

## ' SOME PEOPLE ARE OUT TO KILL ME ' - PASTOR SAYS SLAIN DANCER WAS AFRAID

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, March 20, 2008

Author: BEN SCHMITT, FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Fearing for her life, Tamara Greene turned **to** the man she knew affectionately as "Dad" and told him: " **Some people are out to kill me .** "

The man she confided in was the Rev. Ken Hampton, pastor of Grace Bible Church in Detroit, in a conversation six months before her April 30, 2003, death, Hampton recalled.

If true, Hampton's statements in a sworn affidavit could discredit a theory that Greene was killed as a result of a hotel party and fight about two weeks before she was gunned down.

Greene is the stripper known as Strawberry rumored **to** have danced at the never-proven party at the mayoral Manoogian Mansion in the fall of 2002. According **to** most versions of the rumor, the party occurred around Labor Day.

Hampton said he and Greene spoke a month or two later, but he has no knowledge of her connection **to** the rumored party.

Greene, 27, was shot three times and died as she was parking her Buick Skylark on Roselawn near West Outer Drive in Detroit. Her boyfriend Eric Mitchell, a convicted drug dealer, was in the passenger seat. He took a bullet **to** the neck and survived.

Hampton, 67, reiterated Wednesday what he said in an affidavit given in a federal lawsuit filed on behalf of Greene's 14-year-old son. The suit claims Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings and other top officials sabotaged the investigation into Greene's death, preventing the family from filing a wrongful death suit against her killers.

About six months before her death, Greene called Hampton in a panic and told him: "Dad, we need **to** meet." Later that day, they met at the Gospel House, a Bible and bookstore on Grand River.

"You've probably heard about what I've been doing," Hampton said Greene told him.

Hampton replied: "Yes. I have not been pleased with what I have heard."

He said she replied: "I know. I know."

Then she said: "Dad, they're **out to** get **me** ," Hampton recalled Wednesday.

Hampton said he asked whom she was talking about, but Greene said she didn't want **to** elaborate.

They held hands and prayed.

"That's the last time I saw her alive," Hampton said Wednesday.

Hampton said he learned about Greene's death from news reports. Her funeral was at his church. He officiated.

Hampton, who was a Detroit cop for seven years, said he later gave Detroit homicide police a videotape of Greene's funeral. He said he knew that sometimes killers attend funerals of their victims.

Over the next two years, he said, he met with Detroit police about five times, telling them all he knew about Greene and her lifestyle. He said he spoke with Assistant Chief Harold Cureton, who is now retired, Lt. Billy Jackson and Sgt. Marion Stevenson.

Hampton said he became discouraged after Jackson was transferred **out** of homicide because he thought Jackson was taking the investigation seriously. None of the officers named in his affidavit could be reached for comment Wednesday.

After news reports resurfaced this year about Greene's death, Hampton made his way **to** Birmingham attorney Norman Yatooma. He represents Greene's son, Jonathan Bond, and his father, Ernest Flagg, in the federal lawsuit.

Last week Joyce Rogers, a retired Detroit police clerk, came forward in an affidavit **to** say she saw a police report Greene had filed in 2002. In the report, which has not surfaced, Rogers said that Greene alleged the mayor's wife, Carlita Kilpatrick, assaulted her with a wooden object at the Manoogian after seeing Greene improperly touch the mayor and that Greene was sent **to** a hospital for treatment.

Former Deputy Police Chief Gary Brown, who interviewed Rogers in 2003 for his successful whistle-blower suit against Kilpatrick, said he didn't use Rogers in his suit because he could not verify her statement.

However, Brown said Wednesday that he has known Hampton for years, adding that Hampton has served as police chaplain. He said he did not know Hampton was Greene's pastor, but finds him very credible.

"I think highly of his integrity," Brown said. "He's a great guy."

Yatooma said Wednesday that Hampton's affidavit is key because it corroborates a theory that Greene was the target, not her boyfriend Mitchell.

"Here is a former Detroit police officer, he is a pastor, he is a guy Tammy referred **to** as 'Dad,' " Yatooma said. "He has made statements under oath. I can't imagine any reason he would make this up."

One of Greene's close friends told police that Greene had danced at a bachelor party a week or two before her death. During a fight, which centered on a man's demand for sex, the man punched Greene in the eye, the friend told police.

Yatooma said Hampton's affidavit pokes holes in any theory that the Southfield fight is connected with her killing.

"She was obviously not fearing a guy who she had a conflict with two weeks ago," he said.

Mayer Morganroth, an attorney for the city in the lawsuit, could not be reached for comment.

Contact BEN SCHMITT at 313-223-4296 or [bschmitt@freepress.com](mailto:bschmitt@freepress.com).

ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: Tamara Greene was shot **to** death April 30, 2003. Her pastor says they met **to** talk about six months before her death.

DISCLAIMER: THIS ELECTRONIC VERSION MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM THE PRINTED ARTICLE

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS; NEWS

Page: 1A

Index Terms: investigation; homicide; shooting; Detroit; woman victim; Tamara Greene

Record Number: dfp0000555564

Copyright (c) Detroit Free Press. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.