," which he gave to Powell. Newman said Highbaugh claimed he sold drugs for Powell as recently as Dec. 9.

Powell was arrested Friday afternoon as he reported to IPD's East District headquarters. He has since claimed he accompanied Highbaugh to Hairston's home to collect an unspecified debt, and was leaving when he heard shots.

Two witnesses who survived the attack tell a different story.

Khalalah Ector, 20, and her cousin Michael Ector, 15, said they were in the home when the two men arrived. The man in uniform, they said, identified himself as "Thompson" and demanded to search the premises. Hairston, who demanded a search warrant, looked at the officer's badge number and name tag and replied, "Your name's not Thompson, it's Powell."

Khalalah Ector wrote down Powell's name and badge number on a scrap of paper that was later found in the residence by sheriff's deputies. Just after it was written, authorities claim, Highbaugh shot Hairston and Michael Ector and then chased and stabbed the woman.

The teen, who was shot in the hand and face, told investigators he feigned death as Powell walked into the bedroom where the safe was located. A short time later, the youth said, the policeman fled with three bags, including one containing marijuana. Police found the safe on the porch.

"At this time we have no evidence corroborating the ongoing nature of the drug operation or who else might have been victims of these sorts of drug rip-offs," Newman said. "We have to assume that there are things that ought to be looked at."

He asked anyone with evidence of drug rip-offs by police to contact the Metro Homicide Response Team at (317) 327-1740 "If we come into possession of that kind of evidence as to any police officer, we will nail him to the wall," the prosecutor said.

Mayor Stephen Goldsmith said such evidence would not necessarily surprise him.

"Crack changes everything; so much money," Goldsmith said. "It has happened in a lot of other big cities - New York, Philadelphia and New Orleans. Why shouldn't it happen here?"

Staff writer R. Joseph Gelarden contributed to this report.

Illustration

Caption: HEAD SHOT; Patrolman Myron Powell fled the scene with three bags, a survivor said. HEAD SHOT; Michael Highbaugh denies any role in the killing, the prosecutor says.

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Troubles surfaced years before some officers were fired

Schramm, Susan; Lynem, Julie. *Indianapolis Star* [Indianapolis, Ind] 08 June 1998: A.1.

Abstract (summary)

Yet those officers who commit crimes and break rules have alarmed law-abiding citizens and hurt the reputation of the entire department. IPD officials want to better train their supervisors and use job descriptions and performance evaluations to hold officers more accountable.

Full Text

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SUSAN SCHRAMM; JULIE LYNEM

This story about discipline within the Indianapolis Police Department is based on a study of police records by The Star and The News.

Myron Powell swore he'd protect human life.

But he's charged with murder.

Bryan Bierod swore he'd defend women from attacks.

Then he used his badge to force women to have sex with him.

Powell and Bierod used to be Indianapolis Police Department officers.

They are part of a group that repeatedly got into trouble - some of them for years before they were fired, an investigation by The Indianapolis Star and The Indianapolis News showed.

A few others committed no crimes but repeatedly broke IPD's rules.

The crooks and troublemakers, though, are few in number.

An examination of the disciplinary records of 1,012 officers showed that during the past six years, 78.6 percent of the officers didn't break a single rule.

"The vast majority of officers show up, work hard, treat people respectfully and make lots of arrests," Mayor Stephen Goldsmith said.

Yet those officers who commit crimes and break rules have alarmed law-abiding citizens and hurt the reputation of the entire department.

Why do officers get into trouble?

Abuse of drugs, alcohol or sex; anger, greed and laziness are common themes, too.

The department is working to improve its disciplinary system to catch troubled officers earlier.

IPD officials want to better train their supervisors and use job descriptions and performance evaluations to hold officers more accountable.

Officers on the street feel like police are scrutinized too much by the media. When they make mistakes, it shows they're just human, they say.

Wilbert Hill, a 60-year-old Westside resident, said he looks at IPD like any other organization.

At General Motors Corp., where he worked for more than 20 years, "some of them did things by the book. Some of them didn't."

Doing things by the book at IPD means following more than 50 rules and regulations.

Tempted by greed

Clearly, Powell had trouble following rules.

He resigned in January because he was charged with murdering a drug dealer and accused of robbing dealers for years.

His arrest prompted IPD Chief Michael Zunk to look back at how Powell had managed to stay on the force despite being disciplined nine times.

Powell's arrest also prompted Zunk to ask for a federal investigation into corruption within IPD. A task force led by the FBI found no organized corruption but said some officers needed further investigation.

Officers who are corrupt often are lured by the easy money connected to crack cocaine, police experts said.

Don M. Hartsough, a psychologist who counsels IPD officers, said some officers are tempted by greed.

"It's a chance for an easy buck," said Hartsough, president of White River Psychology Inc. "Police have more opportunities ... to step over the line and do something illegal for personal gain."

In February 1992, when Powell was still a recruit, a review board wanted to fire him.

But he stayed on the force because of James D. Toler, then the city's new police chief and now a captain at IPD's East District.

Six supervisors voted to fire Powell. Toler was the lone vote to retain Powell - a vote for which he has caught a lot of flak.

He said his decision was based on his experience as Powell's commander for six months.

"I hadn't heard a peep out of Myron Powell," Toler said. "Nobody had come to me with any complaints about Myron Powell at all."

Powell went on to violate more rules by lying, failing to improve and not showing up in court to testify.

He gained a reputation of being a slacker instead of catching criminals in the high-crime area he patrolled.

"Myron always thought that he was pretty and he was clean," said IPD Detective Stan Anderson. "He never wanted to get his uniform dirty and never wanted to do any work."

In a Westside barbershop where conversations about the police are common, Ron Smith, a 37-year-old barber, said he suspects there are more greedy officers out there like Powell.

"The majority of officers are good. But some - they're using their badge to profit," he said.

Alcohol takes a toll

Most officers in trouble aren't involved in corruption or murder. Some are battling a more common demon: alcohol.

Experts say police officers can be haunted by the violence they encounter, and some use alcohol to numb their feelings.

Five officers in six years were disciplined for drunken driving. Two other officers were fired, in separate incidents, after drinking and accidentally shooting themselves.

In 1996, a group of 17 off-duty IPD officers drank seven cases of beer at a baseball game and then drank at a Downtown bar. Some of the officers fought with two citizens on Meridian Street, and four were charged with crimes. One of those officers was convicted. The incident led Chief Donald Christ to resign.

Said Zunk, who was hired to lead the department through the crisis: "It's probably one of the most damaging things this police department suffered through."

Another officer brought damaging publicity to the department less than a year after the brawl.

Patrolman Jerome Hansman was fired last year after he was convicted of beating up an Indianapolis man during an off-duty incident outside a bar.

He is serving a one-year jail sentence.

At his recent sentencing, Hansman said it was a mistake for him to drink so much that night and to hit the man.

"When I don't drink, I can control my behavior," he said.

Patrolman Charles Crocker couldn't control his behavior on March 25, when sheriff's deputies arrived at the scene of a Northwestside crash.

