

## **MYSTERY OF WHO KILLED STRIPPER THICKENS - EX-COP'S AFFIDAVIT IN SUIT SAYS OFFICER SHOT HER; CITY'S LAWYER CALLS THAT ABSURD**

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It's a mystery that never had a definitive answer, the story of a Detroit stripper known as Strawberry **who** was **killed** in a hail of gunfire while sitting in a car with her boyfriend in the predawn darkness of April 30, 2003.

Since then, Detroit police and Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick have combated persistent rumors and lawsuit allegations that **Tamara Greene** was **killed** because she danced at a wild party at the Manoogian Mansion.

Despite repeated denials by the mayor and a state investigation that dismissed the claims as urban legend, the story has persisted and is being fueled by fresh allegations raised by a former homicide detective as part of a lawsuit filed on behalf of **Greene** 's 14-year-old son.

In a 10-page affidavit filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Detroit, former Lt. Alvin Bowman says he believes **Greene** , 27, was **killed** by a Detroit cop and that police officials derailed his homicide investigation.

"I suspected that the shooter was a law enforcement officer, and more specifically, a Detroit Police Department officer," Bowman said in the document.

Detroit police spokesman James Tate declined to comment Monday on Bowman's allegations, citing the pending federal litigation.

Southfield lawyer Mayer Morganroth, **who** is defending the city in the suit, scoffed at the allegations.

"The Bowman affidavit is a little less than idiotic and more than absurd," Morganroth said. "And there's nothing in it that hasn't been said before."

Morganroth said no one has ever produced evidence that a Manoogian party occurred or that **Greene** was there. He added that the pending suit has little chance of success.

Affidavit alleges obstruction

The federal suit charges that the mayor, then-chief of staff Christine Beatty and police execs scuttled the investigation so no killer would be found, preventing the family from finding **who** was behind **Greene** 's death.

In the affidavit, Bowman laid out how he says Detroit police executives, including then-Chief Jerry Oliver and his successor, Ella Bully-Cummings, sabotaged him.

He said reports were removed from the homicide file, files were deleted from homicide computers and the file itself was locked up so Bowman couldn't get it. Eventually, he said, he was transferred out of homicide because he had asked too many questions.

Bowman said **Greene** worked for an associate of the mayor, but he didn't say whom. He also claimed in the affidavit that State Police obtained telephone records linking **Greene** to a high-ranking city employee shortly before her death.

Bowman won a \$200,000 verdict from a Wayne County Circuit Court jury in October 2005 after he said he was demoted because he refused to drop the case. Bowman, **who** had asked for \$1.8 million, eventually left the force.

**Greene** died at 3:40 a.m. April 30, 2003, while sitting in her car with her 32-year-old boyfriend on Roselawn at West Outer Drive. The killing was never solved. The boyfriend was wounded but survived.

Bowman said **Greene** took about 18 bullets in the attack.

Bowman said he believes a Detroit cop **killed Greene** because of the large number of bullets that hit her - indicating firearms training - and the .40-caliber shell casings found at the scene. Detroit police use .40-caliber Glock pistols. Morganroth said they are popular among drug dealers, as well.

After the first hail of bullets, Bowman said, the white Chevrolet TrailBlazer from which the shots were fired circled for another pass, but the boyfriend wasn't shot at, prompting Bowman to conclude **Greene** was the only target.

Reaction to the document

Birmingham lawyer Norman Yatooma, **who** represents **Greene**'s son, Jonathan Bond, in the suit, said no one is in a better position than Bowman to talk about the shooting or how the investigation was ruined. "What more do you need?" he said.

A spokesman for Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, **who** concluded in June 2003 that the party was urban legend, defended Cox's five-week probe. Rusty Hills said Monday that Cox and State Police interviewed more than 120 witnesses and reviewed 10,000 pages of records.

"If anybody has any evidence, we'd love to see it," Hills said. "But for the last five years, there's been no evidence."

But the Free Press reported that State Police investigators later complained Cox had impeded their probe by denying some of their subpoena and search warrant requests, and by excluding them from Cox's interview of the mayor.

In the affidavit, Bowman said the **Greene** investigation inexplicably drew a lot of attention from Oliver and Bully-Cummings.

He said Oliver asked for the file repeatedly and sent it back with reports missing.

Oliver denies involvement

Oliver responded Monday that he never requested the file, never saw it and never had a conversation about the **Greene** case. He said he did not know Bowman.

"His statements are inaccurate," Oliver said.

After Bully-Cummings became chief, Bowman said, she summoned him to a meeting with other police brass, said she was aware of the connection between the **Greene** probe and the mayor, and "due to the nature and sensitivity of this case," it "was not to be discussed outside her office."

Bowman said a police executive put the homicide file in a combination-locked safe that he couldn't access.

