

JFK Shooting Records Made Public in Dallas

By Thomas C. Hayes
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Dallas

A new window was opened last week into what many people regard as the greatest unsolved crime of the century, revealing details about the lives of Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby and other figures in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

About 2,500 once-secret items gathered by the Dallas Police Department, including letters, witness reports and other articles of evidence were made public after a unanimous vote by the Dallas City Council. County records will probably be made public this month.

Domingo Garcia, a newly elected councilman, said he sought release of all the city's files on the assassination after seeing the movie "JFK" three weeks ago.

"The Kennedy assassination left a legacy in Dallas as a city of hate and the city that killed Kennedy," Garcia said. "I thought this was a way to close the lid on that ghost. I was specifically concerned that the Dallas police were sort of implicated in the movie in a cover-up of the assassination."

An affidavit in stilted English, dated Nov. 22, 1963, and signed by Marina Oswald, the 22-year-old estranged wife of the accused assassin, described what she said she knew about the hunting rifle her

husband had stored in a blanket.

"Today is the first time I saw the blanket empty," she said. "Today at police station, they showed me a rifle. This was like the rifle my husband had."

In another report, an investigator noted a rumor that Oswald and Ruby might have known each other before the assassination. "Original informant unknown," the report said. "Reliability unknown."

Oswald's report cards from four Fort Worth elementary schools portrayed him as a poor speller but an average student otherwise.

But researchers who examine the material in the weeks ahead are unlikely to find much to advance the debate on whether Oswald was part of a conspiracy or acted alone in killing the president.

"I don't think it will prove anything one way or the other, but that's not for me to say," said Cindy C. Smolovik, the city archivist, who controls the public's access to the papers.

G. Robert Blakey, the lawyer who headed the investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations in the late 1970s, said: "We had total access to those files. There is nothing even remotely close to a smoking gun in there."