

D.A.
M.C.
Cathy

Berets
name
print
conference

10-15,000
leaflets
Friday noon

Reverend Ard 231-7901
264-8880
Southeast Interdenominational

Linda Mitchell African Liberation Support Committee
Delores Turner Black Federation
Vernon Sukumar " "

a letter sent out to churches & organizations
send letters from us

Tyhone Thomas - murder
'gathering of community'
new genesis

Christ Church of San Diego
3060 54th Street & Redwood
7PM wed 12 July
a minimum of 300

info of our organization -
3-5 ~~per~~ per speaker need for community to come together
discussion and tie-up

City Council to Grand Jury no action by counsel
Chief Kolander wrote letter

? Policy & Planning Commission - 2 weeks 19 July all day agenda
5 city councilmen have asked for special meeting
formulate a policy to investigate citizen deaths
by police officer

Chunby has asked Chunby to play
Choirs

* a spiritual gathering celebrating our coming together only!
1) Togetherness
2) Thomas matter
case points to need to come together

- fly being ready -

17 people from Christ the King
a collection, proceeds, an offense fund for
* will be present *
Thomas Family
Civil Attorney

- question of SCAR going to family
- flyer by Friday
- collection at meeting -

news conference - Monday & Tuesday
with organization heads

gun policy

Ard has spoken to both witnesses
supposedly a secret meeting
media there, Ard claims police
tipped press

Rodney not polygraphed at Ard's request
police contacted Ard concerning poly
Christenson and Aguirre

L.A. Times

→ Tell them what we have done, what we plan
to do ask for support ←
information

Tyrone Thomas - official reports

→ no interpretation from us ←

Christenson has violated policy

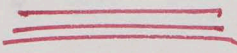
demands = ^{County} *Grand jury investigation*
formulate policy

a cover-up

Christenson should be ~~dismissed~~ suspended
during investigation

NAACP → national legal fund
go to Justice Department

in contact with U.S. Attorney Walsh
needs to see intent



club
→ TT running

an enactment of Kolendar's report
an enactment of witnesses report

→ witnesses did not see firing ←
→ Ard feels the shooting was accidental ← TT under control

"Don't Make Me
no club Kill You
he had no club

White Cadillac driver
unknown

he had no club

→ TT at the time was not known to be a felon
assumption not to be made that a fleeing individual
is a felon

→ need for justice ←

present the facts - not an isolated incident
what we feel should be done

Akili
will contact
Black sailor

July 7 - flyers
July 10 or 11 - news conference ←
July 12 - gathering of community
Leon Williams will not speak
will be there

security
→ World Com. of
Islam in the
West

NIA - Greg (PR)

10 PM Tuesday
Black Federation

transportation

leaflet distribution



→ phone calls ←

→ news conference ←

→ dramatic presentation ←

contact Brown Berets

large barrel in foyer on July 12

dump your ego in here

news release = announcement

prepared statement at news conference
put it on wire services AP, UPI
radio run info about rally

→ heads of all organizations that on coalition
will be at press conference

Kosumu Self-Determination
263-8161 Federation
479-9032 Home
263-2153 WIA

A Gathering of the Community...

sounds good to me
but unfortunately
we're gathered in the S O S of tragedy
more specifically - **POLICE BRUTALITY**
probably ain't the first time for you
sho' nuff ain't the first time for me

I hope this gathering will allow ideas to surface
ideas of humanizing power to the people ideas of love
ideas for building a caring society { Creative ideas
capable of countering the harsh cruelties of racism
like a skillful prizefighter dipping and sliding
underneath thunderous blows

This gathering of the community
should be
explanatory

to the powers that be
messin' with
and our minorities

! slaveowner mentality!!
! in the land of opportunity??

I hope we eventually
receive answers to

Where does it all end?

loving Where is the human respect deserved by soulful,
people?

When are we,

The BLACK

The BROWN

The RED

The YELLOW

The LONG-HAIRED

The DIFFERENT

members of our society

to be accepted as non-adversaries
in this land of the free?

... Ernest Charles Mc Cray

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| POLICE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTION Origin: CHIEF OF POLICE | DATE: 7/11/77 | PAGE: 1 OF 2 | NO. 1.6 ADMINISTRATION |
| DISSEMINATION: ALL SWORN PERSONNEL | SUBJECT: FIREARMS POLICY | | |

This Department Instruction supersedes Instruction 1.6 dated August 3, 1976.

I. PURPOSE

To establish Department policy on the use of firearms.

