

Lawyer Says Probable Cause Exists For Suit Against Pope

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ed. Yet his sister specifically told the firefighters said she did not want her brother arrested.

Sources said the firefighters on the scene called for the police believing that King may try to harm them or his sister. It was further noted that King was in his home when the police arrived.

When officer Pope arrived he proceeded to circle King's home ordering King to come outside. Initially refusing, King eventually did come out of his home. At this point accounts of what happened next conflict, but it is known that King had no weapon and was at least eight feet from Pope when the officer fired.

"If the same situation occurred eight blocks over in Myers Park," says Alexander. "For one, there would have been no shooting. Two, if there was a shooting someone would have been prosecuted and convicted."

"I don't know to what extent

race plays in Pope not being prosecuted. But a white police officer and a poor black victim is all too often a recurring theme in the annals of urban law enforcement."

Asked what he thought of Gilchrist's decision not to prosecute Pope, Alexander said, "Not much."

"The question is whether Pope used excessive force and the answer is yes. This man (Pope) is theoretically trained in methods to diffuse such a situation. Police officers are keepers of the peace. It is improper, irresponsible and wrong to instead accelerate a conflict and heighten the potential for violence. Officer Pope did just that, unreasonably and unnecessarily so."

Alexander says the standard of police procedure is that deadly force only be used when an officer reasonably believes that his life or the life of another is in immediate jeopardy or there is an imminent threat of bodily

injury. He questions why Pope decided to use deadly force since King made no verbal threat and no weapon was on or about King's person nor was a weapon found in the house after the shooting.

Alexander adds, "There was no ongoing serious assault and no continuing threat of physical harm" going on when Pope arrived at Luther Street.

Pope told investigators that King came out of his house leaping toward him. "I couldn't tell if he was going to hurt me or kill me," Pope said, according to a police report. "This is when I fired my weapon at him twice in self-defense."

Alexander disclosed that 38 seconds elapsed between Pope's first call to the law enforcement agency while he was at the back of King's home, and a second call Pope made after shooting King. "To act so quickly in this situ-

ation suggests a purposefulness and is indicative of a frame of mind," says Alexander. "Pope had said that he really likes 'chasing niggers'. That suggests that what he liked more was shooting niggers. He said the next time someone messes with him he was going to shoot him. That's what he did."

"Clearly there is probable cause that a crime occurred. Clearly there's evidence to take to a jury that a crime has occurred," Alexander pointed out, referring to Gilchrist's decision not to prosecute.

"No one person, no matter how well intentioned, should have unbridled authority over public business," Alexander says of Gilchrist. "That was the error of

police officer Pope. "In 38 seconds he was the prosecuting witness, the prosecutor, the judge, the jury and the executioner."

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Wallace

Discrimination Is Charged

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including Roddey, were black, but the job went to a white.

Since then, African-American workers have complained about work conditions, including racist jokes and harassment.

Bringing it to the attention of Victor Agyin, the warehouse manager, and others hasn't helped, Wallace said.

"They've allowed that atmosphere to go on. They even engage in it themselves," Wallace said.

Unable to get satisfaction from supervisors, the complainants went to Supt. Peter Relic. After a promising conversation, a solution looked possible, Roddey said. Then the bottom fell out.

"Relic has really puzzled us," he said. "He told us we were right on the money."

Though the options may be running out for black workers, Wallace said they have no choice but to fight on.

"As soon as the ball is dropped, things are going to go back to where they were and even worse," he said.

"We're really hoping for a miracle. This is our only hope."

Clarification Of A Headline

A headline in last week's Post that read "Mechanics and Farmers Have Loss" was inaccurate.

Because of changes in the way loan fees are reported, the bank had a net income after taxes of \$919,224 in 1988, slightly less than 1987's record income of \$1,085,107.

The decline was attributed to requirements that reports on loan fees be spread over the duration of the loan rather than counting the entire fee at the time the loan was made.

An End To N.C. Runoffs?

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have at the present time," Hunt said.

Current law allows a candidate to call for a primary runoff if the top candidate doesn't receive more than 50 percent of the vote. Often a black candidate who leads the first primary is defeated in the second.

Senate leaders have suggested allowing runoffs in primaries in which the top candidate fails to receive more than 40 percent of the vote.

Sen. Ted Kaplan, D-Forsyth, had said in an earlier committee meeting that the change could hurt both Democrats and Republicans, keeping them from putting candidates forward who had

a solid consensus behind them. He said that could result in more third-party candidates winning elections.

Kaplan said Wednesday he had changed his mind about opposing the bill after investigating how similar actions had affected other states.

"The concern that I have does not appear to be a problem," he said.

Sen. Tom Taft, D-Pitt, committee chairman, said he was not sure when the bill would be submitted to the Senate.

Momentum has been growing for changing the primary laws as the Democratic Party looks for ways to ensure continue black loyalty.

State's School System Flunking

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"Anybody can tell you what two plus two is, but can they tell you how it will help you in life?" he asked.

Jamie L. Charlton, 17, said teachers do not expect as much from black students at Vance Senior High School, where she is a senior.

"Black students feel like the only thing there for them to do is work in the factory," she said.

Greensboro elementary schools have more than doubled the number of black students in their academically gifted classes from 99 to 238 by making an effort to spot and test likely candi-

dates who had been overlooked in the past, Sammie Campbell-Parrish, assistant superintendent, told the conference.

Robert E. Bridges, superintendent of Wake County schools, said schools must find new, more effective ways of teaching black students who are failing in school. He said he opposes the widespread practice of labeling such students "at risk."

"I'd rather say," he said, "that our institutions are at risk of failing the child, that the homes are at risk of failing the child, that society is at risk of failing the child."

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