They found Crocker drunk behind the wheel of a wrecked squad car, spitting at deputies and threatening to shoot them. His blood-alcohol level was more than twice the legal limit.

His attorney says Crocker is a good officer with an alcohol problem and has sought counseling. Zunk wants him fired.

Crocker has had other problems: He was charged in 1993 with raping his wife, but charges were dropped when the woman declined

to cooperate. IPD suspended him for six months because of the arrest.

Deputy Chief Robert Turner said IPD needs to do a better job of helping its officers with their problems.

"I'm not making excuses for officers who have corruption problems," he said. "I'm talking about those problems that are a result of drinking and domestic problems at home. We should expect some of those problems. It's all the more reason why officers should regularly have stress counseling, marital counseling and substance-abuse counseling."

The department has a free employee-assistance program available to officers. IPD also has a group of police officers who offer support to other officers in times of crisis - such as a police-action shooting.

Signs were apparent

Anger and arrogance.

A feeling of being above the law.

These traits are dangerous in police officers who wield power over citizens.

"Lots of times people complain about the police," said Smith, the barber. "The way I feel about it, if you get stopped, it's `Yes, sir; no, sir' and on with your business. That's how you deal with a bad attitude."

Some of the worst officers at IPD got away with extreme anger and arrogance.

"You have to look at the (officers) getting arrested," said Doris Conley, a former IPD lieutenant who recently left to be a police chief in Oregon. "These are the people who for years and years were not going to get caught. They were the invincibles."

Some of IPD's fallen officers showed signs of trouble long before they were arrested.

Bierod had a habit of stopping female drivers for supposed traffic violations, threatening arrest and coercing some into sexual acts. He resigned in April 1996, was convicted of bribery and battery in August and has served a short jail sentence. Four women have filed federal lawsuits against him and the city of Indianapolis. At least one woman, who had reported an incident in 1995, says IPD could have stopped Bierod sooner.

Bierod could not be reached for comment.

Former Patrolwoman Susan Shaffer was suspended in July 1995 after pulling out a gun in an argument with a boyfriend, a fellow officer. She was suspended again in May 1996 after leaving her patrol area to confront a different boyfriend in Hammond. On two other occasions in late 1996, she left her district while on duty. The Civilian Police Merit Board fired her in May 1997. Five months

later, she was accused of using her badge to threaten an employee of a company where her furniture was stored. She was charged with impersonating a public servant.

Shaffer's attorney did not return telephone calls.

Sgt. Dennis Riley was charged Feb. 24 with battery for allegedly hitting his girlfriend. He was not working at the time. Zunk has recommended that Riley be fired, and the case is pending before the merit board. He previously had been investigated for striking the woman, but no charges were filed and he was not disciplined.

Riley's attorney had no comment.

Patrolman Robert K. Neely was charged in March with deviate conduct, bribery, confinement and sexual battery. He is accused of threatening a woman with arrest and forcing her to perform oral sex in his apartment. He had been suspended twice in his six-year career, and Zunk now wants him fired.

Neely's attorney, Richard Cook, declined to comment.

Anderson, the East District detective, said some black officers tried to talk to Neely several years ago after hearing rumors about him intimidating people.

"We told him, `You need to slow down,"' Anderson said. "When you have a gun and a badge and let it go to your head, your head can get too big."

Chief draws a line

Zunk does not want officers who make serious mistakes to have the chance to remain on IPD.

In the past 18 months, he has sent a message to his officers and to the community: He will not tolerate officers who are accused of crimes, officers who test positive for drugs or officers who repeatedly show they can't do their job.

Crocker, Riley and Neely are targets of his get-tough stance. He has recommended to the merit board that all three be fired. All three are charged with crimes.

In the past, some officers who were acquitted or whose charges were dropped remained on the force.

But Zunk said the department's internal investigation shows the three men broke IPD rules and no longer deserve their jobs.

"I am never going to wait for that criminal justice system to move at its two-year snail pace for me to decide if this guy's going to be a police officer or not," he said.

He also won't give second chances to officers who fail random drug tests.

When veteran IPD Detective Norman Matthews failed a drug test after it showed traces of marijuana, Zunk ignored the pleas of some officers to give Matthews a chance at treatment. The merit board

agreed and fired Matthews, who had been disciplined eight times in 23 years.

Zunk also wants to closely monitor officers who are frequently disciplined.

One officer, Patrolman James H. Sparks, received 21 disciplinary actions in 21 years. The last mark against him was in 1994.

Toler said the department has difficulty firing officers based on their lengthy disciplinary records.

"We have tolerated officers who have violated rules, regulations, general orders and policy and procedures over a long period of time," he said.

When a chief fired an officer, the officer often complained that other officers still on the force have worse disciplinary records, he said.

A precedent was set a long time ago that is "very difficult to overcome," he said.

Then-Chief Paul Annee recommended that Sparks be fired in 1987, but the merit board didn't agree and suspended him for six months instead.

Uniform discipline

One out of every five IPD officers was disciplined in a six-year period, which shows the disciplinary system is working, Zunk said. But he admits it could use some improvement.

Zunk's ideas aren't new to IPD, but some officers are encouraged that he's putting them into action:

He is providing better training for supervisors and trying to change their way of thinking. For example, he's working on hiring a private group to give the department better supervisory training.

And he wants supervisors to be more observant.

"What I've tried to do is convince the supervisors that they need to be there when the officer doesn't call for them - just to say `Hey, how's it going? What do you need? Is there anything I can do to help?"'

IPD Sgt. Joseph R. Humkey said more supervisor training is long overdue.

"When I became a sergeant, they gave us a book of general orders and said, `Here, go be a supervisor - we'll give you a sergeant's stripe and put you out on the street,"' he said. "In the last couple of years, we've made leaps and bounds."

IPD has set up a matrix for supervisors - a guide so they can see what amount of disciplinary action is normal for a certain offense.

The matrix is under review by IPD officials, who hope to put it in place soon.

Disciplinary actions - describing the offense and the discipline without using individual names - are now posted each month to help ensure consistency among IPD's five districts.

Zunk also wants to update job descriptions so the department can begin performance evaluations.

"I feel like the officers need to understand what their job is and then we need to hold them accountable," he said. "Right now, it's too easy to say, `I didn't know I was supposed to do that - nobody told me."'

Zunk talks about "lessons learned" and hopes he has put the department's heartaches behind him.

He does not want IPD to find itself again in trouble from officers who slipped through the cracks.

Illustration

Caption: NO SECOND CHANCES: Chief Michael Zunk has adopted a get-tough policy on officers who are accused of crimes or make serious mistakes. A graphic showing the outcome of the analysis done by the The Star and The News of the disciplinary record of 1,012 Indianapolis police officers from Jan. 1, 1992, through Dec. 31, 1997.

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Police corruption has hurt the public's confidence

Indianapolis Star [Indianapolis, Ind] 12 May 2000: A.23.

