

November 26, 1963

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

Sir:

I arrived at the City Hall, Sunday morning, November 24, 1963, at approximately 9:25 A. M. I went to the Police Assembly Room in the basement and reported in to Lt. B. C. Merrell, and asked him where Captain Arnett was. Lt. Merrell informed me that Captain Arnett and all of the Reserves who had been there were taken into the basement parking area by Sgt. P. T. Deen to search it.

I then went to the basement parking area and reported to Captain Arnett who was standing about 15 feet behind two television cameras that were set up in the first two parking stalls, facing the entranceway into the jail hallway. Reserve Officer G. E. Worley was standing beside Captain Arnett. I observed Reserve Lt. D. T. Suits standing at the bottom of the ramp, leading into the parking area. I also noticed Reserve Patrolman W. J. Newman standing at the extreme south end of the parking area. A radio patrol officer was standing in front of the elevators that are on the center east side of the parking area. I asked Captain Arnett what the situation was, and he told me that they had just finished searching the basement under the direction of Sgt. P. T. Deen, and they had been instructed to stay in the basement area and keep people out of the parking area.

Captain Talbot came by and asked if the air conditioning vents had been checked and Sgt. J. E. Hopkins (Reserve) walked up at this time and said that he had just finished checking them. I stayed with Captain Arnett to help in coordinating the assignments requested of the Reserves.

Two conferences were held by the regular officers in the parking area, but we were not asked to listen in or not told what was going on. After these conferences, the regular officers left the basement area with shotguns.

Sgt. Deen requested that we send a man to Commerce and Pearl to work the traffic as a signal light was stuck at this location. I sent Patrolman G. E. Worley to work this.

A request was made that we send men to the south ramp entrance to move the crowd that had gathered there across the street to the south sidewalk and hold them there. I made several trips to and from the assembly room to get reserves as they reported in to Lt. Merrell to help handle this crowd. I sent Reserve Sgt. Hopkins up to the Commerce Street side to supervise the operation and to keep me informed of the situation there. A request was made that a Reserve Officer be placed in the hall in front of the jail office window to help the regular officer there check people out. Reserve Officer A. B. Craig was assigned to this location.