

courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-detective-prison-0805-20140804,0,7294013.story

Courant.com

Detective Sentenced For Stealing Permit Fees

By EDMUND H. MAHONY, emahony@courant.com

5:57 PM EDT, August 4, 2014

A former Hartford police detective was sentenced to six months of home confinement Monday advertisement after admitting that he stole \$30,000 in pistol permit fees from the department.

Federal prosecutors wanted Tishay Johnson, who was once shot while working undercover on a drug sting, to serve six months to a year in prison because they said he abused a position of public trust.

"Here, Mr. Johnson corrupted his office and betrayed the trust placed in him by the people of the City of Hartford," federal prosecutors said in written arguments. "He used his position to enrich himself at the expense of the people he was sworn to serve."

U.S. District Judge Robert N. Chatigny adopted Johnson's argument that he deserved leniency. Johnson's lawyer, Salvatore Bonanno, argued that Johnson stole to support a gambling habit – a compulsion that followed the shooting, Bonanno said.

"His gambling habit grew to the point where he would bet thousands of dollars, taking days off from work, without even telling his wife, to gamble at the casino." Bonanno said.

An account at the time of the shooting, in 2003, said Johnson, 40, of Windsor, was shot in the chest but escaped serious injury by wearing a bullet proof vest.

From late 2009 to January, Johnson managed his department's pistol permit program. Among other things, he reviewed pistol permit applications, accepted and deposited application fees, ordered background checks and approved qualified applicants.

Johnson was accused after an internal department investigation of altering checks from applicants, making them payable to himself or to cash.

He pleaded guilty to May to a charge of stealing from a government program that receives federal funds. He told department investigators that he spent the money on mortgage and car payments.

Johnson will have to submit to electronic monitoring when confined at his home and will be permitted to leave only for limited purposes such as employment.

Chatigny also ordered Johnson to serve three years of probation and repay the stolen money.

Copyright © 2014, [The Hartford Courant](http://www.courant.com)