II. GENERAL

Contemporary society, the legislature, the judiciary, and the Department place a greater value on the preservation of life than on the apprehension of criminal offenders. For this reason, the Department considers firearms to be defensive weapons, to be used only when necessary to protect human life or in the rare situations to apprehend fleeing felons.

The use of a firearm is in all probability the most serious act a law enforcement officer will engage in. It is, therefore, imperative that he act not only within the boundaries of legal guidelines, good judgment and accepted practice, but that he also be prepared by training, leadership, and direction to act wisely whenever use of a firearm is necessary in the course of his duties.

III. POLICY

A. It is the policy of the San Diego Police Department that officers shall use a firearm only as a last resort when it reasonably appears necessary:

- 1) To protect themselves from death or serious bodily injury, or;
- 2) To protect another officer or any other person from death or serious bodily injury, or;
- 3) To apprehend a fleeing felon believed to be armed with a deadly weapon for a felony involving great bodily injury or the threat of great bodily injury.

B. A firearm should be drawn or displayed only under one of the above conditions or under circumstances that are recognizable by the officer as being potentially dangerous.

N
E
W

C. Guidelines in Specific Situations:

1) Warning or Attention Shots

- a. Shots fired into the air or ground in an attempt to cause a fleeing suspect to stop or surrender present a danger to the officer and innocent persons, and are prohibited.
- b. In extremely rare and extraordinary situations where the safety of the officer or another person is involved, the firing of a warning or attention shot may be permissible. Example: An officer, or innocent person(s) or prisoner(s) are threatened with attack by persons engaged in a riot. As a last resort, the firing of a warning shot may be permissible in an attempt to stop the threatened attack.

2) Moving Vehicles

Firing at or from moving vehicles is generally prohibited. Experience shows that such action is rarely effective and is extremely hazardous to innocent persons. Only in extremely rare and extraordinary situations is such action justified.

- D. Procedures for reporting incidents involving the discharge of firearms are contained in Department Instruction 1.7.



SOUTHEAST INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

3032 53rd STREET • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92105
Telephones: (714) 264-7240 . . 264-8880 . . 231-7901

July 5, 1978

Rev. Robert Ard
President

Rev. James Allison
Vice President

Sr. Agatha Faimon
Recording Secretary

Rev. Homer Pacely
Assistant Recording Secretary

Rev. Willie Manley
Treasurer

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I, as President of the Southeast Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, have been requested by NIA Cultural Organization, Black Federation, NAACP, The Association of Black Attorneys and others to form a coalition of the Alliance and other community organizations for the purpose of coordinating our collective efforts in our pursuit of justice in the murder of Tyrone Thomas.

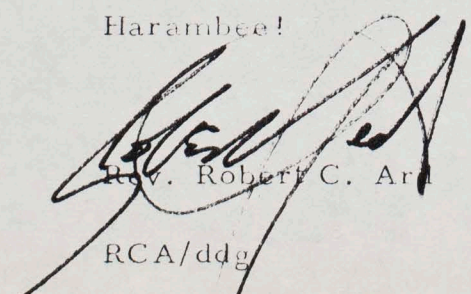
In response to this request I am requesting all community Pastors and leaders of community organizations who will accept and support this purpose to a "Gathering of the Community" on Wednesday, July 12, 1978 at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Church of San Diego, located at 3060 54th Street (54th and Redwood) .

This will be a new genesis for us in progress through cooperative efforts as we move together not only for justice in this instance matter, but for the well-being of our entire community.

I encourage each of you to tell others of this "gathering" and bring them with you as we began the metamorphosis from "existing" to "living".

We need each other, for there is no one else to fill our needs and heal our hurts-----but us.

Harambee!


Rev. Robert C. Ard

RCA/ddg

MEMBERS:

Rev. Junious Blake
Rev. Casper I. Glenn
Mr. Pierre Victor Gousse
Dr. Charles Hampton
Rev. Eugene Harvey
Eman Mahir K. Hasan
Chaplain Robert Heath
Rev. Amos Johnson, Jr.
Dr. William E. Johnson
Rev. Roy Landers
Rev. Erwin L. Lueker
Mr. Cleo Malone
Rev. John McCullough
Dr. George McKinney
Mr. Thomas H. McPhatter
Dr. Offutt T. McWilliams
Rev. Grandison M. Phelps, Jr.
Rev. George Walker Smith
Rev. George Stevens
Rev. Robert Taheny
Rev. Cleveland S. Thornhill II
Mr. Wade Vaughn
Dr. Edward P. Williams
Chaplain Meretle H. Wilson

moderator Greg Atkili

crowd 160-200

ABA - Joe Davis speakers

a right to go to trial

TT can not get justice he is dead

"the most we can hope for is justice for the killers of Tyrone Thomas"

even if killed accidentally
involuntary manslaughter
murder with malice aforethought

