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City of Detroit

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

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IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE: Sept. 28, 1993

TO: Ms. Sue Hamilton-Smith, Assistant to the Mayor
RE: Your communication regarding **DOROTHY WATKINS**

Attached is the Departmental Report.

Attached is the Suggested Response for the Mayor.

Attached is the information you requested.

Other

STANLEY KNOX
Chief of Police

APPROVED

[Faint signatures and stamps at the bottom of the page]



21159
C1305

Department of Police
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Coleman A. Young, Mayor
City of Detroit

September 24, 1993

Mrs. Dorothy Watkins
19772 Runyon
Detroit, MI 48234

Dear Mrs. Watkins,

I wish to inform you that your letter of September 13, 1993 regarding the death of your son, Thomas O'Bryant Scott, was thoroughly reviewed.

The circumstances surrounding the death of your son were investigated by the Homicide Section and the results were presented to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

On September 14, 1993 Mr. John D. O'Hair, Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney, concluded that the death of Thomas Scott was legally excusable and without criminal culpability.

If you wish any further information regarding this matter, please contact Lieutenant Tommy R. Alston, Commanding Officer of the Homicide Section, at telephone number 596-2260 on Monday through Friday between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Sincerely,
Stanley Knox

STANLEY KNOX
Chief of Police

*g-24
mailed*

SK:tfp

APPROVED

SEP 20 1993

APPROVED

SEP 17 1993

COMMANDER-MAJOR CRIMES DIV.

INSPECTOR, HOMICIDE SECTION

APPROVED

SEP 21 1993

DEPUTY CHIEF JAMES R. TOLKOR
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU

(Rev. 4-77)
0-77-ME

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

HOMICIDE SECTION

Date
Sept. 24, 1993

To: Chief of Police Stanley Knox (Through Channels)

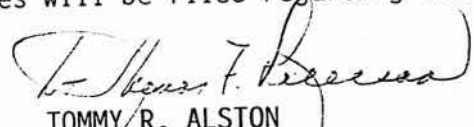
Subject: INVESTIGATION & REPORT RE: LETTER OF INQUIRY FROM MRS. DOROTHY WATKINS, 19772 RUNYON, DETROIT, MI., REGARDING THE FATAL SHOOTING OF HER SON THOMAS SCOTT ON MAY 27, 1993 BY SERGEANT CLAUDIA BARDEN, ASSIGNED TO THE NARCOTICS SECTION; REFERENCE ROUTE SLIP #C-1305.

On May 27, 1993 at about 7:00PM personnel assigned to the Narcotics Section executed a search warrant at 19585 Hamburg. During the execution of that search warrant, Thomas O'Bryant Scott BM/22 of 19772 Runyon was fatally shot by Sergeant Claudia Barden, assigned to the Narcotics Section.

An investigation of the matter was conducted by Homicide Section Special Assignments Squad personnel, and a report of that investigation was submitted to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

On September 14, 1993 Mr. John D. O'Hair, Wayne County Prosecutor, concluded that the conduct of Sergeant Claudia Barden was legally excusable and without criminal culpability and no criminal charges will be filed regarding the matter.

Please investigate and advise.

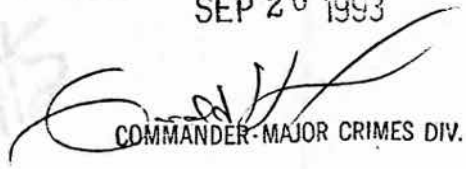


TOMMY R. ALSTON
Lieutenant
Homicide Section

(Orig. to the file)

APPROVED

SEP 24 1993

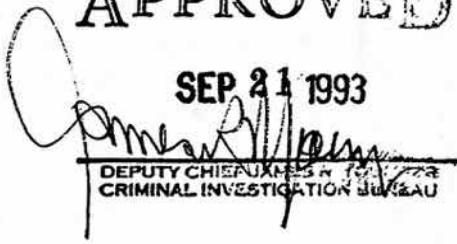

COMMANDER-MAJOR CRIMES DIV.

