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Kilpatrick back to work as perjury investigation continues

1/31/2008, 6:12 p.m. EST

By **COREY WILLIAMS**
The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Racy text messages on the city-issued pager of Kwame Kilpatrick's top aide could be the strongest evidence against the Detroit mayor in an ongoing perjury investigation.

Those messages allude to a physical relationship Kilpatrick and Chief of Staff Christine Beatty denied under oath last summer and will serve as ammunition for Prosecutor Kym Worthy, legal experts say.

"The prosecutor will argue the text messages are effectively admissions by the author," Washington lawyer Adam Hoffinger says. "Text messages are the same as if someone said it on tape."

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Worthy announced last week that her office would investigate whether Kilpatrick and Beatty falsely testified about their relationship during a whistle-blower's lawsuit last summer. Their testimony was called into question following a Detroit Free Press report last week of 14,000 text messages from 2002-2003. Some of the messages were sexually explicit.

Two former Detroit police officers who successfully filed the civil suit claimed they were fired or forced out because of their allegations that Kilpatrick's security unit covered up the mayor's extramarital affairs and committed other misdeeds.

The suit cost the city more than \$8.5 million in a settlement.

Worthy still would have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Kilpatrick and Beatty knowingly made false statements under oath during the whistle-blower's trial, University of Detroit-Mercy's School of Law professor Lawrence Dubin said.

"In many cases, it's difficult to prove the person intentionally testified falsely," Dubin said. "In this case, Worthy is going to have more evidence

TOP MICHIGAN NEWS

[Video shows vandals at Wyoming Park High](#)

Wyoming Superintendent Jon Felski looks at the vandalized Media Center in Wyoming Park High School. The school was closed today, after at least two vandals spent about 45 minutes smashing copiers, splattering paint and throwing food around the building. (Press Photo/Rex Larsen)



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By **DAN SEWELL**
The Associated Press



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[Michigan expands quarantine zone in fight against emerald ash borer](#)

TRAVERSE CITY -- A quarantine zone was enlarged again Monday in the struggle to contain the emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle that is decimating ash trees in Michigan and several other states.



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raise, said. In this case, worthy is going to have more evidence available to scrutinize."

There are risks for a prosecutor, added Hoffinger, a member of the national law firm of Morrison & Foerster.

"If you shoot the king, you better kill him," he said. "You better have a strong case if you are going to go after the popular mayor of a city. On the other hand, if they win, one can argue there is some deterrent effect, and that sends a message to our elected officials that we hold them to a higher standard."

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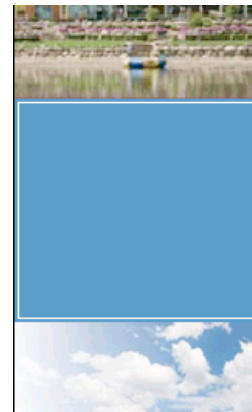
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