"some evidence that due caution and
circumspection was not used"

ABA has sent a letter to State attorney
general to open an investigation

first vice-president of NAACP →

Mr & Mrs Thomas present

we called on
regional council
letter

response

series of steps before going to Justice Dept.
FBI

City Council - some action

Grand Jury but not D.A. prosecutor
action Chief of Police

outside, independent investigating agency

educational

working together

a goal - bigger than our agenda

if we tried to initiate people in issues bigger than the individual organizations it would be better

we should not let our organizations become personalized, individually

"a perceived public mood is that enough has been done without infringing on constitutional rights of whites"

media language - reverse discrimination
forced bussing

African Liberation Solidarity Committee
Support

"Frank Christianson should be on trail for murder"

Leon Williams

"if you don't survive as a group pretty soon all the individuals are gone"

not talking about not having a police dept.
talking about peace officers acting like storm troopers

you wouldn't hit a man with a loaded weapon not unless you don't care if you kill them

26 July 2PM RM2000 of City Admin Building

investigation by city council
on how police act on street
use fire arms

Msemaji

Malcolm X we have a responsibility to
defend ourselves
when we get called to arms
to fight someone we've never
seen we go we even volunteer

its wrong no to defend
ourselves and our children

we have a responsibility
a civic responsibility
our lives ~~are~~ are at stake

we as adults have a responsibility to
run this society

the problem involves all of us here
in San Diego

A a live enactment
of Chief Kolender's report

B an eye-witness report Rodney

discrepancy in the two reports

A

B

billy club

"^{no club}
don't make me kill
you"

I'm Mr. Tyrone Thomas father

"For awhile I felt alone
I feel good to see my brothers
and sisters"

left in tears

Thomas Offense Fund

~~Thomas~~ Rev. McFadden

a class-action suite against
the city of San Diego

what weapon do we have
the white man's guilt
genocide of black folks and other people

H. Baca

the manner in which these murders are
investigated

"Jesse James investigating the
bank robbers"

Grand Jury - not one person of
Mexican-ancestry

the victim was made a criminal

"justice to white power structure
of this country justice means
just us"

we have to get mad

nobody can give us justice we have to
fight for it

~~Intellectual~~ ^{mild manners of} intellectual ^{gentile} militant
Vernon Sukum

a new era
similar to KKK during reconstruction

police involved with status quo

even the Boston Strangler got a trial
police have a history

comparison worse - extremely harsh

- Islam - metamorphosis

very simple rap

everyday's a crisis

we're dealing with humanity

→ Avd ←

change - metamorphosis

\$183.96 less than an ^{the} employment check

existing

we too tired

coalition addresses itself to housing?

"People among us whose primary purpose is to keep us disorganized"

Offense fund
can't even get a brief typed up

Talk about buying fed mart and
big bear

somebody ought to do something
an easy matter
to disqualify the DA

- Grand jury investigation
- suspension of Christianson
- City Council a policy of investigating all citizen deaths by police
- U.S. Justice Dept. investigate violation of civil rights

