

2nd ex-detective charged in prostitution ring

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By Sadie Gurman, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for tomorrow for a former Pittsburgh narcotics detective charged last week with involvement in a prostitution ring that police say was operated by another former city detective.

Moon police on Friday arrested Faquar "Terry" Holland, 39, of Charleroi, and charged him with promoting prostitution, conspiracy, dealing in the proceeds of illegal activity and corrupt organization. The counts against him stem from an investigation that started in March with the arrest of another former city officer, Talib Kevin Ghafoor, outside the Courtyard Marriott in Moon.

Police said Mr. Ghafoor, 55, of East Liberty, drove a prostitute to the hotel to meet with a customer, who turned out to be an undercover detective. The sting led police to an online sex ad, and soon detectives said they found more ads linked to Mr. Ghafoor's cell phone and e-mail address. At least one of the ads was for an escort service, while others were employment ads seeking "sexy ladies 18 years and over," and "women that want to make lots of \$\$\$\$," police wrote in a 21-page criminal complaint.

Cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses belonging to Mr. Holland appeared in some of the ads, police said.

Moon police Chief Leo McCarthy said this morning that unlike Mr. Ghafoor, Mr. Holland was cooperative with detectives, giving them "substantial statements" about his involvement. The chief was unsure what roles each of the men had in the ring's operation but said they worked together.

"He does admit to involvement in this," Chief McCarthy said.

Mr. Holland resigned in 2007 after police charged him with forgery and unsworn falsification to authorities in connection with a falsified real estate transaction. Police at the time said he forged documents to make an emergency withdrawal from his deferred compensation account and to avoid paying a large tax penalty. Court records show he pleaded guilty to forgery and was sentenced to probation.

Mr. Holland had been a star narcotics detective, was officer of the year and a member of the Street Response Unit before encountering disciplinary problems on the force.

Mr. Ghafoor, too, was a longtime narcotics detective. He made headlines in 2008 when he contradicted himself on the stand during a court hearing in a homicide case and later resigned under investigation for perjury, although he was not charged. The hearing concerned evidence in the 2006 drive-by slaying of high school student James Stubbs near Westinghouse High School.

Mr. Ghafoor initially denied having conversations with one of the defendants in jail but later acknowledged that he helped prepare the defense of the case and said he was "aligned with both defendants" after recordings of calls were played in court.

A district judge last month ordered Mr. Ghafoor to stand trial on the prostitution related charges.

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