RECEIVED

SEP 28 1993

APPROVED

SEP 21 1993


DEPUTY CHIEF
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU

September 13, 1993

RECEIVED
MAYOR'S
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Stanley Knox,
Chief of Police
Detroit Police Department
1300 Beaubien
Detroit, MI 48226

SEP 14 1993

Re: Thomas O'Bryant Scott
Date of Death: May 27, 1993

Dear Chief Knox:

My son, Thomas O'Bryant Scott, was shot and killed on Thursday, May 27, 1993, about 7:00 P.M., at 19585 Hamburg Street, by one of your narcotics officers, Sgt. Claudia Barden. At the time my son was killed, he was unarmed and was not threatening Sgt. Barden or anyone else. As you probably know, Sgt. Barden was supposed to have been executing a search warrant for a drug raid at the Hamburg house. But, instead of going in with a raiding team, she went into the house alone, with her gun (a Glock 22) drawn.

She found my son in a bedroom where he was asleep. While she was taking him from one room to another with her gun drawn, she diverted him into the kitchen area and shot him in the back. She claimed he was trying to escape from her and she was trying to keep him from running. But she also said that he hit her arm with his arm and that is how the gun discharged. Her story makes no sense when you know he was shot in the back and that it was a "contact" wound, with her gun directly pressed on his back. It also makes no sense when you know the autopsy report says it was an upward wound, that entered in the middle of his back and exited out from the middle of his neck under his chin, as though he was shot in a bent-over position.

My son has been dead for more than four months, and I have not heard one word from your department about what is going to be done with this officer. You and I both know that it does not take four months to determine that Claudia Barden shot my son in the back and killed him. All of your own records show that my son was not armed, and the autopsy report showed that he did not have any drugs or even alcohol in his system when he died. Yet, for some reason to my knowledge, no charges have been brought against this officer.

families are promptly contacted when a family member has been killed by a police officer. We should not have to run you down for this information.

Also, even though my son was killed about 7:00 or 7:30 in the evening, I was not contacted until after 11:00 P.M. that night. I had to get my information from the T.V. news reports, and the treatment my family and I have received since that time is almost as bad as the senseless killing of my son. When I first tried to see my son at St. John Hospital where the news reported he had been taken, I was rudely told that he had been sent to the morgue. I then went to the morgue, in the middle of the night, just to try to get some information about my son, I was again rudely told, through the locked door, that I could not get any information until 9:00 A.M. the next morning. They wouldn't even open the door to tell me whether or not my son had been brought there. ✓

I then went to the D.P.D. Homicide Section and talked to Sgt. Rice who tried to explain how my son was killed. Sgt. Rice said Sgt. Barden shot my son while he was supposedly struggling with her over her gun. When we asked how Thomas had been shot in the back, Sgt. Rice told us that Sgt. Barden was carrying the gun with her finger on the trigger. Even though Sgt. Rice promised to keep in touch and let us know what is happening, since that night, I have heard nothing.

I am outraged at the conduct of the Detroit Police Department. It seems to me that someone high up in this department is trying to cover up the real story of what happened to my son. In more than four months, this woman has not been charged with anything in connection with the killing of my son, she has not lost one day's pay, and she seems to be going along as though nothing has happened. I do not understand why it took only a few days for white officers, Nevers and Budzyn, to be charged and prosecuted in the death of Malice Green. But, when a black person is killed by this black officer, it seems like everyone is trying to sweep it under the rug. I am not sure why this coverup is going on, but I have heard that Sgt. Barden has some connection to the Barden Cablevision family and Bella Marshall of the Mayor's office.

No matter what the problem, you as the police chief, have a duty to see that your officers are not allowed to use our tax dollars to kill us and our children. You have a duty to see that when these officers commit crimes, they are charged just like any other person. They should be weeded out and brought to justice. You should also see that families are promptly contacted when a family member has been killed by a police officer. We should not have to run you down for this information.

Chief Stanley Knox, D.P.D.
September 13, 1993/ Page 3

Four months is also much too long for you to come to some decision about the appropriate charges to be brought against this officer. I will not rest until my son's death is at least vindicated by the proper charge being brought against her. She should be charged with the appropriate crimes and forced to bring whatever defense she has before a jury. I also expect to receive some information about the progress and what you are doing about this case. I hope to hear from you very soon. I can be reached at:

19772 Runyon
Detroit, MI 48234
(313) 521-5469.

Sincerely,


Dorothy Watkins

cc: John D. O'Hair, Wayne County Prosecutor
Richard J. Padzieski, Asst. Wayne County Prosecutor
✓ Coleman A. Young, Mayor of Detroit
Adam Shakoor, Detroit Deputy Mayor
Sgt. William Rice, DPD Homicide Section