support businesses within our community
an economic base

Thomas - a vet of WWII & Vietnam
worked with Little League

call upon employer

Christianson has violated
gun & pursuit policy

Christianson got transferred

Police don't think a good idea for
cops to take a polygraph test

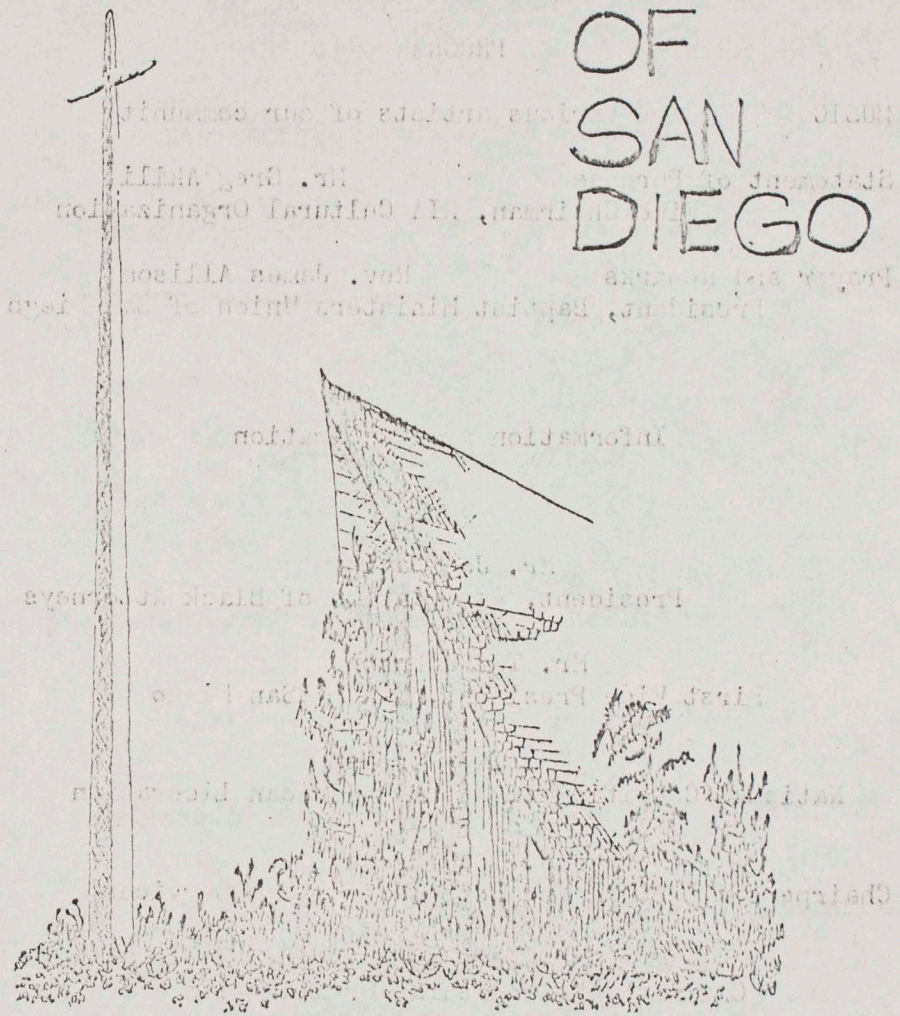
people who misuse you and misrepresent
you
you stop supporting them

who owns most of

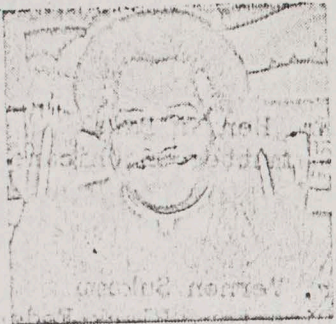
genesis, beginning

those who stand will be there
when the change comes

CHRIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO



3060 54th Street, San Diego, California
Office Telephone 264-7240



REV. ROBERT C. ARD
PASTOR

of our community, by our community, and for our community.
psychological, sociological, and economic relationships
This is not a rally, but the beginning of a spiritual

Coalition for Freedom & Justice (Thomas L. Anderson)
Rev. Robert C. Ard, Moderator

World Community of Jesus in the West, Westfield, Massachusetts
Lynn, Daniel Adams

Chairman, National Black Leadership Initiative

Thomas L. Anderson, Jr., the People

Transmission of Thomas Family

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Sponsored by

The Coalition for Freedom and Justice
"Solving collective Problems with collective Efforts"

PROGRAM

MUSIC Various artists of our community

Statement of Purpose Mr. Greg Akili
Vice Chairman, NIA Cultural Organization

Prayer and Remarks ~~Rev. James Allison~~
President, Baptist Ministers Union of San Diego

Information and Inspiration

Mr. Joe Davis
President, Association of Black Attorneys

Mr. Tom Johnson
First Vice President, NAACP, San Diego

Mr. Ike Merris
National Coalition to Support African Liberation

~~Ms. Shay Green~~
Chairperson, People for Better Feeds and Services

Mr. Ken Msemaji
Chairman, NIA Cultural Organization

Presentation of Police Report

Presentation of Thomas Family

Thomas Offense Fund We, the People

Mr. Herman Baca
Chairman, Committee on Chicano Rights

Mr. Vernon Sukumu
Executive Director, Black Federation

Eman, Daniel Adnan
World Community of Islam in the West, Masjid Muhammad #8

Rev. Robert C. Ard, Spokesperson
Coalition for Freedom & Justice (Thomas Matter)

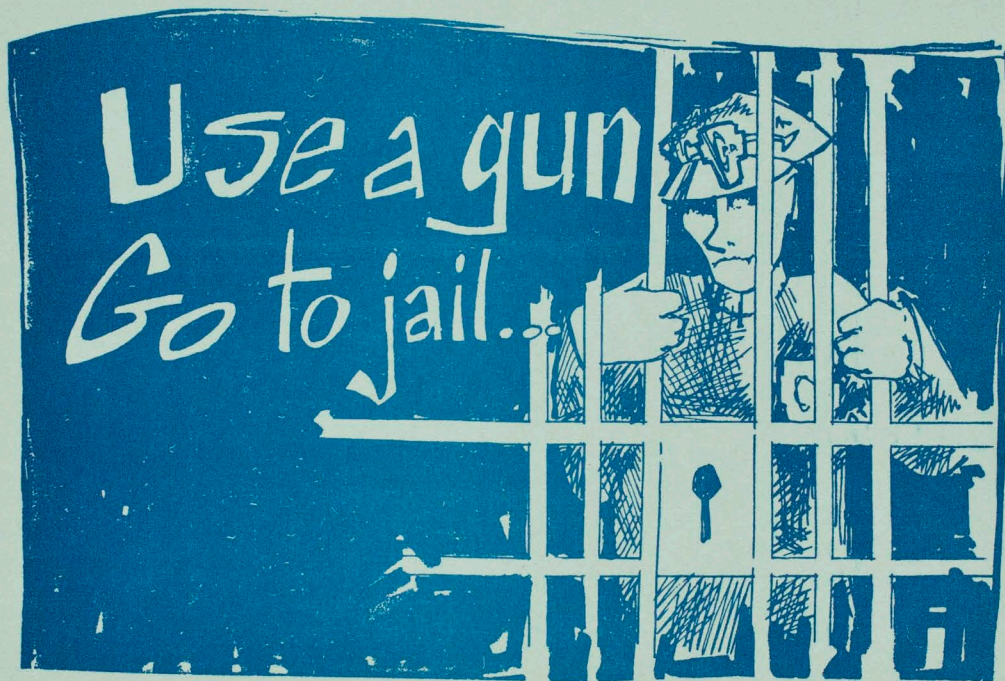
This is not a rally, but the beginning of a spiritual,
psychological, sociological and economic metamorphosis
of our community, by our community and for our community.

ON MAY 30, 1978, TYRONE THOMAS, AN UNARMED BLACK MAN WAS MURDERED BY A SAN DIEGO CITY POLICEMAN. THROUGHOUT AMERICA BLACK AND BROWN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF POLICE KILLINGS, BEATINGS, AND OTHER FORMS OF BRUTALITY. THE MAJORITY OF THESE INCIDENTS ARE CONCLUDED BY THE POLICE INVESTIGATING THEMSELVES AND JUSTIFYING THEIR ACTIONS. OVER THE YEARS, MURDERS SUCH AS THAT OF LUIS TATO RIVERA AND NOW TYRONE THOMAS, HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR US TO COME TOGETHER. WE NEED EACH OTHER FOR THERE IS NO ONE ELSE TO FILL OUR NEEDS AND HEAL OUR HURTS - BUT US. THEREFORE WE ARE CALLING A

GATHERING of the COMMUNITY

7:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1978

CHRIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO 3060 54th St.
(corner of 54th & Redwood)



COME HEAR THE FACTS

SPONSORED BY THE COALITION FOR JUSTICE

AFRICAN LIBERATION SUPPORT/ ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ATTORNEYS/ BLACK FEDERATION
/COMMITTEE ON CHICANO RIGHTS/ NAACP/ NIA CULTURAL ORGANIZATION/ SOUTHEAST
INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE/ WORLD COMMUNITY OF ISLAM IN THE
WEST MASJID MUHAMMAD NO. 8 / PEOPLE FOR BETTER FOODS AND SERVICES

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 231-7901/264-7240

SAN DIEGO NEWSLINE

VOL. 1, ISSUE 29

SAN DIEGO'S ONLY PROGRESSIVE NEWSWEEKLY

MAY 3 - 9, 1978

'Why'd you shoot?' he asked

by David Helvarg

James Graham, a 23 year old black sailor AWOL from his ship, had just walked from the laundry room of his apartment complex on Montalvo Street in Ocean Beach to the front door of the apartment he shared with his wife and six month old child when he was approached by two San Diego policemen.

They told him to stop where he was. He told them he didn't have to, turned and ran. Lawrence Simmons, 32, a 12 year veteran of the force and his partner Edward Kunold, having reportedly decided Graham must be a burglar, took off after him.

