

SF
chron
3-28-75

Probe in Police Killing

A federal grand jury will launch a civil rights investigation into the fatal shooting of a 14-year-old black youth—Tyrone Guyton—in November, 1973.

U.S. Attorney James L. Browning Jr. confirmed yesterday that the investigation will begin here April 7. Subpoenas have already been sent out to members of the Emeryville and Oakland police departments, as well as some private citizens.

Browning said the probe was authorized by the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. It will be a criminal investigation to determine if the police officers who shot and killed Guyton violated his civil rights.

Guyton was shot by Emeryville police following a high speed auto chase.

In April, 1974, an Alameda county grand jury refused

for the second time to indict three Emeryville officers for the shooting. They are Sergeant Tom Mierkey and Patrolmen Dale Phillips and William Matthews.

According to the police account, the youth was being pursued as a suspected car thief and the officers shot him only after he fired twice at them. No weapon, however, was found at the scene.