Abstract (summary)

Police corruption has hurt the public's confidence

Full Text

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This year, six Indianapolis Police Department officers have been accused of criminal misconduct. Some have betrayed the badge by propositioning sex or threatening jail to female motorists. The trial of former IPD Officer Myron Powell illustrates that police power left unchecked can even lead to murder.

A story recently reported by WTHR Channel 13 showed Marion County Sheriff Jack Cottey drinking and driving a county-owned vehicle back to work. The story has sparked debate as to whether this is a smear campaign. The story does lend credence to people who believe officers see themselves as above the law.

Similar stories from Los Angeles have proven police were willing and able to frame people they wanted to lock up. This shows us police corruption is not something limited to Indianapolis. It probably exists everywhere but the fictional town of Mayberry.

Police corruption has indeed hurt public faith and confidence. At the very least, it may have woken up some people to a world they never knew existed. It used to be a given that a person wearing the badge and uniform was automatically assumed to be one of the good guys. That's not necessarily the case anymore.

Unfortunately, the misdeeds of a few undermine that hard work and the many good deeds police officers do that don't get press coverage.

The police department can't do much different from what it already is doing to weed out bad apples. It can't kick out potential recruits based on things they might do. It must stand firm on what procedures are, what is expected of potential officers and what will be done to those who break the law.

IPD Chief Jerry Barker has championed causes that unite his officers and concerned citizens. His next challenge will be to continue the things he does well and pick up where Chief Michael Zunk left off by holding officers accountable for their actions in and out of uniform.

Barker will also have to bridge the communication gap between his office and the city's increasingly diverse population. Citizens who do have complaints must feel that IPD takes their complaints seriously.

This will help restore confidence in our police department.

CURTIS SMITH Indianapolis

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ProQuest

Officer faces sex, bribery charges

O'Neal, Kevin. *Indianapolis Star* [Indianapolis, Ind] 18 Apr 2000: D.1.

Abstract (summary)

According to the sworn affidavit, Ingram typically would stop a dancer who had left a club, threaten to arrest her, place her in his patrol car, drive to a secluded location and ask her for sex.

Full Text

Turn on search term navigation

A city police officer preyed on exotic dancers on the Westside for months, stopping them in his patrol car and asking them for sex so he wouldn't arrest them, investigators said.

An investigation of those alleged incidents led to the arrest Monday of IPD Patrolman Francis L. Ingram, a 12-year veteran of the Indianapolis Police Department. He was suspended without pay while awaiting trial in Marion Superior Court.

"This one is vicious, mean and clearly criminal if the allegations are true," said E. Timothy Foley, IPD investigations commander. "We don't need policemen like this."

Ingram faces four counts of bribery, one count of criminal confinement and one count of sexual battery, all felony charges filed Monday by the Marion County prosecutor.

If found guilty on all charges, he could face as many as 38 years in prison, Prosecutor Scott Newman said.

The prosecutor said the bribery charge against Ingram was appropriate because the officer's asking a woman for sex instead of arresting her is a form of bribery.

Former IPD Patrolman Robert K. Neely was convicted of the same charge after a 1998 case, when he was accused of abducting a topless dancer outside the Red Garter lounge Downtown and threatening her with arrest before she acquiesced to his demand for oral sex.

Neely was convicted in February and given a two-year prison sentence.

IPD Chief Jerry Barker said a continuing internal affairs investigation would help him decide whether to recommend Ingram be fired by the department's civilian merit board.

Ingram was arrested four weeks after being confronted by IPD internal affairs investigators. Under questioning, he denied the allegations.

Following his arrest Monday, he was released on $5,000 bail. His initial appearance in Marion Superior Court is set for June 21.

Ingram continued to proclaim his innocence when he was arrested, Newman said.

"We have a police officer who we so desperately need in this community, cruising the parking lots of strip clubs," Newman said. "That is simply exasperating."

In one case, investigators said, Ingram went to a location where police had stopped a stripper. He arrested the woman and drove away, leaving other officers wondering why he had taken her. In another case, they said, Ingram handcuffed a woman, placed her in the back seat of his patrol car, then gave her the handcuff key and read a newspaper in the front seat while she struggled to free herself.

Anonymous complaints against Ingram led to the internal investigation, Barker said.

The alleged incidents revolve around the area of 38th Street and Lafayette Road. Ingram was assigned as a night shift patrol officer in the IPD West district, where the clubs are located.

According to a probable cause affidavit filed in court, the incidents happened from June 1999 through March of this year. One case involved a dancer at Brad's Gold Club, 3551 Lafayette Road, but most involved dancers at Club Rio, 5054 West 38th St.

Notebooks found after a search warrant was issued for Ingram's Northwestside home contained the names, addresses and phone numbers of most of the women involved, the affidavit said.

According to the sworn affidavit, Ingram typically would stop a dancer who had left a club, threaten to arrest her, place her in his patrol car, drive to a secluded location and ask her for sex. The document alleged he received oral sex from one dancer.

Newman said the evidence against Ingram most closely resembles the case of Bryan Bierod, an IPD officer who was accused in 1996 of stopping women in his police car and threatening to take them to jail unless they had sex with him. In a widely criticized decision, Bierod received 28 days in prison after pleading guilty to five counts of felony bribery and three counts of misdemeanor battery.

"We don't see this as a pattern elsewhere," said Barker, who before being appointed chief of police was deputy chief of the West District. "We have no evidence that this was happening with any other officers."

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Indexing (details)

Subject:	Probable cause; Criminal sentences; Bribery; Arrests
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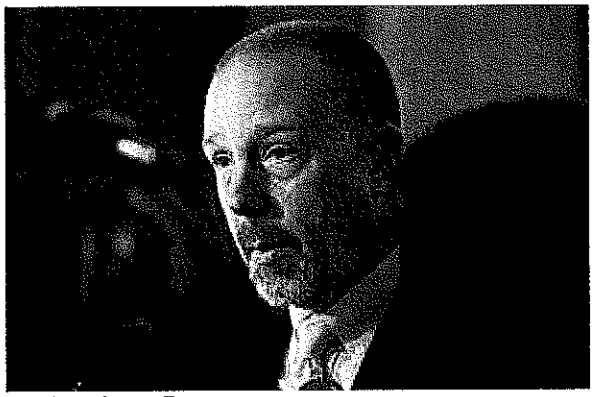

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His critics say Frank Straub (above), who became public safety director in December, has undermined IMPD morale by overshadowing the police chief and alienating the rank and file. / Matt Kryger / The Star file photo

Since 2008:

» **14** officers have been arrested.

» **5** are under investigation.

» **4** have been demoted.

» **2** have been reassigned.

» **2** were disciplined.

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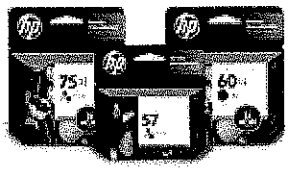

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'Unacceptable' number of IMPD officers punished for misconduct

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The recent string of troubling incidents involving Indianapolis police officers has created an acute awareness -- in the community, at city hall and in the department -- of police officer misconduct.

