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Bulletin
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Waco police to bypass DA

WACO, Texas (AP) — Police Chief Larry Scott said he has decided to bypass District Attorney Vic Feazell and take his cases to assistant U.S. Attorney Jan Patterson whenever possible in hopes of getting more aggressive prosecution.

"We haven't been getting any prosecution locally, and we have been receiving very good cooperation from the feds in cases that the DA's office has refused to take," Scott said Thursday.

The police chief told the Waco Tribune-Herald that Feazell's office had refused to prosecute numerous cases, returning them to the police

department with claims of insufficient evidence or poor search warrants.

Scott said the district attorney's office also has let criminal cases expire without prosecution under the speedy trial act.

Scott said there have been times in which Ms. Patterson obtained convictions in federal court on cases that Feazell refused to prosecute.

Feazell and members of his staff disputed Scott's claim. They said they refused to prosecute because of shoddy police work by the Waco police department's drug enforcement unit.