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PRICE 50 CENTS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Judge upholds firing of police officer who killed Tamir Rice

By Mark Gillispie

CLEVELAND (AP) - An arbitrator correctly decided that the white Cleveland police officer who shot and killed Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old black child, should have been fired by the city for omissions on his city job application, a judge in Cleveland ruled.

Cuyahoga County Judge Joseph Russo upheld the May 2017 firing of Timothy Loehmann in a ruling posted Dec. 20. Loehmann was cleared of criminal wrongdoing in the death of Tamir in November 2014. He was killed as he played with a pellet gun outside a Cleveland recreation center.

Loehmann, a rookie, shot Tamir within seconds of a cruiser skidding to a stop just a few feet away. The shooting was recorded in a grainy surveillance video that drew international attention and led to Tamir's becoming a symbol for the Black Lives Matter protest movement over police treatment of blacks and minorities.

Loehmann said after the shooting that he feared for his life. The city said it fired Loehmann in May 2017 for failing to disclose on his job application with Cleveland that he had previously been forced out by a suburban Cleveland police department. The Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association appealed, and an arbitrator ruled in December 2018 that the city had "demonstrated just cause" for the dismissal.

CPPA President Jeff Follmer on DFriday Dec. 13 the decision disappointing.

"We think it's clear cut he didn't lie on his application and this is another political decision," Follmer said.

The CPPA and Loehmann will consider whether to appeal the judge's decision, union attorney Henry Hilow said.

Cleveland issued a statement Dec. 13 saying it was pleased with the decision.

"The city has consistently maintained throughout the process that Loehmann's termination was justified," the statement said.

Loehmann was offered a part-time position with a police department in the southeast Ohio village of Bellaire in October 2018, but withdrew his application days later after Tamir's mother, Samaria, and others criticized the hiring.

Chief: City employee targeted co-worker in deadly shooting

By Tom Foreman Jr.

WINSTON-SALEM (AP) - A deadly shooting at a city building in Winston-Salem, North Carolina was an act of "workplace violence" by one city employee who targeted a co-worker he'd disliked for a long time, police said Dec. 20.

Winston-Salem Police Chief Catrina Thompson told news reporters the gunman at a city building was killed during a gunfight with police officers who responded to the scene. One officer was wounded. She said the gunman was 61-year-old Steven Dewayne Haizlip, who shot and killed another employee, Terry Lee Cobb Jr., whom he had targeted.

Another city employee and a police officer were also wounded but are expected to survive.

Police Capt. Steven Tollie said the slain employee and the gunman had a "longstanding dislike for each other," but he couldn't elaborate on the source of their disagreements. Tollie said the two men had been involved in a physical altercation Dec. 19 that wasn't reported at the time to their superiors. Another city employee who was wounded wasn't targeted and was "collateral damage," Tollie said. Tollie said the gunman brought multiple firearms to the shooting Dec. 20.

The shooting drew numerous police cars at the municipal complex east of downtown that houses sanitation and engineering departments for the city of about 245,000 in the central part of the state.

City workers described a frantic scene as many people scattered and sought cover outside.

Sanitation worker Dwight Black, 66, was running five minutes late when he parked his car at the facility. He said he was about to swipe his card to enter the building when people ran past him.

"They're shooting. Run!" Black said of the people leaving the building. "Fight or flight. I just followed suit."

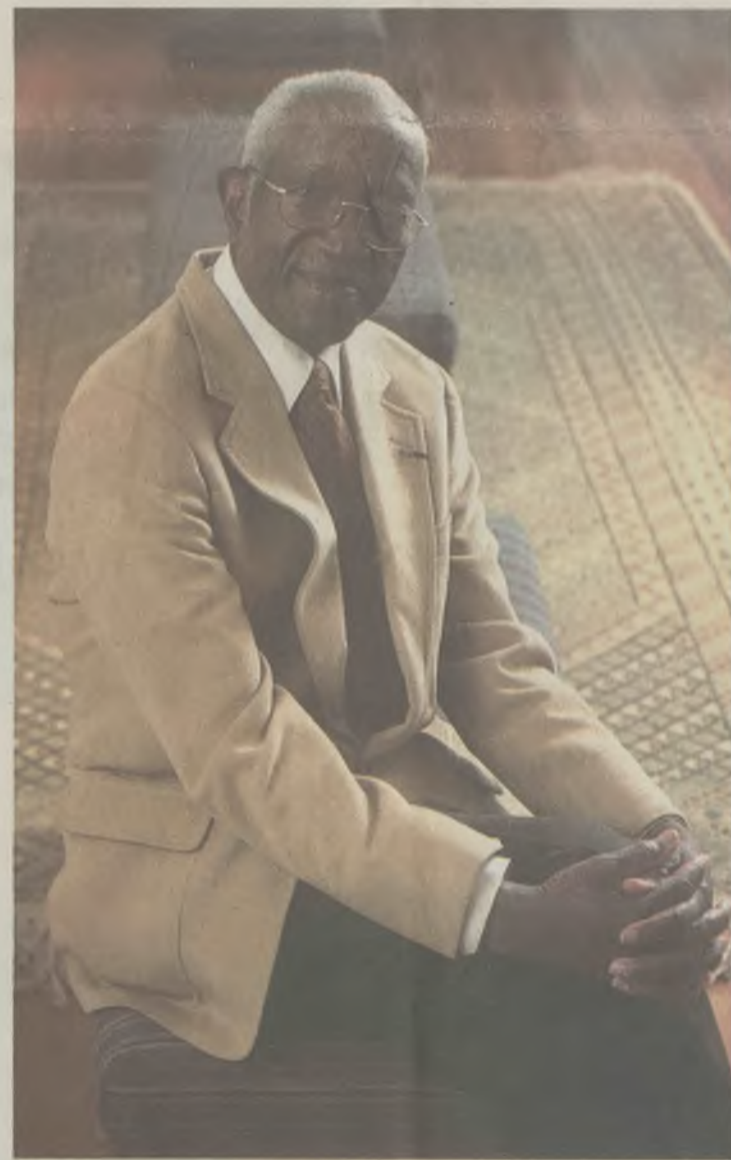
Black ran back to his car and said others did the same and drove off. He said he just stood back and watched until police arrived.