Graham began yelling for help. Whether Simmons gave Graham a second order to halt is a matter of contention. What is agreed on is that Simmons drew his service revolver and fired a shot, hitting the sailor in the back. The .38 caliber slug entered Graham's back, puncturing a lung, causing it to collapse and injuring the liver. Had it hit three inches to the side he would have been killed or permanently paralyzed.

For his action on the afternoon of April 6 Simmons last week received a 30 day suspension without pay from the San Diego Police Department. According to police spokesman Bill Robinson, Simmons was found to have violated department firearms policy which requires that: "deadly force not be used

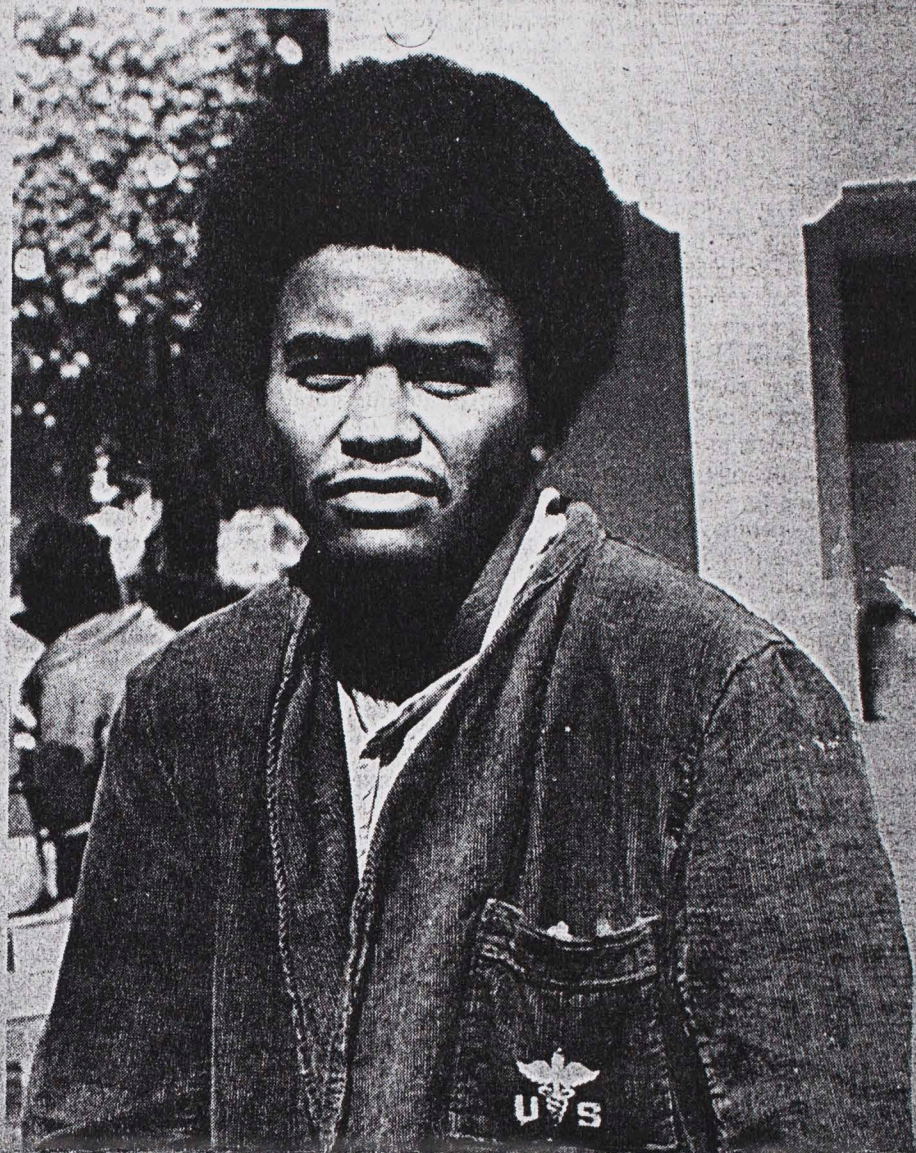
unless a person is armed or poses a threat of bodily harm or injury to the officer or others."

According to Police Chief Bill Kolenker, Simmons, whose "record reflects no similar conduct and contains numerous commendations" will be returned to duty May 28 to continue work with the School Task Force, the assignment on which he was working at the time of the shooting. Simmons himself was not available for comment.

Earlier, on April 12, D.A. Ed Miller had issued a decision stating that Officer Simmons has committed "no prosecutable offense."

