

City of Detroit

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231

May 12, 1966

RAY GIRARDIN
Commissioner

Mr. Fred Romanoff
Executive Secretary to the Mayor
City-County Building
Detroit, Michigan

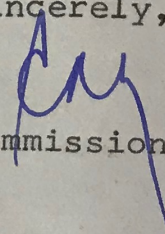
Dear Fred:

Enclosed is the police report on the incident involving the Afro-American Youth Movement about which you inquired.

Thomas Baker was an escapee from Boys' Vocational School and admitted the shooting report was false.

I must remind you about not using any of the records pertaining to the juveniles involved in the case. *

Sincerely,


Commissioner

RG/p
Encl.

*I forgot you're a lawyer
fellow.*
TR

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION FIFTH PRECINCT

Date May 11, 1966

To: Commissioner Ray Girardin (Through Channels)

Subject: COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF SHOOTING AT 9211 KERCHEVAL, AFRO-AMERICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT HEADQUARTERS.

At about 5:00 P.M., May 3, 1966, Patrolmen Gary Boiger, Badge 300, and Felix Banach, Badge 1107, Scout 5-4, and Patrolmen Harvey Poikey, Badge 2157, and John Jamieson, Badge 2547, Scout 5-2, received a radio run to 9211 Kercheval, "A shooting." Detective Dwight Mattison of the Fifth Precinct Criminal Investigation Division also responded.

Upon arrival at 9211 Kercheval, a store front, Detective Mattison, upon entering the establishment, observed what appeared to be freshly wiped up blood stains near the inside of the front door and other blood stains about ten feet further back on the floor which has also been freshly wiped up.

About twenty (20) feet from the entrance on the right side of the building was a table on which was lying THOMAS L. BAKER, 16/N, 2275 Bewick. Standing alongside him was John Reid, 20/N, 1902 McClellan, Alfred Duncan, 16/N, 8844 Lorman, and Alvin Harrison, 26/N, 2167 Pennsylvania, Apartment 3. THOMAS BAKER had what appeared to be a bullet wound in the upper left chest near the collar bone. This wound was not bleeding.

Detective Mattison questioned THOMAS BAKER who stated that as he started to enter the building he heard someone call "Hey" to him. As he turned around he was struck by what he believed to be a bullet fired from a 1964 blue Ford sedan that was in front of this address. He stated that a white youth was driving the car and another white youth was in the rear seat. He stated that after the shooting the car went West on Kercheval at a high rate of speed. At this time BAKER was conveyed to Detroit General Hospital by Scout 5-2 where he was admitted to Ward 1-4.

Scout 5-4 took the original report of the above incident and immediately put a description of the car involved on the air through police radio. They notified C. I. D. Control Center Lieutenant Sass and Teletype 6090 was issued on this crime.

The two witnesses, Duncan and Reid, were conveyed to the Fifth Precinct for further questioning. Harrison left the scene.

May 11, 1966

-2-

Detective Mattison interviewed people in the immediate vicinity between Holcomb and Belvidere on Kercheval but was unable to find any witnesses. A thorough search of the street and sidewalk failed to disclose any physical evidence such as blood stains or expended cartridges.

At about 6:15 P.M. Alfred Duncan was interviewed at the Fifth Precinct by Detective Mattison. He stated that he had been standing in the front window, which is partially boarded up, and had observed BAKER walking West on Kercheval. When he approached the front of the building Duncan saw him turn toward the street, at which time Duncan stated he heard a shot and saw BAKER stagger. He also stated he observed the 1963 or 1964 light blue Ford leave the front of the building and go West at a high rate of speed.

John Reid was interviewed and he stated that he had been at a desk in the building and heard a noise which sounded like a firecracker and saw BAKER reel inside the building. Both Reid and Duncan stated that Duncan wiped the blood from the front and from BAKER's shoulder and then called the police. Reid stated that he is chairman of the Afro-American Youth Movement and Duncan is co-chairman.

At about 6:45 P.M. Detective James Hurt of the Scientific Laboratory responded to the Fifth Precinct where he examined both Reid and Duncan for nitrate on their hands. Reid showed positive nitrate in the left palm and stated that he had handled and fired a gun about two weeks ago. Both of Duncan's hands showed positive nitrate and he stated he had handled a .38 caliber revolver on May 3, 1966 and that he had fired a .38 revolver at Belle Isle on May 1, 1966. Both witnesses denied firing a gun this date.

It was learned that Duncan was wanted by Juvenile After-Care authorities and is on parole from Boys' Training School. He was turned over to the Youth Bureau. Reid was released.

