

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JAMES H. LESAR,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 77-0692

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, et al.,

Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT OF HORACE P. BECKWITH

I, Horace P. Beckwith, being duly sworn, depose
and say as follows:

(1) I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau
of Investigation (FBI) assigned in a supervisory capacity
to the Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) Branch,
Records Management Division at FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ).
Pursuant to my official duties, I am familiar with Plaintiff's
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of the United
States Department of Justice, Office of Professional Respon-
sibility (OPR) for the appendix material compiled during
the review by OPR of the investigation of Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr. by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the FBI.

(2) In response to a request from OPR, I caused
a review to be conducted by the Atlanta Office, FBI of
the file pertaining to the assassination of Dr. King.
I specifically requested a review of the material furnished
the FBI by the Atlanta, Georgia Police Department. I
was informed that 29 pages of documents were received
by the FBI in Atlanta from the Atlanta Police Department.
These documents are included in the FBI file on the assassi-
nation of Dr. King and are specifically located in Atlanta
file number 44-2336, Serial 1215. The police department
transmitted these documents to the FBI in confidence and
for investigative assistance during the investigation

HD

Yours letter? check serial

of Dr. King's assassination.

The transmittal and free flow of information by the FBI and local law enforcement agencies are critical for effective law enforcement. The documents referred to above were provided in confidence with the clear understanding that the FBI would insure their confidentiality. To now disclose this information would greatly inhibit the cooperation between local and federal agencies. These avenues of cooperation are essential and protection of documents, such as those provided by the Atlanta Police Department, is consistent with the spirit and intent of the FOIA. Various local law enforcement agencies have expressed their concern to the FBI about releases of their records to the public after these records were confidentially furnished. Any such release will affect future frank and candid exchanges of information between agencies.

to public

Horace P. Beckwith
HORACE P. BECKWITH
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day
of May, 1978.

Robert W. Austin
Notary Public

My commission expires My Commission Expires September 14, 1981.