"I'm very pissed off about the way this whole thing's been handled," James Graham told the NEWSLINE from his ward at the Balboa Navy Hospital. "The officer hasn't even called to apologize. The police haven't apologized. Instead they've gone around to my neighbors asking them about my character and investigating what kind of a person I am. Why don't they ask Simmons' neighbors about his character?"

Graham has retained the services of a lawyer and begun considering the possibility of a civil action against the police. "A lot of what I know to be the facts in this case have not come out and I want them to come out," he says. "Like the D.A. claims the officer shot me from 25 to 30 feet behind but I think I can prove he was no more than 15 feet away from me. You know he didn't



Shooting victim James Graham

Photographed by Larry Jorgensen

have to shoot me anyway. I was running blind, just sort of in a panic. After I went over this low wall I found myself running into a clump of bushes. I could not have gone anywhere from there."

Asked if he thought there were racial overtones to his shooting Graham hesitated a moment. "You know I didn't want to make a thing of it, but really yes, I do think discrimination played a part in this. I mean there was no burglary

reported at my apartment so why did he assume I was breaking into the place? I think it's because I'm black and the neighborhood is white.

"After he shot me and came up behind me I thought he was going to shoot me again. I'm glad a lot of my neighbors had heard me yelling and come outside, I'm glad for those witnesses. 'Why'd you shoot me?' I asked him. 'You shouldn't have run,' he said."

SHOOTING DEATH

Continued from First Page

Huffman and chief investigator Wayne Burgess, former head of the city crime laboratory, studied the police case file to reach the conclusions, he said. The only applicable charge was involuntary manslaughter, he said, and that required gross negligence on Christensen's part.

Huffman explained the shooting circumstances this way:

Christensen was pursuing a car in which Thomas was hitching a ride. When the car stopped and Thomas fled, police pursued and found Thomas hiding beneath a clump of bushes.

At this point, Christensen drew his revolver, and with his nightstick in his left hand, ordered Thomas out.

Thomas came toward Christensen, then suddenly turned to run. Christensen grabbed him with his left hand "which was now full of baton (nightstick) and the suspect's shirt," and Thomas pulled away.

Christensen then swung at Thomas's head with his revolver, cutting his scalp with either the barrel or cylinder. As Thomas fell, the gun discharged and Thomas died instantly when the bullet entered the base of his skull at point-blank range.

Huffman said Christensen was not out of line in drawing his gun because "they had the right to stop him as a possible burglary suspect, and he fled. They had no way of knowing he was unarmed. They had the right to have weapons drawn until they could find out what was happening."

Christensen apparently squeezed off the round by accident as he swung the revolver, Huffman said.

To be guilty of gross negligence, the officer "would have to be so careless as to be indifferent to what could happen if he fired his weapon, it would involve a willful disregard for the safety of others," Huffman said.

Huffman said the city police rules for display and firing of weapons are both stricter than the state penal code's, but he did not believe the evidence pointed to a violation of the city code.

But Councilman Williams said the case "contributes remarkably to the widening gap between the citizenry, particularly black citizenry, and the government, in this case the police."

LAT 13 JUN 78

D.A. Won't File Charges on Policeman in Fatal Scuffle

BY ED SYLVESTER

Times Staff Writer

No criminal charges will be filed against the San Diego police officer who killed a 21-year-old burglary suspect during a scuffle May 30, the district attorney's office said Monday.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Richard Huffman said no evidence of gross negligence could be found in the shooting death of Tyrone Earl Thomas as he tried to flee from patrolman Frank G. Christensen.

Under the law, only such gross negligence could have brought a criminal penalty, Huffman said, although civil negligence charges can be brought and administrative action taken against the officer.

Police Chief William B. Kolender said he would comment on the decision today. As for administrative action, Kolender said he would be "free to take almost whatever recourse I wanted."

Thomas' death had prompted a call by City Councilman Leon L. Williams for an investigation into what he said were a series of beatings and shootings of blacks by police in recent months.

Of the decision not to bring charges, Williams said Monday, "I'm going to pursue the matter. I don't think the police should be forgiven when their actions end in death. We don't forgive private citizens for such actions. They go to jail for much less."

But Williams said he would press the City Council, rather than the Police Department, for action.

"Policies have to be established by the City Council to guide the police in how they handle situations like this one. If any other city employe abuses a private citizen on the job, we correct it. That's what we have to do here."

The department already has policies governing the display of weapons by police officers which according to Huffman are "far more stringent than the state penal code."