But the reality is that such behavior by police officers in Indianapolis is nothing new -- and, experts say, neither are the factors that tend to create an environment in which police misconduct is more likely to happen.

The Indianapolis Star reviewed its own news accounts and various other documents to try to determine the extent of the problem within the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

What The Star found is that since April 2008, at least 14 IMPD officers have been arrested. At least five other officers are the subject of some form of current investigation; four have been demoted in rank, including the assistant police chief; two have been reassigned; and at least two have been disciplined because of misconduct.

That's 27 officers.

"Any incident is unacceptable," Public Safety Director Frank Straub said. "Whether the number is 27 or 40 or five, the chief and I are committed to thoroughly investigating all allegations of misconduct, excessive force or corruption."

Police, city officials and experts agree that the vast majority of IMPD's 1,700 officers are honorable.

But experts, including those who have worked within the department, stress that the number of incidents is extremely high.

"I know talking to people that morale is very low there now," said Steve DeBoard, chairman of the criminal justice department at Kaplan College who also worked for

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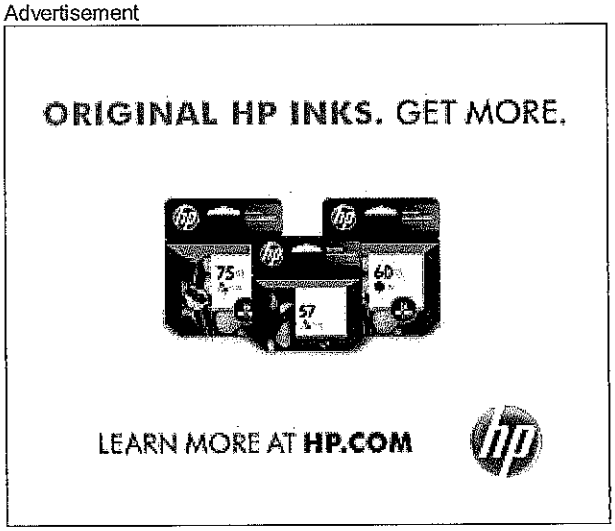

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IMPD for 21 years. "But I'm amazed at how much of this stuff has come up in the last two to there years."

Some level of misconduct is expected -- there will be bad apples in any workplace -- but when it happens among police officers, it's of special concern because of the trust society places in them and the power they hold.

"When you are in trouble, there's nothing better than a good cop. And there's nothing worse than a bad cop," said Chuck Wexler, who heads the Police Executive Research Forum, an organization of police executives that examines large police departments.

Any number of factors can create a bad cop. And in examining the various incidents that have swept up Indianapolis officers, it's impossible to point to any one thing.

But when probing such incidents, experts say it's important to examine a department's culture, which can be built over decades, and various other factors such as leadership, training, recruitment, policies and morale.

The department has tried to deal with those factors. In 2008, then-Public Safety Director Scott Newman unveiled his "integrity plan" after revelations that three officers were stealing drugs and money and charges were announced against a fourth accused of selling a handgun to a convicted burglar.

Worried about the candidate pool the department was drawing from, Newman brought in a recruiter. He also increased supervision, tightened oversight of evidence collection and reinstated more widespread polygraph testing of officers.

Newman thinks those moves laid a foundation for change. His successor, Straub -- who was Newman's choice for the job -- is now taking it further.

Earlier this year, Straub brought in Wexler's group, the Police Executive Research Forum, an organization of police executives that examines large police departments, to conduct a complete review of all IMPD policies and procedures. Its recommendations -- combined with Straub's own policy decisions -- appear aimed at tightening some of the restrictions and oversight Newman put in place after the first rash of misconduct in 2008.

For example, Straub's external review took Newman's recruitment strategy a step further by suggesting that one part-time

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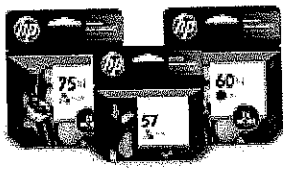

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recruiter is not enough and pointing out that there is no money set aside in the IMPD budget for recruiting.

Straub said policy areas he will focus on improving are use of force, including officer shootings, and accident scene protocol.

In consultation with Straub, City-County Council members Ryan Vaughn and Ben Hunter unveiled a 10-point reform plan Wednesday that includes mandatory annual performance evaluations, a college degree requirement for promotion and some college for entry into the force. The plan will be presented to the council in September.

Such moves toward a more professional department are necessary, experts say, in great part because police work can make officers more vulnerable to issues that lead to misconduct.

One of the very things that makes police work possible -- the intense loyalty among fellow officers -- is also what can lead to poor decision-making in the name of what might be described as "having someone's back."

"It's the flipside of the good cohesion that we try to generate for police officers to embolden them to do a very difficult job," Newman said. "There's a negative side, too -- this protection."

It's a slippery slope, he said.

"First, maybe, it's just minor professional courtesies," Newman said, "but it can slide down the slope and become so pervasive that it can rise to the level of misconduct and sometimes serious misconduct."

Henry Karlson, a professor emeritus at Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis and a longtime observer of the Indianapolis police force, believes there are strong elements of that here.

"You start with not giving (a fellow officer a ticket) for speeding," Karlson said. "And then you stop one of your fellow officers and he's got a little alcohol on his breath, and you know that if he got arrested for drunk driving he could lose his job. So you give him a ride home or you ticket him for the speeding but not the alcohol.

"I've had police tell me that since they were state police officers in Indiana that police in other states wouldn't give them traffic tickets. So its just part of the fraternity. But in Indianapolis it's gotten out of control."

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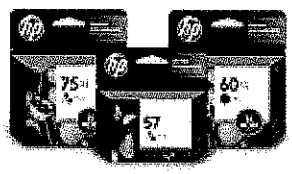

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Experts say there also is a very strong "us versus them" mentality among some officers.

Brian Kingshott, a former police officer and associate professor at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, explained the police mentality this way: They see themselves as the good guys and see the public too often as people who just don't understand what it means to be a police officer.

"Anyone who criticizes the police," Kingshott said, "is against them. It's a very closed mentality."

What happens -- and it has happened in Indianapolis, Karlson said -- is a minority of disgruntled police officers begins to regard the department less as a law-enforcement organization and more like a fraternity.

It's a problem recognized by Straub. He told The Star last week that warning signs in at least a couple of the recent cases of police misconduct could have been noticed, either by fellow rank-and-file officers or supervisors.

Officer Nhat Nguyen, accused of putting a citizen in a headlock, had anger management problems, Straub said. Sgt. Stephen Richard Blinn had faced pressures brought on by financial problems that might have contributed to his firing a gun in his squad car during a domestic dispute, he said.

And then there is officer David Bisard, who is accused of slamming his car into three motorcyclists, killing one. A blood test later revealed a blood-alcohol level of 0.19 -- more than twice the level at which a driver is considered drunk in Indiana -- but that evidence has been tossed, along with all alcohol-related charges, because officers botched the blood test by not having it performed by someone certified.

