



CITY OF DETROIT
ROMAN S. GRIBBS, Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231

March 28, 1972 CITY OF DETROIT
MAYOR'S OFFICE

To the Honorable
The Common Council
City-County Building
Detroit, Michigan 48226

DATE DUE: _____

ASSIGNED TO: MAR 30 1972 *Janner*

Gentlemen:

FILING INST: PA
STRESS

Pursuant to your request of March 20th, as well as your second request of March 23rd, the following resume is a description of the events that occurred at 12:05 A.M., March 9, 1972, at 3210 Rochester, Apartment #14. The opening paragraphs are the Detroit Police officers' version of the events. The remaining paragraphs are the resume of the statements of all persons concerned:

On March 9, 1972, at approximately 12:05 A.M., STRESS Unit #2, manned by Patrolmen Virgil Starkey, Ronald Martin, and James Harris, were on routine patrol in the vicinity of Wildemere, between Boston and Rochester, which is a known high crime area. While driving south on Wildemere, the officers observed a lone Negro male, later identified as James Jenkins, in the parking lot at the rear of 3210 Rochester. Patrolman Starkey, who was driving, stopped their unmarked police car. Patrolmen Harris and Martin exited and observed the man walk up the stairs to the second level to Apartment #14. Patrolman Martin walked past the front door of the apartment and observed that the inner door was open and the man carrying the gun was standing in the living room while others were seated around a table in the rear. Patrolman Martin continued walking south past the apartment door. Patrolman Harris opened the storm door and with his badge in his left hand and his weapon in his right, announced that he was a police officer. At that instant, the man that Patrolman Harris observed carrying the gun, fired at him, breaking the storm door glass. Patrolman Harris returned the fire and backed away from the door, shouting "Police Officer." Patrolman Harris then ran north to the stairs. He fell down the stairs and then took cover beneath a parked car.

Patrolman Martin fired four shots through the front window of the apartment, in the direction of the man that was firing at Patrolman Harris. After he fired into the apartment, he retreated south and sought cover against the wall. Patrolman Martin observed an arm of a person with a gun in hand reach out the door and fire in the direction of Patrolman Harris. The man then aimed the gun at Patrolman Martin and fired one shot at him, which did not take effect.

Patrolman Starkey had parked the police car and joined Patrolman Harris, who told him that he thought he had been shot. At this time, Scout 10-22, manned by Patrolmen Dennis Shiemke and David Marshall had responded to the scene on foot. Patrolman Starkey then proceeded up the steps to join Patrolman Martin on the second level. Both officers met outside the apartment, at which time Patrolman Starkey heard noises inside the apartment as though people were running. He then called out, "They are going out the back." Patrolman Marshall, who was on the ground level, heard this and immediately ran to the rear of the building. Observing that there was no rear exit, Patrolman Marshall then went upstairs to join Patrolmen Martin and Starkey, who had entered Apartment #14. He was joined by Patrolmen Harris and Shiemke.

The officers were fired upon by a person inside the apartment in the bedroom. Patrolmen Martin and Starkey returned the fire. At this time, another man, later identified as the deceased, Henry Henderson, appeared from around the corner to the right of the apartment entrance. Henderson was pointing a gun at Patrolmen Martin and Harris. Both officers fired several shots at Henderson, who then dropped his gun and fell to the floor. Henderson then attempted to get up and scramble into the bedroom. Patrolman Martin retrieved Henderson's revolver, and at this moment, a man emerged from the bedroom with a gun and fired at the officers. Patrolman Martin and Starkey returned the fire. Patrolman Marshall, who had fired one shot at Henderson, also fired one shot at the man in the bedroom doorway.

Patrolman Shiemke, who had entered the apartment, took cover by the front door. While the officers were firing at Henderson and the man in the doorway of the bedroom, Patrolman Shiemke fired one shot at the man, later identified as Henry Henderson. This bullet which struck Henderson, was later removed at the Wayne County Morgue by Dr. Walter Hofman, Assistant Wayne County Medical Examiner, and conveyed to the Scientific Section for firearms comparison. The bullet was identified as coming from Patrolman Shiemke's gun.

Someone in the bedroom shouted that they were police officers from the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, and at this time, the shooting ceased.

