

Memorandum of Interview With Police
Officer Willie B. Richmond; Federal
Building, Memphis, Tennessee,
July 7, 1976

Police Officer Willie B. Richmond of the Memphis Police Department was interviewed by team members Folsom and Walker on July 7, 1976. Officer Richmond, who is now a member of the robbery squad of the MPD, stated that when the sanitation workers strike began in February of 1968, he was assigned to plainclothes duty for purposes of observing the activities of the striking workers. On April 4, 1968, the day Dr. King was shot, Officer Richmond said that he was asked to report to Fire Station No. 2 to relieve Officer Edward E. Redditt whose life had been threatened. Officer Richmond said that he arrived at the fire station between 1:30 and 2:00 P.M. and Officer Redditt had already gone home.

At approximately 6:00 P.M. Officer Richmond said he was getting ready to call headquarters to report that everything was quiet when he heard a shot and someone said that Dr. King had been shot. Officer Richmond then went to the observation post in the fire station (rear window) and saw Dr. King lying on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. He then called headquarters and reported that Dr. King had been shot. Headquarters told Officer Richmond to report to the Homicide squad and Officer Richmond immediately left the fire station in his private automobile. The automobile was parked on the Butler Street

side of the fire station, and Officer Richmond proceeded north on South Main Street to Police Headquarters where he made a report of the shooting. Officer Richmond said that there was traffic on Main Street when he left the fire station, but he did not see any of the officers on Main Street. Officer Richmond estimated that approximately two minutes elapsed from the time he heard the shot to the time he left the fire station.