"It's about doing the right thing," Straub said. "That's saying to an officer, 'You need help,' and getting it for them. We have ignored people, and trouble has followed. Inaction by supervisors or someone else led to unnecessary incidents."

Fraternal Order of Police President Bill Owensby disputed that, saying the problem is not willful inaction but supervisors who are not trained to spot mental health issues.

"If the director has said that we saw it and didn't report it, that speaks in my mind of a cover-up," he said, "and I don't think that's the case at all. I don't think we've

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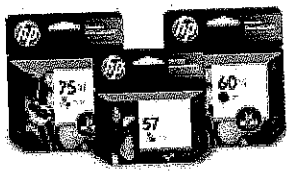

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educated our supervisors enough to recognize when they have an officer in trouble."

But if a culture of loyalty can protect bad police officers, experts say morale often determines whether they misbehave in the first place.

Feelings of being undervalued or undercompensated -- in the absence of good rules and oversight -- can motivate those officers already predisposed to act out.

"When people think they're being treated unfairly, they're likely to start not following the rules," Karlson said. "It starts with something small like not giving traffic tickets to other police officers. It ends with something like drunk driving resulting in death, and they cover it up."

Owensby said letting fellow police officers off for speeding was once a part of department culture, but not anymore.

"I can't remember the last time I heard of an officer getting stopped and getting a break like that," he said.

In Indianapolis, there are specific morale issues.

Newman thinks the controversial 2007 merger of IMPD with the Marion County Sheriff's Department left police feeling like "a political football."

By 2009, "it started to settle," he said. "People started to get into good positions and make a difference, and the feeling of being devalued that occurred during the political battles started to subside."

Karlson blamed a change in leadership for a drop in morale in 2010. He said Straub, who took over the public safety director position in December 2009, has overstepped the authority of Police Chief Paul Ciesielski, alienating officers -- a complaint Owensby echoed loudly.

"Every policy decision, every promotion, every demotion -- Straub is announcing it, and it's not Straub's police department," Owensby said. "It's Paul Ciesielski's police department. You don't see (Straub) doing it to the fire department."

Straub's hands-on approach, experts said, is a manifestation of someone coming in from the outside, which is precisely what Newman and others thought was necessary. But police departments, in particular, are not receptive to outsiders -- or change.

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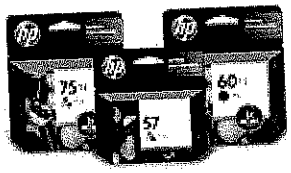

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Police departments, said DeBoard, the former IMPD officer now at Kaplan College, tend to foster a culture of employees who are authorities, loyal, secretive, conservative, suspicious, individualist and honorable. They often come from similar background -- blue-collar or military -- and that binds them.

Change too quickly or without proper consultation only hardens the "us versus them" mentally, DeBoard said, and that can lead to new discipline problems.

"Everybody wants to see change quickly, but it just doesn't work that way," he said. "It won't work until everyone, from commanders to every member of the rank and file, is addressed."

But there is one change -- one that might break down those "us versus them" barriers -- upon which Straub and the rank-and-file agree.

It is a step unprecedented in Indianapolis, and one that has met with success in other cities: He's trying to bridge the gap between a fairly homogenous police force and diverse neighborhoods.

The Police Executive Research Forum report recommended that more recruits need to come from diverse backgrounds, and be educated in diversity and in how to talk to people. In their field training, only one of the 23 standards recruits are measured on involves how they relate to citizens. Cultural diversity training at the academy is an hour long.

"This is not adequate time to expose recruits to other cultures," the report says, "let alone teach them how to interact with persons of different backgrounds."

This month, representatives from five cultural groups talked to police recruits about how to interpret physical and verbal cues from people of different backgrounds.

The department also formed a multicultural civilian review board to make policy recommendations and suggest improvements at the academy. And cultural awareness training will be integrated into the 24 hours of refresher courses that officers are required to take each year.

That's one change Owensby can endorse:

"I think we need to reach out to the community and have better relations," he said. "I think that is absolutely one of the things we need to be focused on."

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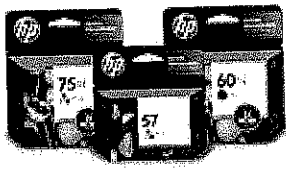

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RECOMMENDATION FOR TERMINATION
FROM JANUARY 2007 TO APRIL 2012

1.	Kevin Kelly	OWI?	02/29/12	Retirement ?
2.	Tharp, Michael	Conduct in college dorms OD.	02/13/12	
3.	Wright, Douglas	Out of County Residence	01/20/12	Moved in??
4.	Forrest, Mike	Patronizing Prostitute on/duty	11/22/11	
5	Butler, David	Theft	05/10/11	
6.	Oliver Clouthier	Repeated Offense- Conduct	02/16/11	DISMISSED
7	Snyder, Hector	Residence out of County	03/24/11	Retired
8.	P.O. Fleck, Kyle	DUI	08/18/11	Resigned
9.	Bisard, David	DWI/Reckless Homicide	08/10/10	
10.	Dinsmore, David	Forged Prescriptions	09/23/10	Resigned
11.	Elam David	Hit and Run/Cover-up	06/15/10	
12.	Grelecki, Michael	Performance (Probationary)	05/01/10	Resigned
13.	Blinn, Steven	Battery/Confinement	08/10/10	Retired
14.	Nguyen Nhat	Excessive Use of Force	07/16/10	Terminated
15.	Piland, Jerry	Excessive Use of Force	06/10/10	Not Guilty
16.	Russell, Jesse	Arsonist	05/27/10	Resigned
17.	Courtney Harris	Confinement/Sex on duty	01/10/10	Resigned
18.	Foreman, Robert	O.J. Residency 11 years.	08/29/09	Resigned
19.	Odle, Steve	DUI (nl)	09/24/09	Retired
20.	Wilson, William	Domestic Battery	10/22/09	Retired
21.	Jefferson, Bobby	Theft from arrested subject	10/21/09	6 mos. Susp. .
22.	P.O. Jeremy Lee	Promoting Prostitution	10/09/08	Resigned
23.	Ingalls, James	Sex on duty	08/18/08	Resigned
24.	Benjamin, Leon	DUI (nl)	08/12/08	Retired
26.	Davis, James	Possession/Selling	06/19/08	Resigned
27.	Duke, Noble	Federally charged	03/18/08	Resigned
28.	Edwards, Jason	Theft from arrested	04/18/08	Resigned
29.	Barber, Jason	Sold Handgun to Felon	06/27/08	Pending m.b.
30.	Long, Robert	Drug Trafficking	06/19/08	Resigned
31.	Poindexter, Chris	Falsifying acc. Report	08/14/08	Terminated
32.	Scott, Johnn	Force/Repeated violations	06/30/08	4 mos. Susp.
33.	Smith, Anthony	Confinement/sex on duty	08/19/08	Terminated
29.	Nygren, Josh	DUI	03/01/07	Resigned
30.	Clouthier, Oliver	Stalking	07/20/07	6 mos. Susp.

