4 Memphis police officers indicted after undercover investigation

Instead of arresting the women on prostitution charges, four officers or former officers are accused of kidnapping and raping them.

In announcing the indictments by a Shelby County grand jury on Monday, Memphis Police Director Larry Godwin stated that corrupt officers "are no different from any other thugs," and vowed to go after any crooked cops. Three of the officers have resigned.

Charges include aggravated kidnapping, aggravated rape, official misconduct, official oppression, sexual battery by an authority figure, official misconduct and official oppression.

Three were assigned to the Mt. Moriah Station in East Memphis and one was part of the Memphis Police DUI Unit.

The four officers are:

James George, 52, an officer since 1996.
Daniel Wallace, 44, an officer since 2003.
Larry Orange, 44, an officer since 1994.

The four bring to at least 29 the number of Memphis Police officers or police civilian employees indicted since 2004.

In the most recent indictments, three of the officers were on duty at the time of the alleged offenses.

Information about the officers began to surface when the department's Organized Crime Unit began a wide-ranging assault on drug dealing and prostitution earlier this year, an effort that has netted more than 235 arrests so far.

Once it appeared Memphis Police officers could be involved in wrongdoing, OCU officers called in the Inspectional Services Bureau, the department's internal affairs unit, to investigate the officers.

Godwin did not want to reveal details of the investigation, which he said is ongoing, but said some of the information leading to the charges came from the victims, who were prostitutes.

"We will rid our department of thugs who want to wear the blue," Godwin vowed.
Three of the officers, he said, were hired in the mid- and late-1990s, when some standards were lowered as the city pushed hard to hire several hundred officers a year.

In one graduating class, then-Director Walter Winfrey requested waivers from the state Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission for 28 candidates who had arrest records for offenses such as drunken driving and theft. That number constituted nearly one-third of the recruit class.

Godwin has largely discontinued the practice of seeking waivers, with rare exceptions.

From 1996 to 2001, when Winfrey or Walter Crews was the police director, a total of 95 waivers were granted. Just more than half of those officers remain on the force today.

From 2005, when Godwin took over as director, until 2008, there were 11 waivers granted. All of those officers remain on the force.

Of the four officers indicted, only Woods, who was commissioned in January 1998, received a waiver, for driving without a license, a charge later dismissed.

George did not get a waiver when he was commissioned in April 1996, but was terminated from the MPD following an arrest, according to the standards and training commission. He was reinstated in March 2007 after the charge was dismissed.

Godwin said the investigation continues and he may refer the allegations to the U.S. Attorney's office for federal prosecution.

"These are very serious, violent charges against individuals sworn to protect the public and uphold the law," said Dist. Atty. Gen. Bill Gibbons.

-- Chris Conley: 529-2595

Memphis Police Officers Indicted

James George, 52, an officer since April 1996, most recently assigned to the Mt. Moriah Station as a patrolman, resigned April 9.

He has been charged in three indictments for offenses alleged to have occurred within the past year: taking a 40-year-old prostitute off the street against her will and raping her; kidnapping another prostitute and raping her on Nov. 28, 2008; and kidnapping and raping an underage girl on Sept. 25, 2008, with Daniel Wallace.

Wallace, 44, an officer since December 2003, most recently assigned to the Mt. Moriah Station, resigned April 9.

He is accused of taking part with George in the alleged kidnapping and rape of an underage girl on Sept. 25, 2008.

He is accused of kidnapping and raping a prostitute sometime in 2008.

Larry Orange, 44, an officer since January 1994, most recently assigned to the police department's DUI unit, is on nonenforcement status pending an administrative hearing.

He is accused of aggravated statutory rape and sexual battery of an underage girl in August or September 2008.

TOPICS: Conspiracy; Local News
KEYWORDS: cultureofcorruption; donutwatch; memphis

James George

Daniel Wallace
Three of the officers, he said, were hired in the mid- and late-1990s, when some standards were lowered as the city pushed hard to hire several hundred officers a year.

But some standards never change. Memphis STILL requires its police officers to reside in Memphis.

I am not surprised......
To: wardaddy; Black Agnes

I’m shocked!

4 posted on April 21, 2009 2:35:17 PM PDT by Travis McGee ("Foreign Enemies And Traitors" will be ready the first week of May.)

To: SmithL

That’s what you get when you lower standards to fill quotas.

5 posted on April 21, 2009 2:42:27 PM PDT by Leftism is Mentally Deranged (liberalism is self-loathing despair)

To: SmithL

Well, I guess the other aspect of the lower standards was the department was striving to bring diversity to the force.

6 posted on April 21, 2009 2:53:44 PM PDT by Bulldawg Fan (Victory is the last thing Murtha and his fellow Defeatists want.)

To: Bulldawg Fan

They still won’t let qualified people from outside the county join and have over a hundred openings with no qualified applicants.

7 posted on April 21, 2009 2:57:15 PM PDT by ebshumidors

To: SmithL

they all look like Johns even a Prostitute would turn down... burn them.

8 posted on April 21, 2009 3:12:27 PM PDT by Chode (American Hedonist - Obama is basically Jim Jones with a teleprompter)
To: Bulddawg Fan

Well, I guess the other aspect of the lower standards was the department was striving to bring diversity to the force.

Funny how those two seem to go hand in hand.

9 posted on April 21, 2009 3:24:49 PM PDT by OpeEdMunkey (We seem to have reached a critical mass of stupid people.)
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To: SmithL

Bit off topic, but the last time I was in Memphis, four MPD uniforms, came into a coffee shop where I was having lunch.
One sat in the booth, while three chairs were brought for the others who couldn't fit in - as the table was too close to the seats.< Those folks are a tad large there.

10 posted on April 21, 2009 6:45:03 PM PDT by investigateworld (Abortion stops a beating heart.)
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