At about 12:00 P.M., May 4, 1966 Detective Mattison responded to Ward 1-4, Detroit General Hospital, where BAKER was again interviewed. He stated he went to 9211 Kercheval to visit a friend and that he had been in the basement and was just leaving when he heard a gunshot and was struck in the shoulder. He stated that Reid and Duncan were present in the basement along with two other Negro youths and a Negro girl, whom he does not know.

May 11, 1966

-3-

Later on May 4, 1966 he was again interviewed by Patrolmen Theodore Farquhar and Lawrence Hadden of the Fifth Precinct Youth Bureau. He again stated that he had been shot in the basement of 9211 Kercheval by an unknown Negro youth. Duncan was interviewed at the Wayne County Youth Home and refused to give the Youth Bureau officers any statement as to how BAKER had been shot.

Due to the fact that BAKER admitted making a false report as to how he was shot, Teletype 6090 was cancelled and both BAKER and Duncan were filed on by the Youth Bureau. It was also learned that BAKER had escaped March 17, 1966 from Boys' Training School at Whitmore Lake. The complaint on the shooting, #5-241214, was closed on the admission of BAKER that it was a false crime report.

It was learned through the investigation that Reid is presently on two-years probation for Attempt Larceny from Person, Recorders Court File #A-122225. He has Mug Number 249838.

Enclosed is a juvenile record of BAKER and Duncan. A .32 caliber slug was removed from BAKER's left shoulder and is held on Evidence Tag #588056.

Additional information on the Afro-American Youth Movement is as follows:

A search of our records since January 1, 1966 shows that on April 12, 1966 at about 2:55 A.M. a large window in the front of the establishment had been broken out apparently by a large firecracker, commonly known as a "cherry bomb". This was reported on Complaint #5-229830 by a Brace Brown, 25/N, and assigned to Detectives Joseph Luttenberger and Donald Elias. This is the only report we have on file this year.

On April 24, 1966 a Joseph Williams, 56/N, manager of the apartment at 2167 Pennsylvania, reported to Patrolman Richard Tesch and Crew, Fifth Precinct Cruiser, that a large gang was fighting on the porch and that some of them were in Apartment 3 creating a disturbance. He also stated that he had heard a shot fired earlier in the evening.

Patrolman Tesch and Crew went to Apartment 3 and found a James Clarence Pete, 17/N, 2167 Pennsylvania, Cedric Gaddy, 18/N, 1591 Belvidere, John Reid, previously mentioned, and Paulette Robinson, 18/F/N, 2584 Pennsylvania. Upon searching the premises the officers found a .32 caliber German Burgo seven-shot revolver, serial #135670, in the oven of the stove.

May 11, 1966

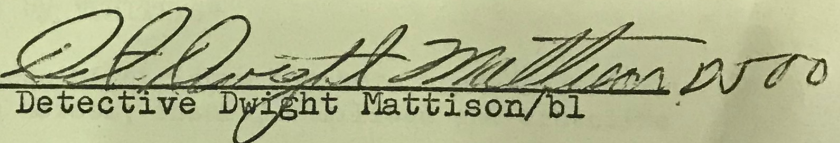
-4-

This revolver was placed on Evidence Tag #587939. Also found on the premises sixteen (16) rounds of ammunition and one (1) expended cartridge case. These were placed on Evidence Tag #587940.

Pete stated the gun belonged to Alvin Harrison to whom the apartment was rented. This case was assigned to Detectives John Stapleton and Marcel Cox and is still being investigated.

According to Detective Hurt, Scientific Laboratory, the same type of weapon may have been used in the shooting of THOMAS BAKER. This type is comparatively new and may be purchased in the Toledo area for a small sum.

Also enclosed with this letter is a copy of a handbill being distributed in the area.


Detective Dwight Mattison/bl

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

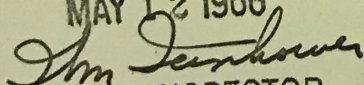
To: Eastern District Inspector.

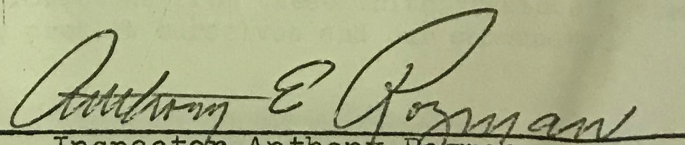
May 11th, 1966.

I have read the above and am forwarding same to you for your information and disposition.

APPROVED

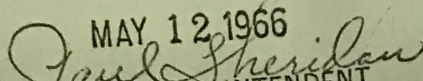
MAY 12 1966


CHIEF INSPECTOR


Inspector Anthony Rozman
Commanding Officer Fifth Precinct.

APPROVED

MAY 12 1966


DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT