

Ex-lieutenant sentenced to probation for role in State Police OT theft scandal

Collected \$31,000 in overtime hours that he never worked

By **Matt Rocheleau** Globe Staff, Updated January 29, 2020, 4:24 p.m.





Retired State Police trooper David W. Wilson was met by reporters outside the Moakley Federal Courthouse in Boston after a hearing. BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2018

A former State Police lieutenant pleaded guilty Wednesday to charges that he fraudulently collected more than \$31,000 in overtime hours he never worked, including one case in which he tried to cover up his absence by issuing a phony traffic ticket for a Mercedes owned by a Boston police officer.

The retired shift commander, David W. Wilson, 59, of Charlton, was sentenced to two years of probation and must perform 200 hours of community service, according to court records of the sentence issued in Suffolk Superior Court by Judge Robert N. Tochka.

Wilson was also ordered to pay back nearly \$19,000 worth of what state prosecutors charged him with stealing. He was already ordered to pay back the other \$12,450 last year when he pleaded guilty to and was [sentenced](#) on federal charges of overtime pay theft. In the federal case, Wilson was also ordered to serve two years of supervised release, including six months of home detention.

Wilson is among 46 troopers and supervisors who have been implicated in a [payroll fraud scheme](#) that included writing phony tickets and falsifying time sheets to collect overtime pay for hours they never worked.

Including Wilson, 10 have been charged criminally, nine of whom have pleaded guilty. One case remains pending in state court. Wilson's attorney did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

State Police Colonel Christopher Mason said in a statement: "We thank Attorney General [Maura] Healey's Office for prosecution of this case, which began with evidence uncovered by State Police Internal Affairs and which was investigated by MSP detectives assigned to the attorney general."

"In this and similar cases, our actions — from our initial internal investigation to referral to prosecutors to final disposition — should make clear that we will hold accountable any department member who fails to uphold the values, ideals, and integrity of this great police agency," Mason added.

Earlier this month, Governor Charlie Baker and Mason [announced](#) policy changes and proposals to supplement a [previous set of reforms](#) launched in the spring of 2018.

The efforts take aim at corruption and cultural problems that have plagued the force for years and include a proposal to allow state and municipal agencies to recover triple damages from police officers who knowingly submit false claims for hours worked.

In Wilson's case, prosecutors from Healey's office charged him with embezzlement that occurred in 2015 and 2016. In each of those years, his total pay topped \$250,000, including more than \$100,000 in overtime pay.

In an earlier filing, prosecutors outlined Wilson's scheme with detailed examples. In one instance, on Sept. 19, 2016, Wilson submitted two copies of several traffic citations to State Police as proof he'd worked an overtime shift. But at

least one of those tickets didn't check out when prosecutors said they probed further.

“An interview of the driver, a Boston police officer, revealed that he was never stopped and never given such a citation,” prosecutors wrote. “He also denies ever loaning the involved car, a Mercedes, to anybody.”

Prosecutors had asked for Wilson to be sentenced to one to two years in state prison, followed by two years of probation. They noted how of the five troopers Wilson supervised the most on the types of overtime shifts at the center of the scandal, four of them had pleaded guilty to federal charges.

Wilson, a 32-year member of the force, retired in March, and received an \$80,000 buyout days before the department opened a formal internal investigation into his case and referred the matter for criminal prosecution. He was collecting a \$105,000-a-year pension, but the state retirement board is moving to strip his pension and has suspended those benefits since June, following Wilson's sentencing in the federal case.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele).

 [Show 22 comments](#)