"All of my squad members feared that they may lose their jobs and even feared for their physical safety if they continued to investigate this case," Bowman said in court papers.

Bowman said that while he was on vacation, the **Greene** case was transferred to the cold case squad, even though it was less than a year old. He said the officer in charge of that unit told him the case was "a hot potato" that wouldn't be investigated for fear of retribution because of **Greene**'s link to the Manoogian party.

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( sidebar: NEWSPAPERS REQUEST MORE SETTLEMENT FILES )

Newspapers request more settlement files

The Detroit Free Press and Detroit News returned to court Monday, seeking more documents relating to the city's October settlement of police whistle-blower lawsuits for \$8.4 million.

In amending their lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court, the newspapers are seeking all text messages by Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and former aide Christine Beatty since Aug. 1. The newspapers also want e-mails exchanged by attorneys for the city and Mike Stefani, the lawyer for the three former cops **who** sued the city and mayor.

Finally, the newspapers seek the court papers Stefani filed that informed city lawyers about earlier, damaging text messages between the mayor and Beatty.

Free Press lawyer Herschel Fink said he expected a judge to rule on the requests March 14.

-- Free Press staff

( sidebar: WHAT BOWMAN ALLEGES )

In his affidavit, former Detroit homicide Lt. Alvin Bowman says police executives derailed his investigation into the 2003 shooting death of **Tamara Greene** , also known as Strawberry, **who** is said to have danced at a long-rumored wild party at the Manoogian Mansion. Among his allegations:

- \* That a Detroit cop **killed** her, based on how many times she was hit and the firearm used.
- \* That she was shot about 18 times, not 12 as previously reported.
- \* That **Greene** worked for an associate of Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and that Michigan State Police linked **Greene** 's phone records to an unnamed, high-ranking city employee.

( sidebar: A TIME LINE IN THE STRAWBERRY CASE )

Here are key dates in the never-proven Manoogian Mansion party rumor, which introduced metro Detroit to **Tamara Greene** , a stripper known as Strawberry. According to one version of the rumor, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's wife, Carlita, assaulted **Greene** after arriving at the city-owned mayoral residence. The alleged party and **Greene** 's demise were integral to the whistle-blowers' claims that they were retaliated against for investigating the rumor.

September 2002:

Most versions of the rumor say the party occurred Labor Day weekend.

April 30, 2003:

**Greene** , a high-priced stripper and prostitute, is gunned down on Detroit's west side.

May 9, 2003:

Kilpatrick fires Deputy Police Chief Gary Brown, head of police internal affairs, **who** was poised to investigate the Manoogian rumor and other allegations of wrongdoing by the mayor's inner circle.

May 15, 2003:

Kilpatrick holds a news conference outside the Manoogian to deny the party rumors. He insists, "It never happened, it never happened, it never happened."

June 24, 2003:

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox concludes a five-week investigation, declaring, "The party has all the earmarks of an urban legend and should be treated as such." State Police say they will continue the investigation.

Jan. 16, 2004:

State Police say they interviewed an additional 55 people and analyzed phone records and conclude the party never happened.

April 1, 2004:

The Free Press reports that State Police accused Cox of undercutting their investigation by denying some of their requests for subpoenas and warrants and excluding them from his interview with the mayor.

April 21, 2004:

Detroit Police Lt. Alvin Bowman sues Kilpatrick and top police officials, claiming he was transferred out of homicide to keep him from finding **Greene**'s killer.

Oct. 13, 2004:

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy asks Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings to turn over the department's files on the **Greene** case.

Oct. 21, 2005:

A Wayne County jury awards Bowman \$200,000 after determining his transfer from homicide was an "adverse employment action." A mediator had recommended that the city settle the case for \$350,000. Bowman had asked the jury for \$1.8 million.

Nov. 7, 2005:

Ernest Flagg, a former Detroit City Council candidate **who** fathered one of **Greene**'s children, sues the city in federal court on the child's behalf, claiming police deliberately botched the investigation.

Feb. 29, 2008:

Bowman signs an affidavit claiming that a police officer **killed Greene** and that several police officials helped to derail his investigation.

-- M.L. Elrick

ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION:

2001 **Greene** family photo

**Tamara Greene**, 27, was shot to death in 2003. The statement from former Lt. Alvin Bowman came in a federal lawsuit filed on behalf of her son.

2007 photo by BRIAN KAUFMAN / Detroit Free Press

Former Police Chief Jerry Oliver said Monday he never saw the **Tamara Greene** file and never had a conversation about the case, disputing former Lt. Alvin Bowman's story. Oliver said he did not know Bowman.

CAPTIONWRITER: Alvin Bowman

MEMO: SIDEBAR ATTACHED.

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