

December 12, 1975

Honorable Common Council  
City of Detroit  
City-County Building  
Detroit, MI 48226

Gentlemen and Ladies:

I am writing this letter in the spirit of justice concerning the November 22, 1975 shooting of my brother, Gerald Orth. My remaining family and I feel that my brother, Jerry Orth, was murdered for absolutely no reason that night at the Brosnan Bedford Inn. Witnesses at the scene, including the bartender, completely exonerate Jerry of any wrongdoing whatsoever. It is true that Jerry was only 17 years old and in a bar, but is that justification for a police officer to shoot and kill?

My point in bringing this to your attention is not to mourn my brother's death, but to see that justice is brought about with the help and cooperation of the Detroit City Council. The pain of losing Jerry will never leave my family, but a prosecution and conviction of Officer Hozie Reese would restore a feeling of confidence in the City of Detroit.

Also, not to be forgotten are the friends of Jerry's who saw their friend shot and killed. These boys and girls have experienced a tragedy firsthand, and it will haunt their memories for the rest of their lives. Watching their friend die so brutally will not be a thing to forget, but the bringing about of justice will help ease their pain, I'm sure.

My family and I are not unfamiliar with the fine work done in the past by the Council. We will exhaust every possible source to see that Jerry Orth's death is not whitewashed, or covered-up. It is time that the law be applied truthfully, in a way which is fair for everyone.

In closing I come to my purpose for writing. I ask the Detroit City Council to study and use it's power to help insure a justifiable end to this case.

Thank you from Jerry's 19 year  
old brother,

*James R. Orth*

CC: Carl M. Levin, President  
Ernest Browne  
Clyde Cleveland  
David Eberhard  
Erma Henderson  
Nicholas Hood  
Jack Kelley  
Maryann Mahaffey  
William Rogell

*Send reply -  
questions  
CO looking into  
this*

*Recd  
12-22-75*

**City of Detroit**  
**COMMON COUNCIL**

ANN MAHAFFEY  
COUNCILWOMAN

January 13, 1976

*John Kapt*

Mr. James R. Orth  
13688 Troester  
Detroit, Michigan 48205

Dear Mr. Orth:

Thank you for your letter regarding the unfortunate incident which occurred on November 22nd and resulted in the death of your brother.

Be assured that the City Council is also concerned with seeing that justice is done in this matter. To that end, we are looking into the matter and have requested a report from the Police Department. As soon as we receive it, we will share it with you.

Sincerely,

Maryann Mahaffey

MM:lb