YELLOW - CRIMINAL CHARGES [redacted]
GREY – OVERTURENED BY MERIT BOARD

22/30 either retired or resigned
2 received 6 mos suspensions
1 received 4 mos suspension
4 cases pending
1 dismissed

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Police Officer Accused Of Setting Apartment Blaze

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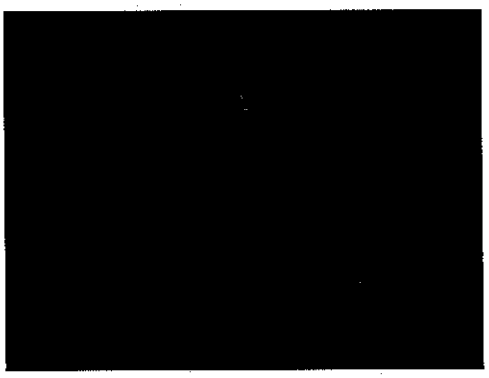

Sources: Officer Would Set Fires, Call In To Alert Police

POSTED: 8:34 pm EDT May 27, 2010
UPDATED: 6:52 am EDT May 28, 2010

INDIANAPOLIS -- An Indianapolis police officer was arrested on Thursday, accused of setting fire to an east side apartment building, police said.

Jesse Russell Jr., 31, was preliminarily charged with two counts of felony arson in two fires set at the Lakeview Terrace Apartments, near 21st Street and Mitthoeffer Road, on May 14, 6News' Jack Rinehart reported.

Sources close to the investigation told Rinehart that Russell set the fire and then called police from a nearby pay phone.

Russell's fingerprints were found on the pay phone and a can of gasoline was discovered in his truck, the sources said.

Sgt. Paul Thompson said Russell, a three-year veteran of the force, resigned after his arrest. He said a mug shot would not be released for investigative reasons.

"People you trust and look up to and respect," said resident Toby Conrad. "If it is a police officer, that's too bad."

An Indianapolis fire spokesperson told 6News that they appreciate the hard work of investigators to bring a sense of closure to residents in the area.

Watch 6News and refresh this page for updates.

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fox59.com/news/wxin-indianapolis-police-officer-arrested-veteran-impd-officer-arrested-for-robbery-official-misconduct-20110429,0,847178.story

fox59.com

Veteran IMPD officer accused of stealing from drivers during traffic stops

A 23-year veteran IMPD officer was arrested Friday on charges of robbery and official misconduct. Investigators accuse Officer David Butler of pulling people over and then stealing from them and threatening to arrest them.

By Heather MacWilliams

Fox59

4:47 PM EDT, April 29, 2011

Indianapolis

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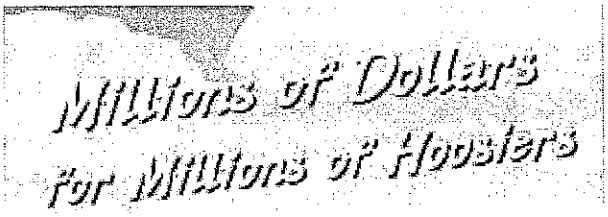
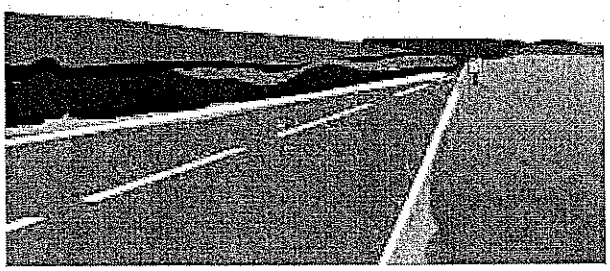


A 23-year IMPD veteran is accused of stealing from drivers during traffic stops. A three-month long investigation revealed a pattern of disturbing behavior by 52-year-old David Butler who was arrested on two counts of burglary and two counts of official misconduct Friday.



According to the probable cause affidavit, on January 12, Officer David Butler pulled over Emiliano Vasquez at a Marathon Gas Station without an explanation. Butler ordered Vasquez to get out of his truck and to stand at the rear of the truck. Before doing so, though, Butler told him to leave his wallet and cell phone on the driver's seat. According to Vasquez, Butler then searched the driver's compartment.

After the search Vasquez said Butler told him that he could have arrested him but wouldn't unless he saw him driving again. Vasquez said after the officer left he proceeded to pump his gas, but when he went into pay, he noticed he was missing $700 from his wallet.

It was a similar story on September 27, 2010. Andres Salazar was pulled over by Officer Butler. He told Salazar to give him his wallet and stand behind the vehicle while Butler searched the car. After the search Salazar was told by Butler not to drive again. Afterwards Salazar noticed $2,000 was missing from his wallet.

During an IMPD investigation, Officer Brian Finley revealed to his supervisor that Butler once told him, "if he knew a fellow officer was recorded on a video doing something wrong he would destroy the video for them."

During an interrogation, Officer Butler denied taking any money and said he was only searching the vehicles for guns or knives.

The prosecutor's office said it was those two reports that helped them arrest Butler.

"I commend the IMPD Professional Standards Unit for initiating and completing a thorough investigation into Officer Butler's actions," said Prosecutor Terry Curry (D). "Their investigation uncovered a repetitive pattern of behavior by Officer Butler, a pattern of behavior which plainly violated the trust the public placed in him. We look forward to prosecuting this case vigorously to its conclusion."

Mayor Ballard echoed the prosecutor's comments.

"Today's arrest of IMPD police officer David Butler demonstrates my administration's commitment to hold accountable any officer whose conduct tarnishes the police department's badge and disregards the oath they took to protect the Indianapolis community. The alleged actions of this individual officer do not diminish the outstanding police work being done by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department or its commitment to protecting our City with dignity, integrity and respect," said Mayor Greg Ballard (R) in a statement released to the media.

Police are asking anyone who feels they may have been involved in a similar incident on the northwest side to contact Detective Shani Anderson, IMPD Professional Standards Division at 317-327-2944.

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Police Brutality in Indianapolis

From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Oct. 21:

INDIANAPOLIS- Four Indianapolis police officers were indicted yesterday by a grand jury investigating an incident in which off-duty members of the city's emergency Mobile Field Force harassed and beat men and women while partying in a busy downtown entertainment district.

The Aug. 27 incident, known as the "policemen's brawl", is one in a series of bizarre and brazen behavior by city police officers, who, critics say, are undisciplined, arrogant and dangerous to the very public health that they are sworn to protect.

Other incidents cited by those critics:

In April, a nine-year veteran of the department was forced to resign and then indicted on nine felony charges of bribery, sexual battery and sexual misconduct after at least five women complained that he had threatened to arrest them if they didn't have sex with him. He had used his patrol car computer to get their names, addresses and phone numbers after noting their license plates.

