

City of Detroit

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

ROMAN S. GRIBBS
Mayor

March 30, 1973

TO: Mrs. Roman S. Gribbs

FROM: Tom De Lisle

The STRESS manhunt began on December 4, 1972, with the shoot-out near a suspected dope pad on Stoepel in the McNichols-Livernois section of the city.

Four STRESS patrolmen in an unmarked car stopped a car allegedly containing John Percy Boyd, 23, Hayward Brown, 18, and Mark Bethune, 22. The four officers were all wounded, one critically, and all have recovered.

All three men had police records and two--Brown for CCW and Boyd for questioning in a murder-kidnap--were wanted.

In the ensuing manhunt, relatives and friends of Boyd and Brown claimed police harassment and intimidation and illegal entry with pointed guns.

On December 27, officers Bradford and Dooley were shot by two men identified as Boyd and Brown during a stake-out at 9206 Schaefer. Bradford was killed, Dooley critically wounded.

The manhunt intensified. On January 11, Circuit Judge Foley ordered police to refrain from harassing relatives of the trio. He threatened to jail any officers who violated the order.

On January 12--the same day Brown was captured following the fire-bombing of a Planned Parenthood office--Common Council held a public hearing on charges of police harassment.

A main speaker was Mrs. Dorothy Clore, the mother of Boyd and the aunt of Brown. She said, "I am not ashamed of my son or my family." A Detroit Public School teacher, she claims to vote in every election. She claims that police kicked down her door, ransacked the house, and terrorized her family.

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She said her son had not lived with her the last three years. She emphasized that she wanted to be treated with "respect" by police. "How can I tell young people to cooperate with law enforcement officers? How can I tell them these people are protectors of liberty?"

On February 23, Boyd was shot by a policeman in Atlanta. He was carrying a sawed-off carbine. Also killed was his half-brother, Owen Winfield.

Bethune killed himself February 27 on an Atlanta rooftop after being wounded by police.

At Boyd's funeral, Mrs. Clore said, "Johnny Boyd and Darnell Winfield were healthy and brilliant. They gave of themselves to you and to all our people who are oppressed. Don't cry. Don't stop here. We must be a liberated people."

"Let us get the kids off the streets. Let us get rid of the dope. Let us leave the white man's evil to the white man. And Africa will rise."

It's important to note that Boyd and Bethune are being lionized in the black community as vigilantes fighting drug traffic. Our police say they cannot prove or disprove that contention.