

4. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

Suspensions Without Pay

**Police Officers Rodney Rice**, badge #3393, **Lawrence Wideman**, badge #367, **Thomas Wixson**, badge # 2945 and **John Morell**, badge #5125, all assigned to the Fifth Precinct were suspended without pay by Chief of Police William Hart on August 1, 1988.

On Thursday, September 17, 1987, at 12:30 a.m., the Internal Affairs Section personnel responded to the Fifth Precinct regarding a complaint alleging that members of the Fifth Precinct had entered a private dwelling, conducted a search and confiscated a handgun without a search warrant.

The investigation revealed that on Wednesday, September 16, 1987, at approximately 10:45 p.m., two (2) citizens who reside at 3940 Gray, heard a noise outside the window and they both went to the front door to investigate. The male occupant stated that he exited the front door and observed several uniformed officers walking alongside the house. The officer did not notice him, so he kept walking down the street.

The female occupant stated that when she looked out the front door she observed a white and black male police officer, in uniform, standing on the front porch. She then pushed the front door closed and ran to a second floor closet and hid. A few minutes later, the female occupant heard glass breaking and a male say, "Larry, I am in." One of the white male officers found her hiding in the closet, ordered her downstairs to the living room, and to lay on the floor. During this time the other officers searched and ransacked the house, asking about drugs.

One of the white officers returned from the second floor holding a handgun. He stated he found it, and was going to keep it. Another white officer had blood on his hands as if he had been cut and washed his hands in the kitchen. When the officers left, they took the handgun and keys to the home.

Investigators assigned to the Internal Affairs Section confiscated the activity logs of each officer. All four activity logs indicated a miscellaneous activity entry for 3940 Gray at the time of the alleged incident.

It was also determined that the fingerprints of Police Officer Lawrence Wideman matched the latent print lifted from

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY CONTINUED

piece of glass broken out at the point of entry into the home. Additionally, at various times while the officers were inside the home at 3940 Gray they had their weapons drawn.

A warrant request was submitted to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in January, 1988. On July 28, 1988, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Nancy Alberts recommended the issuance of warrants charging Police Officers Rodney Rice, Lawrence Wideman, Thomas Wixson and John Morell with Breaking and Entering with Intent to Commit a Larceny, Felonious Assault and Felony Firearm.

Police Officers Rodney Rice, Lawrence Wideman, Thomas Wixson and John Morell will be charged departmentally with, but not limited to:

**CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER**

Unless contravened by the Commission, this suspension will stand.

There was no contravention by the Commission.

6. PROPOSED REVISION OF GENERAL ORDERS

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made the motion to approve the proposed revision of General Order, Volume III, Chapter 4, Sections 11.6, 11.7, 12.4, and 12.5, **Traffic Accident Report Distribution.**

SECOND: Commissioner Conyers seconded the motion.

YOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.