Black said he was "kind of numb" after the shooting. "Everybody was devastated," he said. "Tough day."

The police chief said that officers arrived at the scene around 6:41 a.m., four minutes after they began receiving multiple 911 calls from city employees about the shooting. Officers heard gunshots as they arrived and moved toward the threat, she said. They encountered Haizlip outside the building and killed him in a short gunfight, she said.



Some of the Graduate and Professional School graduates. Related pictures on page 3. (NCCU Photo)



The late Dr. John Hope Franklin was a victim of the Tulsa Massacre. Duke university Photo

Mayor, cemetery at odds in search for Tulsa massacre victims

TULSA, Okla. (AP) - Officials say their efforts to find human remains of Tulsa Race Massacre victims are being blocked by a privately-owned cemetery.

But an attorney for the cemetery says his client submitted a proposal in November that would allow the city to search under certain conditions.

The Tulsa World reports Mayor G.T. Bynum says the city has been unable to investigate whether Rolling Oaks Cemetery in south Tulsa contains unmarked graves.

However, Timothy Studebaker, a Tulsa attorney representing Rolling Oaks, said the cemetery is not opposed to scanning its grounds.

Bynum said the city will look at possible legal action if an agreement can't be reached.

The violence in 1921 left as many as 300 dead on Tulsa's Black Wall Street, two years after the summer of 1919 when hundreds of African Americans across the country were slain at the hands of white mob violence during the "Red Summer." It was branded "Red Summer" because of the bloodshed and amounted to some of the nation's worst white-on-black violence.

At a meeting Dec. 16, the 1921 Race Massacre Graves Investigation Public Oversight Committee learned scientists have found pits holding possible remains at a different cemetery and a homeless camp in north Tulsa.

This is the last issue of 2019. The next issue will be January 11, 2020.

Trump ally Meadows won't run again, may join White House

By Gary D. Robertson and Alan Fram

RALEIGH (AP) - Republican Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina, a top conservative ally of President Donald Trump, said Dec. 19 he won't seek reelection next year. He is expected to join the Trump administration in a yet-to-be-finalized role.

Now in his seventh year in the House, Meadows has been a leader of hard-right conservatives who repeatedly defied and bedeviled two GOP House speakers. His disruptive tactics seemed to make him a kindred spirit with Trump, and the two men meet and confer often.

Meadows' name has been floated inside the White House at times as a possible replacement for Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney. But Meadows is instead currently expected to join the White House in a yet-to-be-finalized senior adviser or strategist role, according to two people familiar with the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

While Meadows had openly expressed his desire to serve as Trump's chief of staff in the past, he is not expected to replace anyone currently working at the White House.

And one of those people said they expected the role to be temporary, with Meadows eventually returning to the private sector.

Meadows told reporters Dec. 19 that joining Trump's White House staff or presidential campaign "are certainly options," but remained vague.

The 60-year-old lawmaker declined to rule out taking a new post and leaving Congress before his two-year term expires.

"I plan to continue to help the president and the administration, and how we do that and in what capacity has yet to be defined," he told reporters.

He said he might seek elective office in the future. But he said he would not run for the Senate in 2020, when GOP Sen. Thom Tillis is up for reelection, or in 2022, when his North Carolina colleague, Republican Sen. Richard Burr, has said he will retire.

Meadows' announcement comes just a day after the House voted to impeach Trump on charges that he abused his power and obstructed Congress.

Meadows became the 25th Republican to say they won't seek reelection next year, plus another four who have already resigned or will leave Congress shortly. While Meadows' seat is viewed as safely Republican, some of the districts being vacated are not, further complicating the GOP's unlikely prospects of winning the House majority in next November's elections.

In a written statement, Meadows said he struggled with the decision and came to it after discussion with his family.

"My work with President Trump and his administration is only beginning. This President has accomplished incredible results for the country in just three years, and I'm fully committed to staying in the fight with him and his team to build on those successes and deliver on his promises for the years to come," Meadows said in the statement. "I've always said Congress is a temporary job, but the fight to return Washington, D.C. to its rightful owner, We The People, has only just begun."

In 2015, Meadows stunned his Republican colleagues by filing a motion to oust House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, which eventually led to Boehner's resignation. The House Freedom Caucus, which he led, also sometimes made life difficult for Boehner's successor, former Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.



WILSON
NCU