

Coke dealer cop gets 90 days

By NANCIE L. KATZ
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A moonlighting Manhattan cop who supplemented his wages as a bartender by selling cocaine got 90 days in jail yesterday.

Thomas Coyle, 39, could have gotten up to 25 years in prison, but under a plea deal reached last month with Brooklyn prosecutors, the 17-year veteran resigned from the force and forfeited a pension of up to \$50,000 a year.

He'll also serve five years' probation, and yesterday, he paid back the \$1,291 he pocketed from the two drug sales.

Coyle declined to make a statement before being led away from the Brooklyn courtroom, but his lawyer, Jeff Schwartz, called his drug dealing a folly of despair.

"He was desperate. He didn't have any money, he was paying child support," Schwartz said. "He couldn't make ends meet. He wasn't doing what he had dreamed to be. Out of desperation and frustration, he turned to things he shouldn't have."

Under city law, cops can't tend bar or even handle alcohol in any establishment licensed by the state Liquor Authority.

Coyle was busted for twice selling drugs to undercover cops while working at a Flatlands, Brooklyn, sports bar in May.

Coyle first got in trouble a decade ago, when he was tried and acquitted of selling used cars from his mother's Brooklyn garage. He had been charged with placing in windshields photocopies of his selling permit so the cars wouldn't be towed, Schwartz said.

The NYPD placed Coyle on probation, stripped him of his gun and shield and assigned him to a Manhattan court, where he shuffled prisoners on and off elevators with no chance at overtime, Schwartz said.

Prosecutors agreed to the plea deal but were not sympathetic.

"You have a police officer by day and a drug dealer by night," Assistant District Attorney Kevin Richardson said after the sentencing. "We take that as a violation of the public trust."

"It's a tragedy for the family and a tragedy for the city," he said.

Coyle is likely to serve 60 days, Schwartz said.

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DAILY NEWS

Ex-cop gets 90 days for dealing coke

By KATI CORNELL SMITH
and PHILIP MESSING

A disgraced veteran police officer copped a plea yesterday to charges of peddling cocaine while moonlighting as a bartender, and will do 90 days in jail.

Thomas Coyle, 37, made a deal with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office after he was busted selling coke at Cousin's Sports Bar on Flatlands Avenue in Mill

Basin in a May 24 sting operation.

Coyle, a 17-year cop, was forced to resign earlier this month and forfeit the \$1,291 he had made from drugs as part of the plea deal hammered out with Assistant DA Kevin Richardson, the Rackets Division bureau chief.

The hulking ex-cop gave only "yes" and "no" answers to Judge William Garnett, who heard his guilty plea yesterday.

But outside the court, defense attorney Jeffrey Schwartz railed against the NYPD for destroying Coyle's life.

"They do everything they can to drain you," Schwartz said. "They put you in a situation of desperation, and I guess desperate people do desperate things."

Coyle fell out of favor with the Police Department seven years ago when he was accused of forging documents in connection with

a used-car business he was running on the side, law enforcement sources said.

After 10 years working as a cop in Brooklyn, he was stripped of his gun and transferred to a job in the basement of a Manhattan courthouse.

Schwartz said Coyle was broke and demoralized when he made the decision to take a second job as a bartender — even though it is prohibited by the NYPD — and began using and selling cocaine.

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