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Police Bullet Kills Motorist

Say Suspected Traffic Violator Drew Knife and Ran

By HY KUPERSTEIN

A motorist, halted for an alleged traffic violation was fatally shot early today by a Crime Prevention Unit patrolman. Police said the man had slashed the officer's partner with a knife and ran from the patrol car in which he was being questioned.

Capt. Anthony Kossup said the man was identified by a sister as Lester Long Jr., 22, of 44 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Long was pronounced dead on arrival at City Hospital of a bullet wound in the head. Patrolman Henry Martinez, who fired the shot, said he was not trying to hit Long but slipped as he drew his gun and the revolver went off.

Kossup said Martinez and Patrolman William Provost were riding in Broadway about 1:15 a.m. when they heard a car with a noisy muffler. They halted the vehicle after a six-block chase to Oriental Street, where they told the driver, later identified as Long and a companion they faced several summonses.

Different Names

The driver gave them a license and registration in two different names, police said. Martinez and Provost said they told the driver to get into their police car and asked him for his Social Security number. They then radioed Police Headquarters for a record check on the man.

The second man, who was not identified asked if he could

leave. The pair told him he could and he walked away. The patrolmen, meanwhile, issued the driver summonses for careless driving, having a loud muffler and having only one working headlight. The summonses were issued to the name on the license given them by the motorist.

A short time later, the patrolmen were notified that the Social Security number was in the name of Lester Junior Long, 22, and that Long was wanted on four traffic warrants. They said they asked Long for other identification and that when he took out his wallet, several Social Security and draft cards, a bill of sale and other papers

spilled out, all with different names.

The patrolmen said Long had become increasingly angry and began cursing them when they told him he was under arrest for the traffic warrants.

"We told him we would have to have him fingerprinted to learn who he was," Martinez said. "He had his right hand in a pocket and when we told him we would have to routinely search him, he refused."

Pulls Knife

"When I reached over from the front seat, he suddenly pulled out the knife from the pocket with the blade open and slashed at my throat. I raised

my arm and my elbow hit his wrist and warded off the blow."

Police said that Provost was cut at this time.

The patrolman said Long then pulled out the knife and Martinez said he lunged open his door, whipped out his revolver and then lost his balance as he jumped from the car.

"The gun suddenly went off," Martinez said. "The man was about 30 feet from me. I wasn't trying to shoot him but he was hit."

Detective Sgt. Frank Ardito said Long was arrested twice this year in Newark. He said Long was sentenced to 30 days in jail for atrocious assault and battery and was sentenced to time spent in jail on an assault and battery complaint.

Detectives Thomas Flanagan and John Conlan said later a driver for Dewey's Garage was sent to tow away the car after police left the scene. The detectives said a crowd of persons warned the tow truck driver against towing the car. He called his superior who, in turn, notified police. The car was gone when police arrived.

Police found the car almost four hours later, parked near Long's home.