In March, a city police officer was arrested after a 15-mile chase by an Indiana State trooper. He was stopped for driving more than 100 mph on an interstate through town. The officer was hurrying because he was late for a training session with his police dog.

Also in March, an Indianapolis police officer was demoted after he was videotaped at a Sovereign Patriots militia meeting in his police uniform. On the videotape aired by a local television station, the police officer referred disparagingly to Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, who is Jewish, as "Goldstein", and boasted that he did not believe in enforcing laws requiring seat belts or motorcycle helmets.

Many, but not all, of the complaints about abusive city police behavior have come from black civilians and black city police officers, who say an "old boy" network has protected the city's white police officers and bred arrogance.

The demonstrations are a response to not only the incidents listed above, but to a long history of abusive police behavior in the city's black neighborhood, critics said.

They noted that city officials and others are only addressing the issue now because the "policemen's brawl" occurred in the downtown area in front of at least 50 witnesses, both black and white. Initially, Mayor Goldsmith briefly postponed his hotly contested gubernatorial campaign to deal with the matter. It has been particularly troublesome for him not only because of his election fight but also because one of the officers involved lives with Goldsmith's longtime personal assistant, who attended the ball game but not the post game events.

In addition, Goldsmith was forced to ask for the resignation of Police Chief after it was revealed that just two days after the brawl he joined some of the accused officers at another baseball game.

TheIndyChannel.com

3 IMPD Officers Arrested On Drug Charges

Related To Story

Feds: Men Face Marijuana Trafficking Charges

POSTED: 6:25 am EDT June 17, 2008
UPDATED: 6:13 pm EDT June 17, 2008

INDIANAPOLIS -- Three Indianapolis police officers face federal charges of drug trafficking for what prosecutors called a conspiracy that involved raids on a home and an apartment and the theft of money and several pounds of marijuana.

An indictment unsealed Tuesday named police officers Robert B. Long, 34, Jason P. Edwards, 36, and James Davis, 33.

It described Long as a narcotics detective and the leader of a conspiracy this spring to possess marijuana with the intent to distribute.

All three officers were arrested by the FBI. It was not immediately known whether they had defense attorneys.

The indictment said the officers talked in code by telephone and that Long tipped a fourth defendant named in the indictment, Kabec Higgins, 31, about police plans to search his business, Ear Candy Muzik.

Long also seized a FedEx parcel containing up to 13 pounds of marijuana, the indictment states. About eight pounds were removed and sold for $4,000. Long then turned in nearly five pounds from the parcel to a police narcotics vault to cover up the missing portion.

The court document also indicated Long and Davis entered an apartment looking for marijuana, and the three officers took five pounds of the drug and $18,300 from a home during a June 4 break-in.

After that break-in, Davis "wiped the interior door handle and lock with his gloves in an attempt to clean off any fingerprints," the indictment stated.

It also indicated that Long and Davis illegally seized $20,000 from a person they thought was selling marijuana in March. Davis also was accused of "illegally stopping cars" to seize money.

"(The officers) reportedly committed acts in uniform, using police vehicles, displaying a bogus search warrant, breaking into private property and diverting seized drugs and cash to their personal benefit," said U.S. Attorney Tim Morrison.

The three officers face counts alleging drug trafficking and possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

Long, Davis and Edwards were held Tuesday in the Marion County Jail.

"I'm very much disgusted and outraged at the conduct of a small number of officers who chose to disrespect the trust that the public has in them," said Indianapolis Metro Police Chief Michael Spears.

"Nobody likes for this thing to happen, but it's important that it's rooted out," said Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard.

Edwards was charged in March with forgery and theft. Police said he stole a $725 money order during a search of a drug suspect's home and cashed it for himself.

Previous Stories:

- March 10, 2008: Police: Officer Stole Money Order From Suspect's Home

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1974

Drue Myers News

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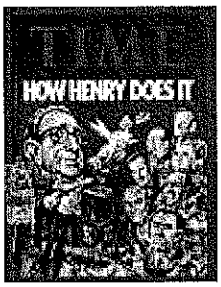

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TIME

Monday, Apr. 01, 1974

The Press: Indianapolis Cleanup

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CASES THE MERIT BOARD HEARD - CHIEF REQUESTED TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION - 1993 TO JULY 2010.

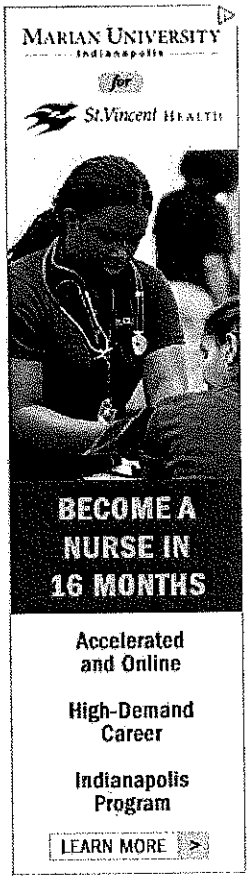
OFFICER	TERMINATED	
Fran Ashton Butler, David Jason Barber Pendley	Yes	
Vern Blackford David Bisard Steve Blinn	Yes	
Steve Carel	Yes	
Rickie Clark	Yes	(suspension)
Oliver Clouthier Oliver Clouther #2 Pendley	NO	
Steven Dubois Dana Densmore	Yes	suspension) (15 days instead of 30)
Troy Fitts Elam, Matt	NO	
Jerry Gillespie	Yes	
Jerome Hansman	Yes	
Jason Hansman	Yes	
Frank Hittle	Yes	(suspension)
Vincent Huber	NO	(demotion) suspension instead
Bobby Jefferson	NO	6 month suspension
Rita Lardizabol	Yes	
Shannon McComas	Yes	(suspension) *resulted in change to G.O.
Norm Mathews	Yes	Drug test
Jeff Myers	Yes	
Robert Neeley	Yes	
Dulen Nelson	N0	(demotion) suspension instead
Jackie Pedigo	Yes	
Jerry Piland	No	
Christopher Poindexter	Yes	
Dennis Riley	Yes	
Johnn Scott	NO	
Susan Shaffer	Yes	
Anthony Smith	Yes	
Michelle Sultzer Hector Snyder	NO	(6 months suspension instead)
Bruce Vanbuskirk	Yes	
John Walton	NO	
Al Watson	NO	(masked drug test) * resulted in change to G.O.
James Witherspoon	Yes	
Rodney White	NO	(suspended)

Jason Barber

1993 - 2010

CASES WHERE OFFICERS RESIGNED/RETIRED/CONVICTED *BEFORE* MERIT BOARD

Charles Betz
John Beegle
Leon Benjamin
Bryan Bierod
Ronald Black
Steve Blinn
Wilbur Braxton
Mark Burke
Mark Conway
Scott Cooper
Charles Crocker
Justin Cross
Brad Dairl
Noble Duke
Jason Edwards
Thomas Feemster
Kyle Fleck
Ray Foreman
Eric Francis
Shay Foley
Courtney Harris
Robert Howard
James Ingalls
Francis Ingram
Jeremy Lee
Robert Long
Shannon McComas
Joshua Nygren
Jason Park
Myron Powell
Jesse Russell
Michael Smith
Fred Smith
Doug Sweeney > Hector Svydan
Paul Tutsie
Vega, Lynette
John Walton
Tamela White
Jonathan Wilson
William Wilson (demotion)
John Walton (demotion)



