



Federal judge delays sentencing Cape gamblers

By **HEATHER WYSOCKI**

hwysocki@capecodonline.com

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BOSTON — The three Cape men who pleaded guilty in April to operating a \$2,000-per-day gambling ring out of a Dennisport restaurant will wait three more months to learn their punishments.

On Monday, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Mark Wolf approved a request from the U.S. attorney's office for a three-month continuance of the trio's sentencing hearing so prosecutors could complete an "ongoing criminal investigation," according to court documents.

Adam Hart, 85, and William Neofotistos, 60, both of Dennisport, and Timothy Reardon, 33, of Barnstable were originally scheduled for sentencing Sept. 22 in federal court in Boston. A new hearing date in December has not been scheduled, according to the Boston federal court clerk's office.

In April, Hart and Neofotistos pleaded guilty to operating an illegal sports betting business and obstructing law enforcement. Reardon pleaded guilty to only the gambling charge. All three agreed to cooperate with a federal investigation in exchange for a lighter sentence.

The three men ran a sports betting operation for 10 years out of Hart's Dennisport restaurant, the Ocean House, according to court documents.

During a June court hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak alleged that the men closed their gambling business after receiving a tip in 2006 from an elected official in the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office. District Attorney Michael O'Keefe is the only elected official in that office.

Though O'Keefe has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing by him or his office in the case, he used \$15,000 in campaign funds in April to pay well-known Boston attorney J.W. Carney of the law firm Carney & Bassil, according to campaign finance reports.

"Since my name had been thrown around in media accounts and an investigation. ... I certainly thought it was wise to seek the advice from lawyers for whom I have a great deal of respect," O'Keefe told the Times in an interview Wednesday.

The U.S. attorney's office would not comment on the specifics of the investigation that will delay the three men's sentencing until December, spokeswoman Christina Dilorio-Sterling said. She added that continuances requested by her office happen "pretty frequently."

In general, the federal government frequently relies on cooperating witnesses' testimony to charge other suspects, said David Frank, managing editor at Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly and a former prosecutor.

"The fact that they have a continuance in and of itself doesn't mean that anybody else is going to be charged," Frank said. "But it's certainly a real possibility that the government could be asking more time in order to ... try to build a case against other targets."

If the three men provide valuable information to authorities, the federally recommended penalty — five years in prison for each count, followed by three years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine — could be reduced.

In addition to facing possible prison sentences, Hart has already agreed to forfeit \$750,000 in cash, Neofotistos has agreed to forfeit \$17,000 and Reardon has agreed to forfeit \$1,580, according to the Times archives.