

Dec 10, 2002

Investigative Reporter
Glenn Selig

FDLE

Did agents with the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement ignore evidence of government corruption? FOX13 Investigates has learned FDLE has launched an "internal inquiry" into allegations made by Tampa Police Det. "Chip" DeBlock.

In a [FOX13 EXCLUSIVE](#), Det. DeBlock revealed he was investigating a courthouse scandal involving judges, assistant state attorneys and their connection to Tampa's underground sex industry.

"I received information from numerous sources of corruption activities involving public officials," says DeBlock, "and it also included activities in the lingerie shop businesses."

Yet the detective says FDLE agents ignored his evidence---evidence he says could've put some powerful people behind bars.



Dale "Chip" DeBlock

"If they don't want to do an investigation," says DeBlock, "then they should back up and document why they don't want to do that investigation."



"Jessica"

Det. DeBlock is not alone in accusing FDLE of refusing to investigate leads involving prominent officials. Now this woman, we'll call Jessica, is coming forward. She says FDLE also ignored her tip about corruption at the State Attorneys Office.

Jessica says she's met high-class clients at private parties in Tampa. At those parties she says she's seen several Hillsborough County assistant state attorneys using illegal drugs and paying for sex. It made her angry because she says those attorneys think they're above the law.

"I've been in trouble before," says Jessica, "and to have a state attorney standing there and doing cocaine and stuff and then hear him in the courtroom demanding a sentence it just really upset me."

She says two years ago she told the FDLE everything she knew about the assistant state attorneys. But she says an FDLE agent crossed the line.

She says the agent told one of the attorneys about her allegations—even gave that attorney her name.

"You don't ever reveal a confidential informant," says Jessica, "you don't ever go to the source just because they're a friend. If your friend breaks the law you do your job."

That assistant state attorney and others she identified never faced charges.

"It totally broke my trust with the FDLE. I will never work with that agency again," Jessica says.

Det. DeBlock says FDLE also let him down. In newly obtained documents, DeBlock claims an FDLE agent told him that the FDLE didn't want to get involved with drug and prostitution investigations of assistant state attorneys or anyone else in power at the Hillsborough County courthouse.

In the records he kept during the investigation DeBlock writes "the fact that the FDLE refused to investigate the matter and... considered supplying... information to the SAO (State Attorneys Office) was... (a) problem."

Det. DeBlock says he's encouraged by the internal inquiry and two FDLE agents from Tallahassee have interviewed him. Even so, he believes an outside agency with no ties to FDLE should determine whether agents refused to investigate government officials.

DeBlock once investigated the underground sex industry for a living and now investigates domestic violence cases for TPD.

LINKS:

[Hillsborough County Commissioners](#)

Click this link to email a county commissioner.

[Tampa City Council](#)

Click this link to contact a city council member.

[Gov. Jeb Bush](#)

Click this link to contact the Florida Governor.

[LEO Affairs](#)

Website started by Det. DeBlock to help whistleblower officers and those who become targets of Internal Affairs investigations.