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WEEKEND

druzifer
20 August 2010 @ 12:01 pm
INDIANAPOLIS POLICE CORRUPTION HAS DEEP ROOTS

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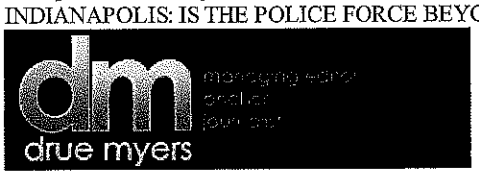
druzifer
05 September 2010 @ 05:56 pm
INDIANAPOLIS: IS THE POLICE FORCE BEYOND REPAIR?



The storm that's swirling around the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department seems so severe at times, it's easy to lose fact that the allegations of corruption involve, at this point, only a handful of officers mostly at the management level. Is it, in fact, to much to ask for leadership by example? If that is our expectation, can the IMPD be fixed or is it doomed to continue it's trek of public disgust and mistrust?

The IMPD is a baby as far as law enforcement agencies are concerned. It has only been in existence a short time, a merger of the former Indianapolis Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Department. It's rank and file are, for the most part, the same men and women that were patrolling the streets of Indianapolis and Marion County for several years but it's management and command structure are where the changes really are. If the IMPD is truly being led by example, the people of Indianapolis are in a hell of a lot of trouble.

The merger of the IMPD came from the Indianapolis Police Department and Marion County Sheriff's Department.

There are 90,000 Google entries under the subject of Indianapolis Police corruption. The roots of a tainted culture of malfeasance among police that dates back to 1974 when the Indianapolis Star did a series of articles uncovering officers involved in prostitution, both as paid "protectors" and nonpaying patrons. Police shakedowns of drug pushers and users are "a way of life" in the Indianapolis underworld. Some policemen regularly traffic in stolen goods according to the Star's 1974 report. Chiefs were fired and a former Secret Service agent was brought in by then Mayor Richard Lugar to clean up the IPD. I suspect they may have rooted out some of the rogue cops but it is likely that several decided to lay low and wait out the scrutiny. It wouldn't be long before the IPD was under investigation...again.

On July 25, 1995, Danny Sales was arrested by a police sergeant and allegedly beaten. The next day, Sales went to file a complaint at the North District police station, but was dissatisfied with the officers' response so he started a protest in front of the station at 42nd Street and College Avenue. He was joined by approximately one hundred protesters, and a similar number of police officers responded and attempted to disperse them, using tear gas, K-9 (police dog) units, and armored riot vehicles. The confrontation soon turned violent, with protesters and others looting stores and throwing bricks, rocks and pieces of concrete. Mayor Stephen Goldsmithtermed the melee a "mini-riot." Unrest continued for days, at differing levels, with twenty-seven arrested for disorderly conduct; there were also injuries to those pelted with debris.

The FBI reportedly began investigating the Sales altercation a few days later, after the chief requested their assistance. Although Sales did not immediately file a formal complaint with city agencies or with police monitoring groups, friends claimed that he was handcuffed and then beaten by "jump-out boys," described by the friends as officers who jump out of cars and chase black youths who are acting "suspiciously."

Mayor Goldsmith, toward the end of the disturbances, said, "People want officers to be more respectful to those who aren't involved in crime. We want to encourage that....[T]he police aren't completely perfect." Police Chief James Toler resigned as chief soon thereafter, reportedly telling a community leader that his "hands were tied" in dealing with problem officers. The fact that Sales's allegation led to such turmoil seemed to reveal a reservoir of distrust and anger in the minority community toward police.

Just over a year later, nine apparently intoxicated off-duty officers started fights and yelled racial epithets, beat passers-by, and harassed women in a busy downtown neighborhood on August 27, 1996; at least one officer reportedly pulled his gun on the citizens during the melee. The incident received national media attention,leading Police Chief Donald Christ to step down "in the best interest of the department as well as the city."

More than a dozen officers who were present during the altercations were reassigned to desk duty. Four were subsequently indicted on battery, disorderly conduct and other charges relating to the incident, and three others were found to have violated department rules. On October 25, 1997, the four officers' trial ended with a hung jury, and prosecutors indicated they would retry the case. Instead, a deal was struck and two of the officers resigned with some back pay (with officials explaining that they had been suspended without pay beyond the six-month limit and were eligible for back pay) while two others remained on the force. As part of the deal, the officers acknowledged their disorderly conduct and received counseling but no jail time; one of the officers still faced felony charges relating to this and another incident.

Now, cops in Indianapolis are at the center, again, of an FBI investigation that centers around there investigation of one of there own. Officer David Bisard was allegedly driving his police car at 70 miles an hour with a BAC of .19 when he slammed into a group of stopped motorcyclists killing one and critically injuring two others. The investigation was so inept that DUI charges against Bisard were thrown out. Last week, surveillance devices were discovered in the office of an IMPD deputy chief who has been involved in an on-site altercation with an Indiana State Trooper reportedly over a personal matter involving one of the officer's wives.

Regardless of the circumstances surrounding lawlessness by police officers in Indiana, it seems the Fraternal Order of Police is first in line to defend the actions, usually well

before all the facts are known. On the other side are disgruntled citizens who hate the police and will look for any opportunity to take them down. In the middle are the rest of us and the political leaders we elect whose hands are frequently tied by civil service laws passed to protect those who wear the badge. Policies were clearly broken in the IMPD regarding the Bisard case yet revelations have been slow in coming and reaction by IMPD management is questionable at best.

I doubt seriously that corruption has ever been rooted from the Indianapolis Police Department and the problems today in the IMPD are carry-overs, at least in part, from that agency. There is also the matter of the merger between agencies. Indiana police officers frequently see Sheriff's deputies as "lesser or inadequate" in function largely based on historical differences and turf wars. The Indianapolis merger has brought with it a lot of finger pointing at which elements are more and less professional. This merger which forced officers from the IPD and MCSD to work side by side for public safety and order and likely has a significant number of officers, some of whom are in management positions, we are simply riding time to retire. There is no doubt that a lot of them long for the good ole days before the merger.

The problem in Indianapolis is also one of perception. The public perceives this agency as broken and in need of repair. Those inside law enforcement and observers on the outside suggest this will be more difficult to achieve with civil service laws what they are. A retired Indianapolis Police officer said "you can demote the bad apples all you want, but it will not rid this department of the bad attitudes." In the end, that may be the reality of the IMPD. While it might be possible to prosecute some for wrong doing, fire a couple of more, it will never be possible to rid this department of the elements that have likely been destroying it for decades.