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Drug bust didn't turn out the way informant hoped

By JOE SWICKARD
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Chad Povish saw a can't-lose rosy future in the two duffle bags stuffed with more than 100 pounds of cocaine.

"So I figured that I would do really well off this case," Povish testified in 2008, under a Michigan attorney general's investigative subpoena. "Help out a lot of people, make an impact on the drug trade, be happy about myself and move on."

Until March 11, 2005, a 1-ounce deal was the biggest score that Povish -- a small-time snitch with a minor criminal record -- had ever made for the Inkster narcotics squad.

But setting up a bust that yielded 47 kilos of pure Mexican cartel cocaine?

"Definitely off the charts," he told state prosecutors William Rollstin and John Dakmak.

The careers, reputations and freedom of a top Wayne County prosecutor, two honored Inkster cops and a respected judge and community leader are on the line because they used perjury to protect Povish from exposure as the secret informant in one of the state's biggest drug busts.

"You just don't give up your informants," Scott (Rex) Rechtzigel, the former sergeant in charge of Inkster's drug squad, said in an interview.

And retired Judge Mary Waterstone told investigators that if Povish's role was known Friday, he'd be dead by Monday.

Povish said he expected 10%-20% of everything seized from the dealer, Alex Aceval. He said he figured his cut was worth \$100,000 minimum.

It would have been quite a step up. In his career as paid confidential informant No.94350, Povish, according to Inkster police records, was paid \$4,198 for 15 cases. He also was given a 1989 Bronco and a 1992 Chevrolet that had been impounded.

For the Aceval case, he was paid \$4,050. Povish, 39, said he was thinking of suing for the rest of the money.

In the meantime, he asked prosecutors from the Michigan Attorney General's Office for help in changing his name.

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