

VOICE OF DETROIT <http://voiceofdetroit.net>

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Freedom of Information Act Officer—Police Section
City of Detroit Law Department
2 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

September 19, 2016

Dear FOIA Officer:

Under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting copies of all Detroit Police Department records related to the criminal case against Charles D. Lewis, CASE NO. 76-005890-01-FC, DOB May 13, 1959, for the first degree murder of off-duty Detroit police officer Gerald A. Sypitowski on July 31, 1976. The killing took place at Harper and Barrett as Sypitowski left Oty's Saloon.

Mr. Lewis' Third Judicial Circuit (and Recorders) Court records from 1976 to at least 2000 are missing.

I am requesting from the Detroit Police Department all written, videotaped, photographic, forensic, ballistics and other evidence related to this case. That would include the following, but not limited to:

- The responding officers' PCR's from Joseph Grayer, Michael Kudle, Andrew Kuklock, Michael Yanklin, Gerald O'Connor, and Lorraine Williams.
- Interviews of Charles Lewis
- Interviews of retired Detroit police officer Dennis Van Fletering, eyewitness
- Interviews of William Eichman, eyewitness, employee at Oty's Saloon
- Interviews of Jay Smith, Gloria Ratachek, Kim Divine and Donald DeMarc, eyewitnesses
- Interview of Leslie Nathaniel, driver of a Lincoln Mark IV at the scene who was first arrested in the shooting.
- Interviews of Ronald Pettway, Jeffrey Mulligan, and Mark Alonzo Kennedy, allegedly present at the scene.
- Interviews of any other eyewitnesses
- Autopsy report on Gerald A. Sypitowski (earlier requested from the WCME but not provided).
- Photographs of the sawed-off shotgun allegedly used
- Ballistics reports relating to the gun and the bullet(s) fired at Officer Swypitowski.
- Reports of gunshot residue tests on Charles Lewis, Leslie Nathaniel, Ronald Pettway, Jeffrey Mulligan, and Mark Alonzo Kennedy
- Photographs and diagrams of the scene.
- Interviews of any of Charles Lewis' alibi witnesses.
- Any other pertinent evidence contained in the file.

According to the State of Michigan's General Retention Schedule #19, files in capital cases (any crime with a life sentence) must be retained "until final disposition of the case plus 50 years, or the felon dies, whichever is sooner."

Mr. Lewis is still incarcerated, serving a life without parole sentence. He is now 58 years old.

If the files from that long ago are digitized, please inform me how I may access them for review. I agree to pay reasonable fees for the processing of this request. If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you state why, and justify any deletions by specific citations from the state FOIA Act. You must reply within five days of my request. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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