



## TPD Whistleblower Lawsuit November 12, 2001



Investigative Reporter  
Glenn Selig



Det Chip DeBlock

Thirty-nine year old Chip DeBlock once was the backbone of the Tampa Police Department's Organized Crime Unit. But now he investigates runaways for a living. Fed up with what he claims is punishment for trying to do a good job, he's turning to the courts to clear his name. And you're reading about it first on FOX.

Detective DeBlock became the king of going undercover. We were there for Operation Body Scrub in 1998; a night where he and other officers raided Tampa's illegitimate adult businesses.

In a lawsuit filed today in Hillsborough Circuit Court, Detective DeBlock claims his career was on the rise until he tried to expose a connection between the adult businesses and public corruption. The suit claims DeBlock uncovered information concerning "...criminal or improper conduct by various public officials... including their alleged participation in the illicit lingerie business."



Tampa Police Department

For four years, DeBlock was a detective in the elite Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CIB) of the Tampa Police Department. The suit claims he discovered information about an assistant city attorney responsible for prosecuting his cases and alleged "connections to individuals involved in the adult entertainment business." The very businesses the city employee was supposed to be prosecuting.

In the suit, DeBlock says the asst. city attorney "relayed confidential information" to the targets of investigations and DeBlock says he had evidence that the city employee "improperly received compensation..." to fix cases. DeBlock claims he reported all the evidence he uncovered to high-ranking members of TPD, including the Police Chief. Not only that, he says he told the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. But he says no investigation into any of the allegations ever took place. Instead, DeBlock says in the suit, he became the subject of an Internal Affairs investigation where officials conspired to get him. He says, "assistant state attorneys... made various false or misleading allegations"

Six months ago, Internal Affairs cleared DeBlock of any wrong doing. But he is no longer part of an elite unit. Now he investigates runaways. He describes his current job as a dead-end position and punishment for doing his job too well.

TPD had no comment on the lawsuit.



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Good Day Tampa Bay](#) | [Weather](#) | [Sports](#) | [Contact 13](#) | [FOX.com](#)

Please read our [Legal Notices](#) and [Internet Privacy Policy](#).

Many pages in WTVT, FOX13's website feature links to other sites, some of which are operated by companies unrelated to WTVT, FOX13. WTVT, FOX13 has no control over the content or availability of any linked sites.