

Families of police victims question validity of federal inquiry

By Diane Bukowski
Michigan Citizen

Families of victims slain by Detroit police officers are asking where are the much heralded federal investigators?

Laurene Knox says the U.S. Department of Justice has not yet responded to a letter she sent them with extensive information on the death of her son on New Year's Day at the hands of Detroit police officers.

"I guess it just takes time," said the grieving mother. "They hope that you die or forget about it. But I'm not going to forget about it."

She said she has had no success tracking down the federal officials allegedly in town for the current investigation into Detroit police killings, nor has she been contacted by them.

Jerome Knox Jr. died after being hit by one hollow-point bullet fired by a police officer

whose name has not been disclosed. According to two autopsy reports, the bullet extensively damaged his internal organs after entering his abdomen on his left side and exiting at the back of his right shoulder.

Three of Knox's companions told his mother that he was running away from the police when he was shot. Other witnesses disputed police accounts that Knox was shot in a close range

struggle over his gun.

Knox requested the Justice Department to contact the Prosecutor's office with the results of their investigation into her son's case. However, Bob Heimbuch of the Wayne County Prosecutor's office said Tuesday that their investigation of the case has been closed. "We denied any warrant issuance" against the

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