

Ongoing feud, prior altercation led to deadly shooting at Municipal Services Center

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

According to the Winston-Salem Police Department, a prior altercation and ongoing feud led to the deadly shooting at the Jocelyn Johnson Municipal Services Center.

Here's what we know: around 6:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 20, police were dispatched to 2000 Lowery Street where the Johnson Municipal Building is located. Upon arrival officers heard gunshots on the west side of the complex. After locating where the shots were coming from, officers approached the shooter outside the building, now identified as Stephen Haizlip, 63, and a short gunfight broke out between Haizlip and several officers.

During the gunfight, Sgt. Cameron Stewart Sloan was shot twice and Haizlip was killed. Sgt. Sloan is expected to make a full recovery. After further investigation and clearing the building, officers found Terry Cobb Jr., 49, dead. Curtis Peterson was shot during the altercation as well, but is also expected to make a full

recovery.

Just hours after the deadly shooting, Chief Catrina Thompson said after their initial investigation they discovered that Cobb was Haizlip's target. "Based on what we know at this time, it appears that Mr. Cobb was the specific target of Mr. Haizlip," Thompson said.

"Although there were other city employees in harm's way, no one else appeared to be specifically or randomly targeted; as such we are categorizing this event as a workplace violence incident."

When discussing the incident, Capt. Steven Tollie with the WSPD Criminal Investigation Division, said Cobb and Haizlip, who both worked for the City of Winston-Salem for over a decade, had a long-standing dislike for each other and the day before the shooting, the two men got into an altercation that went unreported.

"The information we're receiving is these two gentlemen had a long-standing dislike for each other, the source of that dislike I don't have at this time, but I'm aware of an



Terry Cobb is pictured here with his wife, LaToya.

Submitted photo

incident that occurred yesterday between the victim and the offender," Tollie continued. "They were involved in an altercation yesterday and as far as we can tell, that went unreported to the employer, but I believe that altercation yesterday appears to be the catalyst for today's incident."

Although the investi-

gation is still in the early stages, Tollie did note that Haizlip arrived at the Johnson Center with multiple firearms and statements from Haizlip before he died confirmed that Cobb was the target of the shooting.

In response to the deadly shooting, Mayor Allen Joines released the following statement: "On

behalf of the City Council, I want to express how deeply saddened we are by the tragic event that occurred this morning involving employees at our Sanitation facility on Lowery Street. Although we do not yet have confirmed details about the incident, our thoughts and prayers are with the employees involved, their families, and

their co-workers. We remain dedicated to continuing to ensure that all city employees have a safe and secure workplace."

Funeral services for Terry Lee Cobb Jr. were held on Friday, Dec. 27, at Red Bank Baptist Church in Germantown. Cobb, who attended Carver High School, was a devoted husband and father of four.

Civil Rights icon and Congressman John Lewis announces cancer diagnosis

BY LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE
NNPA NEWSWIRE CONTRIBUTOR

"I am going to fight it," read a statement from Rep. John Lewis on the evening of December 29.

"I may miss a few votes during this period, but with God's grace I will be back on the front lines soon," he added. Lewis announced on the last week of 2019 that he has been diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer.

The news sent shockwaves through the political community on the left and right and prompted many to reflect on what Lewis' life has added to American history.

"While I am clear-eyed about the prognosis, doctors have told me that recent medical advances have made this type of cancer treatable in many cases, that treatment options are no longer as debilitating as they once were, and that I have a fighting chance," Lewis continued in his statement.

The Georgia Congressman and civil rights icon was first elected to Georgia's Fifth Congressional District in 1986.

In a year that sadly saw the end of the lives of Congressional Black Caucus co-founder John Conyers of Michigan and revered Baltimore Congressman Elijah Cummings, Lewis' diagnosis was particularly jarring.



Rep. John Lewis

Submitted photo

At a time when the country is in need of moral authority, many reflected on the diagnosis as a wake-up call.

"John Lewis is one of our great American heroes who reshaped our American Dream into one billions more, at home and abroad, finally felt included them also. His is a priceless gift which leaves us forever in his debt. It's been said that honest public ser-

vice is the rent we pay to live in America. He pays his rent better than most everyone else and, hopefully, will remain in Congress long after he beats this cancer, no easy thing as he knows. His guts as a college student inspired me to integrate the campus elective politics of my college and later to help Wilder when no one else in VA who looked like me would. In a country strug-

gling to make Dr. King's a reality for so many far too long, we simply can't afford to be without John Lewis. There are too few of such icons left," wrote Virginia political legend Paul Goldman. Goldman was incremental in electing America's first African American governor, L. Douglas Wilder.

"John Lewis is a giant—an icon of the civil rights movement, a leader

in Congress and one of the kindest people I know. I'm praying for a speedy and full recovery. We need you making good trouble in the halls of Congress," wrote Freshman Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN).

"Our hero. Our shining beacon and standard. Praying for Rep. John Lewis and his family. And for us all," wrote attorney Sherilyn Iffill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense

and Educational Fund.

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