The wounded deputies were conveyed to Detroit General Hospital by Detroit Police vehicles. James Jenkins suffered through and through gunshot wounds to the head, abdomen, and left arm. Henry Duval suffered a through and through gunshot wound to the right leg. Aaron Vincent sustained contusions to the head. Henry Henderson expired at 1:05 A.M. from a gunshot wound to the left side of the chest. (Henderson suffered a total of six gunshot wounds to his body.)

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Witness #1 - Dr. John Coor, Detroit General Hospital: Pronounced the death of Henry Henderson at 1:05 A.M., March 9, 1972, Hospital Chart #787845.

Witness #2 - Dr. Walter Hofman, Assistant Wayne County Medical Examiner: Performed an autopsy on the body of Henderson at the Wayne County Morgue on March 9, 1972, and determined the cause of death as a no exit gunshot wound to the left side of the chest, Morgue File #2398-72.

Witness #3 - Latreetha Bobo (sister of Henderson), 16500 Baylis: Identified the body of Henry Henderson at Wayne County Morgue on March 9, 1972.

Witness #4 - Paulette Henderson (wife), 3738 Bassett: Identified the body of Henry Henderson at Wayne County Morgue on March 9, 1972.

Witness #5 - Deputy Henry Duval, Wayne County Sheriff's Office: He stated that he, Deputy Henderson, Deputy David Davis, Deputy Vincent, and another man, identified as Richard Sain, were playing cards at 3210 Rochester, Apartment #14. Deputy James Jenkins arrived at the apartment at approximately midnight and was watching the card game. Deputy Duval observed someone by the door, then saw an arm, holding a gun, through the partially-opened door. Deputy Jenkins drew his gun and fired several times. Deputy Jenkins ran to the doorway and the occupants of the apartment began calling out that they were police officers. Deputy Duval further states that he climbed into a closet and Deputy Vincent came into the closet behind him. Deputy Davis concealed himself behind a dresser. Deputy Duval further relates that they were calling out that they were police officers and a voice replied, "How do we know that?" Deputy Duval threw his badge onto the floor and crawled out of his place of concealment. The occupants of the bedroom were then dragged into the living room and he was then kicked and beaten.

Witness #6 - Deputy David E. Davis, Wayne County Sheriff's Office: He stated that he was playing cards at the involved premises when he heard a voice at the front door call out, "Come on out of there, M----- F-----." He then observed Deputy Jenkins whirl and commence drawing his weapon. At that time, three shots rang out. Deputy Davis stated that he, Deputy Henderson, Deputy Duval, and Richard Sain, retreated to a bedroom. While in the bedroom, Deputy Davis could hear more gunshots from outside the premises, but could not see who was shooting. Deputy Davis further stated that none of occupants in the bedroom fired any weapons. Deputy Jenkins advanced to the door of the bedroom three times and each time was met by a volley of shots. After the shooting had ceased, he states that he was kicked and pistol whipped by Detroit Police officers.

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Witness #7 - Deputy Aaron Vincent, Wayne County Sheriff's Office: He stated that he was in the involved apartment, talking on the telephone to his girlfriend, Gwendolyn Kreger, while other occupants of the premises were playing cards. He heard someone at the front door call out, "Police Officer," and then immediately heard shooting. The men playing cards retreated to a bedroom, called out that they were police officers and threw their badges out of the bedroom into the front portion of the apartment. After the shooting had ceased, he alleges that he was beaten and struck with a rifle butt on the head.

Witness #8 - Mr. Richard Sain, 3210 Rochester, Apartment #15: He stated that he was playing cards in the involved premises when a Negro male opened the screen door, called out, "Police," and fired a shot. Other shots were fired and the occupants of the apartment fled into a bedroom. The deputies present called out that they were Sheriffs. He observed Deputy Jenkins attempt to leave the bedroom. Another shot was fired and Deputy Jenkins fell. During the aftermath of the shooting, he alleges that he was trod on by Detroit Police officers.

Witness #9 - Gwendolyn Kreger, 195 Tuxedo, Highland Park: She stated that on March 9, 1972, at 12:05 A.M., she was talking on the telephone with Deputy Aaron Vincent. Over the telephone, she heard what sounded like a series of shots and then a voice say, "Hey, wait a minute, man. We're police officers here. We're Wayne County Deputy Sheriffs." She heard another voice state, "Come out of there, M----- F-----. Come out of there." Accompanied by her stepmother, Norma Jones, she then responded to the scene of the shooting.