Even by city regulations, Huffman said, "it appears to me that the gun was properly drawn. I'm not saying properly discharged, but his drawing the gun was proper under the circumstances."

Please Turn to Page 10, Col. 4

NAACP Asks Probe Of S.D. Shootings

By **MICHAEL D. LOPEZ**
Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

The NAACP has asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the San Diego Police Department's handling of recent cases involving black suspects shot by white officers, a spokesman said yesterday.

The request, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Western Regional Office in San Francisco, was initiated by the San Diego chapter in response to the exoneration Tuesday of a local policeman who during a pursuit and struggle killed a burglary suspect May 30.

Officer Frank G. Christensen said his gun fired accidentally when he struck 21-year-old Tyrone Earl Thomas behind the neck with the weapon during a struggle. Thomas was unarmed.

Monday, the district attorney's office cleared Christensen of criminal negligence in the matter. Police Chief William Kolender Tuesday called the shooting "a tragic accident" and cleared the officer without a reprimand.

"But we're not at all satisfied with police handling of this most recent shooting incident," said Tom Johnson, vice president of the NAACP's local chapter.

"That the officer had his finger on the trigger when he struck the victim is the most serious question, and given all the other technicalities about it being an accident, that question has simply not been answered satisfactorily," Johnson said.

Johnson said a specific timetable of actions to be taken will be announced next week.

"We also feel that this case is big enough and important enough that we should ask our national body for help. We feel we definitely need an independent investigation into the matter," he said.

constituted body. I think that we have nothing to hide and I kind of welcome it."

Meanwhile, reaction in the black community to Christensen's exoneration was swift and angry.

The Rev. Robert C. Ard, pastor of Christ Church of San Diego and president of the Southeast Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, issued a statement calling for the immediate firing of Christensen.

"His (Kolender's) conclusion, supported by the findings of the district attorney, is but additional evidence of what black people in this country have known for some time. That is rarely do white people do anything to other white people who kill black people," Ard said.

"We have read recently of the

tremendous support Kolender has in the majority and minority communities (but) I will not support him until he takes some effective action within the department that indicates to his personnel that the unjustified killing of black people will not be tolerated," he said.

Ard called the shooting "no isolated matter, but a continuation of a practice which must be stopped." Calling exoneration of Christensen "another glimpse of the racism which permeates this city," he vowed to utilize his influence "to keep this issue on the conscience of the community until justice is done."

Curtis Moring, president of the Association of Small Businesses, representing 85 businesses in South-

east San Diego, issued a statement calling Kolender's decision a mistake.

"We feel that there is no justification for this kind of conduct from a peace officer who is certified to be especially well-trained . . . and selected for duty in a predominantly-minority community when it is well known that such communities require police officers with special skills and sensitivities," the statement read. "The handling of this matter has been odious."

Privately, Moring made stronger statements.

"I'm certain that we are dealing with one of the most racist groups of policemen in the country right here in San Diego," he said.

(Continued on B-4, Col. 4)

POLICE CRITICIZED

NAACP Asks Probe Of Suspect Shootings

(Continued from Page B-1)

"I think that many in middle management at the Police Department are racists," he said. "They've been there too long with outdated racial attitudes that can't be changed just by appointing Kolender as chief of police. The chief can't possibly know all that's going on in the streets, and the total department needs an investigation and an overhaul."

City Councilman Leon Williams, who moved the council's Public Services and Safety Committee to vote unanimously last week to conduct public hearings on allegations of police misconduct, said Christensen's exoneration gives the hearings added importance.

Perhaps the strongest reaction to the matter came yesterday from Ken Msema-

ji, chairman of the Nia Cultural Association.

"There is a long history in this and most police departments of police killing black, brown and other minority people," he said, "and usually it ends with a ceremonial slap on the hand, if even that.

"Kolender has had a lot of support from within the minority community in the past. But from the talk I've been hearing from people lately, that support is seriously declining. The Police Department needs to be investigated thoroughly, and not by the Police Department. That's like having Frank James investigate Jesse James.

"Our organization believes in non-violence as a strategy, and we recognize that more than 50 percent of violent crimes in America are

committed by teen-agers. If this kind of police behavior continues, if the police are allowed to run around like

bandits and murder and brutalize people and not be punished, I think you're going to see many minority youths retaliate violently. And that's a thing we just can't afford.

"I think Christensen

should be fired and prosecuted," Msemaji said. "Until that kind of strict action is taken, then other police officers have a license to be as carefree as they can with black or brown or other human life."