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Ex-city cop gets prison for obstruction in prostitution case

Gets jail for role in prostitution case



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PHILADELPHIA - A former Reading police officer apologized before he was sentenced Monday in federal court here to 38 months in prison on charges that he obstructed the criminal investigation of the prostitution ring run by Paul S. "God" Sewell that used underage girls.

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Ronald R. Miko, 38, told U.S. District Judge C. Darnell Jones II that he never expected to be addressing a judge about committing a crime.

"I know what I did is wrong and I accept full responsibility," Miko said. "I am embarrassed before everyone in my life."

[Click here to read Holly Herman's blog](#)

Miko, a nine-year veteran of the force, pleaded guilty to obstructing justice.

"This is one of the worst crimes that anyone can do," Jones said. "The last thing that justice can endure is for someone to tamper with the law."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle L. Morgan asked for a sentence of four years.

"The defendant was a sworn officer who took an oath to protect the community," Morgan said. "Instead, he openly associated for several years with a person actively engaged in egregious crimes - crimes which ultimately resulted in the exploitation of children."

Morgan said that Miko associated with Sewell, who was running a well-known prostitution ring.

"By walking into a place where prostitution was occurring, Mr. Miko was ignoring his duty as a police officer," Morgan said.

Reading Police Chief William M. Heim said Miko was fired in January 2011 after an investigation revealed that he was involved in Sewell's operation.

His city salary was \$65,000 a year.

Morgan noted that Miko was a decorated officer with the U.S. Army and a college graduate.

"This intelligent and accomplished defendant entrusted with public safety appears to have been motivated by purely selfish reasons to engage in self-indulgent and ultimately self-protective behavior at the expense of all else, including his family," Morgan said.

Miko's lawyer, Fortunato N. Perri Jr. of Philadelphia, asked the judge for leniency.

According to court records:

Miko used a room in a house owned by Sewell - who called himself "God" - in the 200 block of North 10th Street. Sewell and Michael Johnson, 40, who resided with Sewell, pleaded guilty to prostitution charges and are in federal custody awaiting sentencing.

Between May 2 and June 7, 2011, Miko wired money to Johnson's federal prison account to keep Johnson, 41



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Ronald R. Miko

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Between May 2 and June 7, 2011, Miko wired money to Johnson's federal prison account to keep Johnson, 41, and Sewell, 46, quiet about Miko's involvement in the business.

Miko advised Sewell on how to set up the business and sometimes lived at the 10th Street property from about 2005 until it was raided by county detectives in July 2010.

Investigators said Miko also was Sewell's bodyguard.

Sewell is charged in a separate county case with sexually assaulting a city girl more than 20 times in his residence.

Police said the assaults occurred from September 2008 to July 2010, when the girl was 13 and 14.

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