

CHARGE FROM PAGE A1

country and has received numerous awards to prove it. He said Dwyer adamantly opposes racial profiling and that the department is known for training officers on diversity issues.

He said in that role he oversaw a staff that trained officers around the state about diversity issues. "We had a fine experience," he said of working in Farmington Hills, adding officers were trained on diversity issues over a five-month period.

"Speaking as a citizen, I think we have an excellent police and fire department." Dwyer said he is concerned about the accusations. "Ninety-nine percent of the people in this community respect the officers who put their lives on the line," he said.

Dwyer stated in his report that suspects under 16 must have an attorney present and all suspects, regardless of age, are informed of their constitutional rights. He said that the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office is exploring other legal options to obtain information about the incident.

Brock said the video system in police vehicles is always on during a shift and that officers only have control over the microphone and can turn it off to conceal confidential information. "The city does not provide (cell phones to officers)," Brock said.

He added private cell phone use on company time may be an issue that needs to be addressed. The council also stood up to the accusations by Gordnier. Mayor Nancy Bates said the recent resident survey revealed that of all the city departments, the police scored the highest in satisfaction.

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SONG

FROM PAGE A1

said they would miss Harmony House.

One of the store's regulars is 10-year-old Tommy Auty, who lived previously in Farmington Hills. He said that he prefers Harmony House to bigger competing stores.

"It's easier to find things here and you get a lot better selection," said Auty, described by his mother, Connie as a "rock 'n roll boy."

He sows his rock 'n roll oats by playing guitar and listening to heavy metal, including his favorites, Metallica and Ozzy Osbourne.

His mother said that news of the closing comes as a shock. "Everybody was talking about it yesterday," she said Friday afternoon, adding that a fairly new Harmony House store is in Commerce Township.

Harmony House is a great place for parents to shop for fussy kids, she said.

"You can get good last-minute gifts, like gift certificates and CDs, for teenagers and kids."

Bill Richards, Farmington's assistant city manager, said he was confident that the Harmony House spot would not be vacant for long.

"It's not uncommon for spaces in retail areas to be vacant," Richards said. "It's the nature of the economic cycle."

Downtown Farmington, however, has a relatively low vacancy rate compared to other downtowns. Harmony House has been a pretty good downtown business, Richards said.

"From a neighborhood perspective, they've been a fine neighbor and good for the community," he said.

Chuck Holmes, economic development director for Farmington Hills, said that he has not had a chance to take a good look at the Harmony House site on Orchard Lake.

"We certainly would want to help get that space filled," Holmes said. "We try to be aware of what vacancies are out there so that when companies call asking about space we can help them."

Getting a vacant spot leased, however, is ultimately the job of the landlord, not the city, he said.

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