

% 2349 N. Early Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
July 11, 1984

Mr. William G. Cowdin
Secretary, Los Angeles Police Commission
Suite 144-150, Parker Center
150 N. Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Cowdin:

Enclosed is the reply I have sent to Mr. Cobb of the Robbery-Homicide Division in response to his remarkable letter.

As I mentioned on the telephone on Monday, I would appreciate a response to my letter of a month ago (copy attached) concerning the answers given to earlier inquiries on the Robert Kennedy case-pursuant to the Police Commission procedure established in 1975. You mentioned hypothetically in that conversation that Police Commission policies may be changed, although you stated that you had no knowledge to that effect in this matter, nor, indeed, of the formal Police Commission procedure which is the basis of this entire process. Absent contrary information, I will make the routine assumption that the 1975 commitments were entered into seriously, and not as a matter of deceptiveness or whimsy. As you know, this assassination is not a frivolous matter.

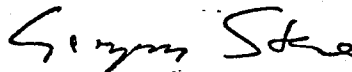
Although my requests have been at all times directed to the Police Commission, you stated that you had no knowledge of Mr. Cobb's letter, and there is no inkling in it of any consultation by him with anyone connected with the Police Commission in connection with his response. Leaving aside the disregard for your agency which this posture displays, it suggests that future communications on this matter will best be channelled through the Police Commission, to avoid further waste of time. My request was and is to the commission, not to the Police Department.

My assumption over the past several months that this matter was being processed in good faith has apparently been misplaced. As you were not directly involved during much of this period, I assume that you will be equally concerned about this sequence of evasion and inaction. The initial questions were deliberately framed to be elementary and easily responded to, given a minimal grasp by the agencies involved of the material in this case. They by no means exhaust the basic unresolved issues about the assassination, but they do pose some matters which are usefully clarified at this point.

Few of those familiar with the number and gravity of the fundamental questions existing about the Robert Kennedy assassination believed that the Police Commission policy established in 1975 was adequate or substantially responsive to the public's right to know in this matter. It was specifically designed and adopted by the Police Commission itself, in preference to other proposals which were both more forthcoming and effective and more easily administered, for addressing the informational issues of this case. Leaving the broader questions aside, however, I have confined my initial inquiry thus far to the terms of the established policy, which is explicitly cited in the first sentence of my October letter.

I would appreciate receiving now either answers to the questions submitted to date or an indication as to when they will begin to become available.

Sincerely,



Gregory Stone

% 2349 N. Early Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
July 11, 1984

William H. Cobb, Captain
Commanding Officer
Robbery-Homicide Division, LAPD
P.O. Box 30158
Los Angeles, CA 90030

Dear Mr. Cobb:

Your letter of June 26 concerning information regarding the Robert F. Kennedy assassination is incomprehensible to me.

My initial request for information, now nearly nine months old, was addressed not to the Police Department but the the Board of Police Commissioners. As that board has made explicit and public commitments (concurrent in by the police), your reference to standard procedures in criminal investigations is inapposite. The October, 1983 letter to which you make reference was clearly premised on these commitments, which your response entirely ignores. Although you reply in the name of Mr. Gates, your letter flatly contradicts his specific assurances of the exact points at issues.

As my request was directed to the Police Commission, I wish to know who, if anyone, in that body you contacted before arriving at the views expressed in your letter. If no one, on what basis did you reply on that agency's behalf?

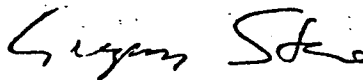
Your claim that "the Superior Court has ordered that the Department's files on the (assassination) investigation remain confidential" is absolutely unsupported by any information of which I am aware. Please provide documentation and/or citation to indicate the basis of this claim.

I am also perturbed by what has become a series of either uninformed or purposely deceptive responses from the Los Angeles officials to whom I have been referred on this matter. For example, your remarks contradict the assurance (three weeks previous) by Mr. Bonino of the Records and Identification Division that "the depth and complexity of the investigation has required special handling" and that two officers had been assigned to that task. I now wish to know what "investigation" has taken place, with what results.

In addition, I am surprised at the assertion that the City Attorney's office (which also concurred in the policy cited above) rendered the advice which you describe, particularly at any time preceding the assurances I have received that this matter was being actively pursued. Who in that office furnished this advice and when?

