

5,6,7 ISAAC HARRISON

Age- 73

ROBERT LEE MARTIN

Age- 22

DETECTIVE FREDERICK TOTO

Age- 33

DATE: July 14, 1967

TIME: Approximately 5:00 P.M. to 5:15 P.M.

PLACE: Broome and Mercer Streets

These three persons were all fatally wounded by gunfire at approximately the same time and at the same location in the sequence as set forth below. Isaac Harrison suffered fatal shotgun wounds in the left chest and abdomen as he was attempting to enter his son's car which was parked at the entrance of 62 Broome Street, commonly known as Scudder Homes Project. Robert Lee Martin died of a fractured skull due to a fall caused or probably caused by bullet wounds in the right arm and back of the left shoulder, suffered while he was walking down Mercer Street between Broome and Howard Streets. Approximately 10 or 15 minutes after the shooting of Harrison and Martin, Newark Detective Frederick Toto was fatally wounded on the corner of Broome and Mercer Streets by a .22 caliber bullet which entered his left chest travelling in a downward path.

On the basis of the evidence presented the Grand Jury believes that these three deaths were closely related. At the time, extensive breaking, entering and larceny had been taking place in the vicinity of Springfield Avenue, Broome and Mercer Streets. A large crowd of people had gathered in front of the Scudder Homes Project. Newark Police responded to a radio call, checked the location, and upon return to their car they were met by sniper fire apparently coming from the Project. The police retaliated by firing upon the Project and it was at this time that Harrison and Martin were fatally shot and a young girl in an upper floor in the Project was wounded. A Catholic priest from a local parish testified that he had administered to the needs of Martin and Harrison. He was leaving the area when he heard gunfire resume and from a vantage point about a block away on Mercer Street observed puffs of gunsmoke from the upper floors of the Project. It was at this time and possibly as a result of the renewed sniper fire that Detective Frederick Toto was fatally wounded.

Due to insufficient evidence of any criminal misconduct on the part of any identifiable individual, the Jury found no cause for indictment in any of these three deaths.