

# POLICE NEWS

## African Americans in Policing

Black Police In America by W. Marvin Dulaney, available from Indiana University Press in February 1996, tells the story of the black experience in American police departments from the post-civil War period to the present. Using many primary and secondary sources, the book shows how African Americans progressed from being second-class police officers to become some of the top police officers in the nation.

In recent years, blacks have held the chief's chair in many major cities, including New York, Chicago, Houston, Dallas, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Detroit, Miami, New Orleans, Baltimore, Oakland, Atlanta, and Memphis. Such service by African Americans was hard fought and hard won, notes Reuben M. Greenberg, Charleston police chief, in the book's Foreward. "African Americans were only grudgingly accepted as police officers," writes Greenberg. "Even after they were hired, they were still denied equal authority with white police officers, discriminated against in promotion and assignment, segregated, expelled, banned, and even prevented

from wearing their uniforms. In some cities they were denied the right to carry arms and to arrest whites."

It has taken more than 100 years and three "generations" of police officers for African Americans to define their position as law enforcement officers, says Dulaney, who directs the Avery Research Center for African American History and the African American Studies Program at the College of Charleston. He is coeditor of Essays on the American Civil Rights Movement.

The author characterizes these police generations as the "crime fighters," who served from Reconstruction to the 1940s, the "reformers," who policed in the 1950s and 1960s, and the "professionals," who have served from the 1960s to the present. Dulaney brings these men to life, from the legendary two-fisted head-breakers of the early years—men who were sent in to clean up the roughest areas, such as Chicago's "Bucket of Blood" section—to the highly educated and sophisticated officers who are the new innovators in police work.

Chief Greenberg notes that black police chiefs are sought and selected

today because they can markedly improve the overall relationship between the department and the African-American community and reduce the number of shootings by police and cases of alleged police brutality. "With few exceptions," he writes, "the race riots of the mid- and late twentieth century resulted not from direct conflicts between black and white citizens, but instead from direct conflict between police departments and black citizens... Many of the improvements that have been achieved in American race relations to date can be attributed to a reduction in the violence between the African-American community and the police forces that were, in many cases (especially in the south), organized to control the black population."

Blacks' ascendancy to police administration in the 1970s and 1980s was long overdue, Dulaney writes, for unlike other American ethnic groups—African Americans' advancement in the police profession was blocked by racism. "The black police chiefs who emerged in the 1980s represented the culmination of three generations... who, in spite of the odds, had made significant contributions to American law enforcement."

## Boyfriend arrested for baby's death

Late in the evening last week, Portland Police Detectives arrested and charged Roger Lynn Beason, white male, 29 years, in the death of 10-month-old Noah Stressing. Wednesday, June 11, 1997, at approximately 9:00 PM, Portland Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services were called to 4716 NE 19th Avenue regarding a child

who was having breathing problems. Examination of the child displayed injuries consistent with child abuse. Stressing was transported to Emanuel Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Portland Police Detective were called and the determination was made that Noah Stressing died as results of physical injuries.

The Medical Examiner's Office has determined that Stressing died as the result of multiple head injuries.

Roger Lynn Beason has been charged with Murder and is lodged at the Justice Center jail. Beason is the live-in boyfriend of Renee Courtenay, white female, 30 years, the mother of Stressing.

## Teen shot and killed

On Saturday, June 14, 1997 at approximately 1:40 AM, Portland Police Officers were called to the intersection of NE 23rd Avenue and NE Alberta Street regarding a shooting. Police arrived to discover 16-year-old Jamil Edward Myrick, black male, deceased at the scene.

It appears that the victim was standing in the street at the intersection of NE 23rd and NE Alberta Street, when the suspect(s) fired several rounds at the victim, killing him. Suspects have not been identified. It is unknown if this crime is gang related. Anyone with information regarding this crime is asked to contact Portland Police Detective Division at 823-0400. Investigative Sergeants K. Ferrell and D. Rubey are the case investigators.

## Curfew sweeps

The Portland Police Bureau will conduct curfew sweeps beginning this weekend. On Friday, June 13th, and Saturday, June 14th, each precinct, Gang Enforcement Team, and Traffic Division will address curfew violations and enhance traffic patrols.

In an effort to address community livability problems related to late-night activities, patrols will be enhanced as needs arise. Curfew times for under 14 years of age are 9:15 PM to 6 AM (school days), and 10:15 PM to 6 AM (non-school days).

Curfew times for 14 to 18 years of age - 10:15 PM to 6 AM (school days), and 12 midnight to 6 AM (non-school days).

## CRIME STOPPERS

The Washington County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending Gordon Leslie Adams. A felony no bail arrest warrant, charging Adams with Probation Violation, is on file. In addition, authorities want to question him in connection with counterfeit business and personal checks begin passed in the Portland metropolitan area. In the counterfeit check cases uncovered so far, Adams has obtained at least two different ID cards from the Oregon DMV; one in the name Steven Michael Scott, with a DOB August 12, 1934, and the other in the name John R. Golden, with a DOB July 2, 1932.



Gordon Leslie Adams

Gordon Leslie Adams is a 58-year-old white male -- DOB July 6, 1938. He is 5'11" to 6' tall, and weights 275 to 285 pounds, with blue eyes, and balding gray hair.

The FBI Fugitive Task Force, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending Heidi Claudine Blanton. An arrest warrant, charging Blanton with Failure to Appear on an original charge of First Degree Manslaughter, is on file. Bail has been set at \$250,000.



Heidi Claudine Blanton

year-old white female (DOB November 27, 1958). She is 5'2" tall and weighs approximately 115 pounds, with brown hair and green eyes. Aliases include Mary Lovell, Kathy Adel Wheeler, Heidi Sargent, Lisa Ann Martin, Calleen Largent, and Heidi Jeldness.

The First Degree Manslaughter charge stems from an incident on August 11, 1996, where Blanton, operating a pickup truck and suspected driving under the influence of drugs, struck a car containing a young woman who was en route with friends to her 20th birthday party. The young woman suffered severe head injuries and died 14 days after the incident.

Heidi Claudine Blanton is a 38-

**Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in these cases, or any unsolved felony crime, and you do not have to give your name. Call either the Washington County Sheriff's Office at (503) 681-6633, or Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP (4357).**

**PDC**  
PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**COMMISSION MEETING**

Date: June 26, 1997  
Place: PDC  
1900 SW Fourth, Suite 100  
Portland, OR  
Time: 3:00 p.m.

Commission meetings are open to the public. A complete agenda is available at PDC or by calling 823-3200. Citizens with disabilities may call 823-3232 or TDD 823-6868 for assistance at least 48 hours in advance.

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