I urge you to inform yourself concerning the relevant background of this matter, and would appreciate an immediate effort to deal with the (simple and basic) questions in my initial October 1983 letter. I would also appreciate an early response to the specific inquiries posed herein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory Stone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gregory Stone

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

DARYL F. GATES
Chief of Police



TOM BRADLEY
Mayor

P. O. Box 30158
Los Angeles, Calif. 0030
Telephone:
(213)- 485-2 29
Ref#: 8.2.4

June 26, 1984

Mr. Gregory Stone
c/o 2349 North Early Street
Alexandria, CA 22302

Dear Mr. Stone:

In response to your letter of June 13, 1984, indicating you are interested in the Robert F. Kennedy assassination, please be advised that criminal investigations are confidential. In addition, the Superior Court has ordered that the Department's files on that investigation remain confidential. Therefore, it is not possible to furnish you with information from those files.

Your letter of October, 1983, was referred to the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office for reply. That office was to inform you of the confidentiality of the files. It is apparent that you were not so informed. Please accept this Department's apology for the delay in responding to your inquiry.

Very truly yours,

DARYL F. GATES
Chief of Police

William H. Cobb
WILLIAM H. COBB, Captain
Commanding Officer
Robbery-Homicide Division

2349 N. Early Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
June 13, 1984

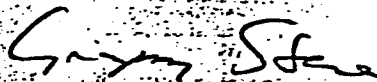
Lt. Henderson and Detective Sartuche
Robbery Homicide Division
Los Angeles Police Department
150 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Sirs:

I understand from Mr. Bonino of the Records and Identification Division that my October, 1983 questions to the Police Commission concerning the Robert F. Kennedy assassination were referred to you for answers. As I wrote to Mr. Bonino last month, I would appreciate receiving soon either answers to these questions or an indication as to when they will begin to become available.

Please feel free to contact me if any questions arise on this matter.

Sincerely,



Gregory Stone

cc: Paul Schrade
Robert J. Joling
William Cowdin

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

DARYL F. GATES
Chief of Police



TOM BRADLEY
Mayor

P. O. Box 30158
Los Angeles, Calif 90030
Telephone:
(213)-485-6473
Ref: 9.2.4

June 5, 1984

Mr. Gregory Stone
C/O 2349 North Early Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Mr. Stone:

The Los Angeles Police Department is in receipt of your May 15, 1984 letter which has been forwarded with your previous requests to Operations Headquarters Bureau. As you can understand, the depth and complexity of the investigation has required specialized handling.

The persons assigned the responsibility for the Senator Kennedy investigation and records control is Lt. Henderson and Detective Philip Sartuche, Robbery Homicide Division, 150 North Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, phone number (213) 485-2129. Any further inquiry should be directed to their office.

If we can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

DARYL F. GATES
Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. P. Bonino".

J. P. BONINO, Chief Administrative Assistant
Commanding Officer
Records and Identification Division

2549 N. Early Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
June 8, 1984

Mr. William G. Cowdin
Secretary, Los Angeles Police Commission
Suite 144-150, Parker Center
150 N. Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

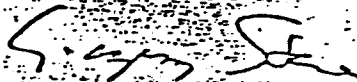
Dear Mr. Cowdin:

Thank you for the Police Commission records from 1975 which were sent to me some weeks ago, following my visit to your office. As you know, I have since been in touch with Mr. Bonino at the Records and Identification Division concerning my pending requests for information, now 7½ months old, but I have still received no response whatsoever. Anything that could be done to expedite this matter will be appreciated.

I notice that one of the 1975 official policy statements on this case states that "a permanent file containing copies of all questions submitted together with the corresponding answers provided by the Department will be maintained in the Office of the Secretary of the Board of Police Commissioners and will be entirely open for public inspection." I would now like to request copies of the questions and answers which are present in this file, if any. I will, as before, reimburse your office at the established rates.

Thank you again for your help on these matters.

Sincerely,



Gregory Stone

cc: Paul Schrade
Robert J. Joling

2349 North Early Street
Alexandria, Va 22302
May 15, 1984

Mr. Joseph Bonino, Commanding Officer
Records and Identification Division
Board of Police Commissioners
150 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Bonino:

It is now seven months since I wrote the Los Angeles Police Commission with some basic questions concerning the Robert Kennedy assassination, pursuant to public assurances given on that matter by the Commission in the past. After writing twice again, I was informed by the secretary of the Commission, two and a half months ago, that the matter had been referred to your office, and that I would be hearing from you. I still have received no substantive response to the questions and have heard nothing from your office.

If there is further information which is needed for your efforts on this matter, please let me know. Otherwise, I would now appreciate receiving answers to my questions submitted to date or an indication as to when they will begin to be available.

Sincerely,



Gregory Stone

cc: Paul Schrade
Robert J. Joling
William Cowdin