

Lawyer says drug force officer welcomes TBI probe

Fairview officer says he never harmed dog

By Kevin Walters • The Tennessean • December 22, 2010

FRANKLIN — Former Fairview police sergeant Jamie Ferrell welcomes an inquiry by a state Bureau of Investigation agent into his activities, including the circumstances surrounding the death of a drug-sniffing police dog in 2008, according to Ferrell's lawyer.

High-profile Nashville attorney David Raybin, who now represents Ferrell, said his client is innocent of any wrongdoing and hopes a TBI investigation can be expedited so Ferrell might soon take an interdiction officer position with the 23rd Judicial District Drug Task Force, based in Dickson.

Ferrell, who was posted at the task force for several years while a Fairview police officer, was slated to start fulltime at the force on Dec. 17, when his hiring was suspended by task force officials, pending the outcome of the TBI's investigation.



The TBI is taking on the investigation of the Fairview Police Department at the behest of police Chief Terry Harris who sought the state's intervention to help clear up the rumors and allegations about his police force that he said have been rampant. Harris said Ferrell and fellow former officer Denny Anderson should be included as part of their inquiry, though he declined to give many specifics.

“(Ferrell) certainly understands that investigations have to be conducted in cases,” said Raybin, who's represented both former Williamson County Sheriff Ricky Headley and former state and Davidson County medical examiner Bruce Levy. “But he's done nothing wrong. He intends to answer all questions that the TBI put to him so the matter can be resolved so people can continue to have confidence in him and his work.”

Raybin wrote the TBI this week to prompt them to move forward on the case as quickly as possible.

For the past several years, Ferrell was supervised on the task force by his father, Jerry Ferrell. Jerry Ferrell is scheduled to retire on Dec. 31 leaving the supervisor's position open.

Jamie Ferrell, based on his experience level, could be promoted to his father's supervisor position on the task force with his father's retirement.

Raybin characterized Jamie Ferrell's police experience as including dozens of felony drug arrests, the recovery of hundreds of thousands of dollars in currency as well as the seizure of "tremendous amounts of drugs."

"We don't want that position to be filled by somebody else while this (investigation) goes on," Raybin said.

The task force patrols a portion of Interstate 40, focusing on Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys and Stewart counties.