Witness #10 - Norma Jones, 195 Tuxedo, Highland Park: Accompanied by her stepdaughter, Gwendolyn Kreger, she stated that she responded to the scene of the shooting and alleges that she was struck in the mouth by a Detroit Police officer.

Witness #11 - Sharon Addison, 3210 Rochester, Apartment #13: Miss Addison's apartment adjoins Apartment #14. She stated that she was home in bed, but not asleep. She heard three shots, then voices emanating from Apartment #14 saying, "Don't shoot. We're police officers, too." She heard another voice, emanating from outside the apartment, state, "Come out, M----- F-----."

On Tuesday, March 21, 1972 and on Wednesday, March 22, 1972, showups were conducted for the complaining witnesses in this matter with negative results.

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On March 24, 1972, warrants charging Patrolmen Virgil Starkey, Ronald Martin, and James Harris with Assault with Intent to Kill and Murder were recommended by Prosecutor William Cahalan relative to the shooting of Deputy Sheriff James Jenkins. An examination is set for March 29, 1972.

In response to your Honorable Body's inquiry about alleged threats to Detroit Police officers, Patrolmen James Harris and Virgil Starkey have reported receiving threats, as follows:

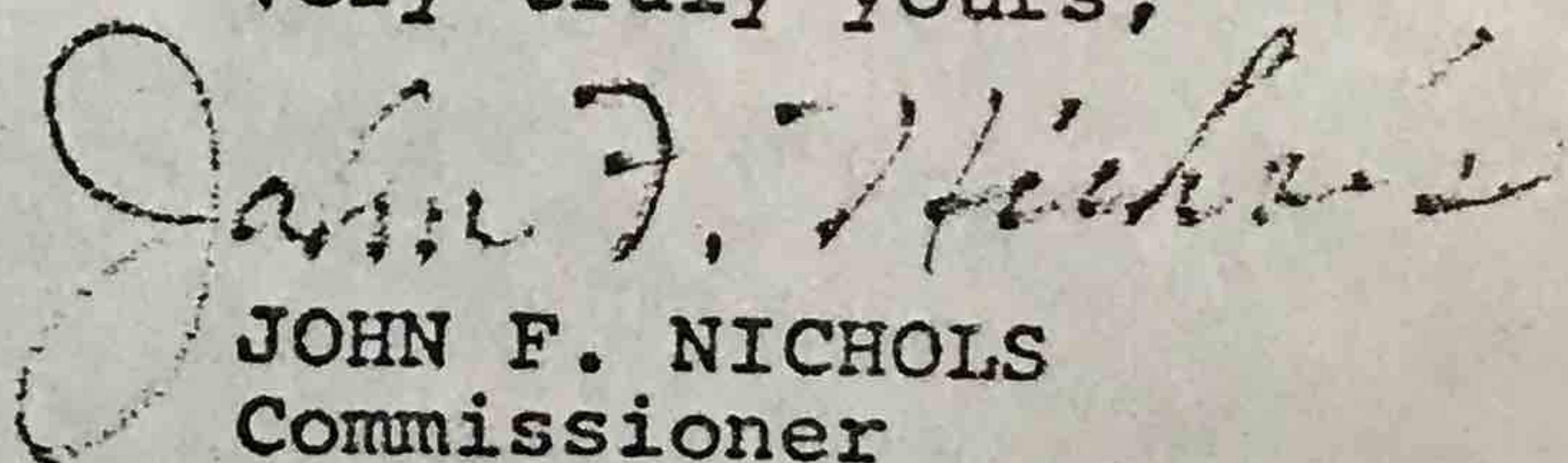
On March 9, 1972, while the officers were being interviewed in the Homicide Section office after the shooting, Patrolman Starkey states he was approached by Deputy David Davis, who told him that he (Davis) would "get Starkey" for what he did.

On March 15, 1972, a neighbor of Patrolman Harris reported that she had received a phone call from an anonymous male caller who asked for Patrolman Harris' phone number. When refused, he threatened that Patrolman Harris would "get his in the end."

There have been no threats, so far as our reports show, to officers arriving later on the scene (re: Patrolman Herold).

It has been brought to our attention that Sheriff William Lucas has received several threatening phone calls at his home concerning this incident. A police report has been made and special attention has and is being given to his address.

Very truly yours,


JOHN F. NICHOLS
Commissioner

JFN:mn