

LAPD may open Kennedy files

Police Commission to consider airing reports on RFK slaying

By DAVID HART
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The Los Angeles Police Department's investigative files on the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy — more than 50,000 pages of material — may be approved for release by the Police Commission next week.

Historians, journalists and authors researching the so-called conspiracy theory of Kennedy's death have expressed an interest in the documents, which could be available in six months if release is approved. The material is considered the definitive source on the

crime and the last remaining non-public record of the assassination 17 years ago.

The last time the commission considered opening the files was in 1975, when it was decided that written questions about the shooting could be answered by police staff, but the actual documents wouldn't be released.

However, researchers who submitted questions were unable to get answers, said author Greg Stone, who sought a copy of the search warrant documents relating to the car belonging to Sirhan Sirhan — Robert Kennedy's convicted assassin.

Stone, who says he has unanswered questions about the shooting, became interested in the case in 1975 through former Congressman Allard Lowenstein. Stone is the author of the 1983 book "Lowenstein: Acts of Courage and Bellef," and is considering writing another book on Robert Kennedy's assassination.

"This is the most important crime in the history of California and it would be extraordinary if after 15 years there wasn't a decision to begin to allow the public to have access," Stone said.

At least 10 letters supporting the dis-

closure have been received by the mission, including one from an arc at the Kennedy Library in Cambridge, Mass., which maintains a collection of Robert Kennedy's papers.

"We clearly have a duty to insure safe preservation of this historic formation," said Barbara Schlei, a member of the commission. Schlei was porter of Kennedy in his presidential campaign and was present at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles when the shooting occurred.

"We also have a duty to make it

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