

Whitey Bulger allegedly tied to drug dealing in S. Boston

By Judy Rakowsky
GLOBE STAFF

A federal grand jury is expected to hand up a fresh list of charges today that will flesh out a bare-bones racketeering indictment against fugitive James J. (Whitey) Bulger, charging Bulger for the first time with drug trafficking in his native South Boston.

And the evidence against Bulger, long held as the man who kept drugs out of Southie, will be provided in large part by his former lieutenant, Paul (Polecat) Moore, who recently began cooperating with prosecutors.

Moore, already imprisoned on a co-

caine trafficking conviction, is believed to have devastating details about Bulger's knowledge of and involvement in everyday drug dealing in South Boston.

Anticipation of the charges has apparently made other Bulger associates nervous. Kevin Weeks, a close Bulger ally, has already fled, sources said, even though he is not expected to be charged in this latest round of indictments.

Besides Moore, convicted drug dealer R. David Lindholm of Milton is expected to testify that he was forcibly taken to an East Boston meeting with Bulger, where a gun was pointed at his head.

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Whitey Bulger due to face drug charges

■ INDICTMENTS

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of drug profits in South Boston have circulated since 1990, when 51 people in the neighborhood were indicted after a federal Drug Enforcement Administration investigation.

Bulger has not been seen since January, when he and reputed Mafia boss Francis P. (Cadillac Frank) Sallemme fled federal extortion and racketeering charges.

Moore pleaded guilty in 1991 to cocaine distribution charges and until recently had been serving a federal prison term. Moore was served with a grand jury subpoena the day he was sentenced in that case, but his decision to help the prosecution is quite recent, according to sources.

Moore recently left his jail cell to meet with government investigators and never came back. According to sources, Moore is awaiting acceptance into the US marshal's witness protection program.

Lindholm was reportedly released from federal prison 37

months into an 8-year sentence and testified against convicted bomb builder Alfred Trenkler in the Roslindale bombing case in which a Boston police officer was killed.

Lindholm, according to sources, is prepared to tell a federal jury about an incident in 1983 in which he was threatened by Bulger and Stephen J. (The Rifleman) Flemmi. Sources said Lindholm will say he was summoned to East Boston, where he met with Joseph Yerardi, a recently convicted loanshark. They went to an upstairs apartment, and a gun was held to his head.

Also expected to help the prosecution is Jerry Matricia, a low-level North End Mafia associate who allegedly has been a drug dealer and a bookmaker.

Matricia's attempt to cheat Bulger's Winter Hill gang out of \$50,000 was mentioned on an FBI wiretap in 1981.

Matricia was shot at in East Boston last winter, but was not injured. He later decided to cooperate with FBI agents, sources said.