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Grand jury adds 33 charges against Williamson sheriff

Headley accused of 21 felonies in pharmacy probe

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Williamson County Sheriff Ricky Headley now faces 37 criminal charges in connection with an investigation into a Nashville pharmacy.

On Friday, a Davidson County grand jury indicted Headley, 43, on 33 counts of obtaining and possessing pharmaceuticals illegally. On Monday, Headley was indicted on four counts of official misconduct by a Williamson County grand jury.

Headley remains free on \$7,000 bail and says he has no plans of giving up the sheriff's office. His attorney, David Raybin, said prosecutors have simply divided two drug charges into "smaller pieces."

Headley is charged with a total of 21 felonies and 16 misdemeanors. If convicted of a felony, he faces up to four years in prison and could be removed from office.

"The sheriff and I have reviewed these indictments and will enter a plea of not guilty," Raybin said. "The bottom line is no felonies have been committed by Sheriff Headley."

Others charged in probe

All of the charges stem from a two-year investigation of Brooks Pharmacy in Nashville. Headley was arrested in January and charged with two counts of obtaining pharmaceuticals by fraud. Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agents said Headley obtained at least 1,900 Lortab pills from the pharmacy between Oct. 2, 2006, and Jan. 20.

Investigators have said Headley wore his uniform and drove a county vehicle to the pharmacy and had his secretary, Michelle Corley, pick up pills and place orders for him.

Headley is scheduled to appear before a judge from Knoxville in a Williamson County courtroom on Oct. 23 for arraignment on the misconduct charges.

Two other people in the pharmacy probe also were indicted on new charges.

Charles Thomas Burton, a former inspector for the state pharmacy board, was indicted on 10 counts ranging from illegally dispensing drugs to casual possession. Five of those charges are felonies.

Helen Michelle Weathers, who worked at Brooks Pharmacy, was indicted on three counts — obtaining controlled substance by fraud, identity theft and possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell. All of the charges against Weathers are felonies.

The case against pharmacy owner Glen Brooks is being handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office.