

Cops Plead Not Guilty

Five former and current Santa Cruz City Police officers pled not guilty last Friday to multiple felony charges stemming from alleged brutality during the illegal camper patrols of 1979 to 1981.

Donald Hollen, Rick LeMarquand, Ed Chevalier, Joe Sanchez and Mike Redus all face charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice. In addition, the five are also headed for trial on a total of 26 felonious brutality and six assault with a deadly weapon charges.

Superior Court Judge Rollie Hall has set February 28 of next year as the trial date.

But extensive pretrial motions could postpone the trial for many months. In the next few days, defense attorneys will file motions to have many of the charges dropped before the trial.

The slippery legal question of what constitutes a conspiracy could involve extensive appeals. One defense attorney has said he will go as high as the California State Supreme Court to have the conspiracy charges thrown out without a trial.

The first hearing on the pretrial motions is set for January 24 of next year in local Superior Court. □