

## **Sheriff Charged With Illegal Drug Possession**

*Sheriff Originally Arrested In January*  
October 12, 2007

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** -- Williamson County Sheriff Ricky Headley was indicted by a Nashville grand jury Friday on 33 charges related to illegal possession of prescription drugs. Headley, 43, was also indicted on Monday in Williamson County on four counts of official misconduct growing out of his Jan. 31 arrest on prescription drug charges.

The Nashville charges also stem from the arrest and include 17 felony counts related to his involvement in the unlawful distribution of a controlled substance and 16 misdemeanors.

"We arrested Sheriff Headley at that time and charged him with two counts of illegally obtaining prescription drugs. Those two charges were bound over to the grand jury. This morning, the Davidson County grand jury met and returned an indictment on Sheriff Headley," said Tennessee Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman Kristin Helm.

Headley's attorney, David Raybin, said each charge appears to stem from a different day that the sheriff is accused of obtaining the drugs.

"We were prepared for them," Raybin said. "He's not going to resign. We're going to move forward and fight these charges."

The sheriff is accused of obtaining at least 1,900 painkillers without a prescription between October 2006 and January 2007 from Brooks Pharmacy in Nashville. Headley has maintained his innocence but acknowledged an addiction for which he was seeking treatment. "He has pleaded not guilty to these charges and we're going to have a trial on this," said Raybin.

Investigators have said Headley wore his uniform and drove a county vehicle to the pharmacy on some occasions, which is the reason for the official misconduct charges. "My position is that's just not the law," Raybin said. "You can't make a felony just because someone's wearing a uniform. That would be just like (Nashville Police Chief Ronal Serpas) jaywalking in Williamson County and being charged with official misconduct for wearing his uniform."

Despite Friday's indictments, Headley's attorney is once again stressing his client's innocence and notes that he will not resign his position.

"He was elected to perform a job and he's doing that," said Raybin.

Headley, elected in 2002, is known in the suburban county just south of Nashville as the "singing sheriff" for his sideline interest in country music. He has performed at the county fair.

The owner of the pharmacy, Glenn Brooks, also was arrested and accused of dispensing prescription drugs to the sheriff and other customers. Charles Burton, a former state pharmacy board inspector, and Helen Michelle Weathers, a former Brooks Pharmacy employee, were also charged Friday because of their alleged involvement in the case.