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Man bailed out by jailed Arapahoe County ex-sheriff later found dead

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Former Arapahoe County Sheriff Patrick Sullivan, center, stands with his attorneys, Jessica Schmidt and Kevin McGreevy, during a morning court appearance Wednesday. At the hearing, a judge doubled his bail to \$500,000. The arrest of the married father and grandfather sparked shock even bewilderment among longtime law officers. (RJ Sangosti, The Denver Post)

Former Arapahoe County Sheriff Pat Sullivan — facing charges in a drugs-for-sex case — was questioned earlier this year about the mysterious death of a man he had bailed out of jail weeks earlier.

That revelation Thursday was the latest in the bizarre, widening case involving one of Colorado's most respected law officers.

Also revealed Thursday was the arrest of a man suspected of supplying methamphetamine to Sullivan. Timothy P. Faase, 39, is being held on \$25,000 bail on suspicion of possession and distribution of methamphetamine.

Other details about the case also emerged Thursday, including news that a Nov. 17 traffic stop in Englewood netted methamphetamine — and a young man who told investigators



he was "involved" with Sullivan.

That bust kicked what had been a slow-moving investigation into high gear.

"We're not letting a whole lot of grass grow under our feet," said Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson, who served under Sullivan and succeeded him. "We've been really pretty aggressive in trying to deal with this."

Sullivan, 68, was arrested late Tuesday afternoon at a home in the 16300 block of East Ada Place in Aurora.

He remained in custody in the jail named in his honor, unable to post a \$500,000 bail.

Sullivan left office in January 2003 after deciding not to seek a sixth term as Arapahoe County sheriff and worked until 2008 as director of security for Cherry Creek Schools before retiring with an unblemished record.

But his life is now under the microscope. Robinson acknowledged that investigators working on the case are trying to determine how far back in time Sullivan's alleged criminal activity goes.

Robinson said that earlier this year he was called by a Denver detective who told him a man whom Sullivan had bailed out of jail had been found dead. The detective was getting ready to interview Sullivan, and he asked Robinson for insight to his personality.

Robinson said Thursday that at the time he didn't think much of it, assuming the man must have simply been an acquaintance of Sullivan's.

The man was 27-year-old Sean Moss, and court records show he was arrested Jan. 14 in Centennial on domestic-violence charges.

On Jan. 26, his body was discovered in shallow water along the South Platte River.

It could not be determined Thursday whether a cause of death had been established for Moss, and Sullivan has not been accused of wrongdoing in relation to the case.

Then, on Sept. 20, Sullivan became the focus of drug investigators after a man called 911 to report the former sheriff was turning his roommates — all recovering addicts — on to methamphetamine.

"That was really the first indication that we had that Sullivan was involved in anything that might be criminal," Robinson said. "That was the beginning of my red flag."

Investigators began looking into Sullivan but initially didn't find much, Robinson said.

Then came the Nov. 17 traffic stop in Englewood after an officer saw a car weaving.

After the man was taken to the police station, he told officers that he didn't want to risk another felony charge and offered information on Sullivan.

An Arapahoe County detective was awakened and sent to interview the man, and the investigation took on a new urgency.

Robinson said the man, who has not been publicly identified, has not been charged but may be at some point.

An investigator subsequently asked two confidential informants who had previously worked with the task force whether they thought they could purchase methamphetamine from Sullivan.

According to court documents, both men, who have not been publicly identified, said they had engaged in sex with Sullivan in the past. Both said they would be willing to ask him for meth in exchange for sex.

After several phone calls and text messages, Sullivan agreed to meet one of the men at the Ada Place home and bring meth to exchange for sex, according to court documents.

Before the meeting, investigators followed Sullivan to an apartment in the 1000 block of Clarkson Street in Denver, then to the Aurora home.

They returned late that night to the apartment and arrested Faase.

Staff writers Carlos Illescas and Felisa Cardona contributed to this report.