

194C-LA-232722

LOS ANGELES EDITION

Friday, March 11, 2005

FBI Ends Probe Into Killing of Rap Star

Bureau discards theory being pursued by its lead agent regarding slaying of Notorious B.I.G.

By **CHUCK PHILIPS**
Times Staff Writer

The FBI has closed an investigation into the 1997 slaying of rap star Notorious B.I.G., abandoning a controversial theory pursued by its lead agent on the case.

The bureau spent 18 months investigating the possibility that a rogue Los Angeles police officer and rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight orchestrated the killing of B.I.G., whose real name was Christopher Wallace.

FBI officials conducted a review of the investigation — and shut it down in January — after learning that Agent Philip J. Carson had discussions with lawyers for Wallace's mother, Voletta Wallace, and had been subpoenaed to testify in her wrongful-death lawsuit against the city.



LORI SHEPLER Los Angeles Times

VICTIM: Notorious B.I.G. was gunned down near the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles in 1997.

The FBI has informed Voletta Wallace's lawyers that Carson will not testify in the case. Officials also ordered Carson to have no further contact with the law-

[See FBI, Page B7]

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FBI Discards Theory, Halts Probe of Killing

(FBI from Page B1)

vers and to refer any inquiries from them to the FBI legal department.

Voletta Wallace, whose suit accuses the Los Angeles Police Department of covering up police involvement in her son's killing, is seeking unspecified monetary damages. The case is scheduled to go to trial April 12 in federal court in Los Angeles.

It is unclear what testimony her lawyers intend to elicit from Carson.

Louis J. Caprino Jr., acting head of the criminal division of the FBI's Los Angeles field office, said this week that Carson's investigation was closed because federal prosecutors reviewed the evidence he had gathered and "determined that there was no basis for prosecution."

FBI officials acknowledged that they discussed with Carson his dealings with the Wallace lawyers. But they said that had no bearing on the decision to halt the investigation.

Caprino said the discussion was part of a "standard administrative review" conducted whenever an agent is subpoenaed to testify. He said the bureau found no improper conduct on Carson's part.

Perry Sanders, an attorney for Voletta Wallace, took issue with the FBI's explanation for why the probe was discontinued.

Sanders said the LAPD "exerted political pressure on the FBI to lay off the case." He said he learned this from "a reliable confidential source" whom he would not identify.

Assistant FBI Director Richard T. Garcia, head of the Los Angeles office, rejected the allegation. "No one at the FBI was asked or directed to stop anything," Garcia said in an interview. "This investigation was reviewed diligently by (Carson's) boss on a regular basis and the results were submitted to the U.S. attorney's office. They determined that the evidence was insufficient for prosecution. So we dropped it."

Christopher Wallace, then 24, was gunned down March 9, 1997, in front of hundreds of fans after a music industry party at the Petersen Automotive Museum in the mid-Wilshire district.

LAPD detectives have pursued various theories in their efforts to solve the crime. One is that the killing, like that of rap star Tupac Shakur six months earlier, stemmed from a feud between rap figures in New York and Los Angeles.

Shakur was the brightest star of Knight's Death Row Records in Los Angeles. Wallace was associated with Bad Boy Records in New York. The two stars and their associates had exchanged insults and threats on stage and in recordings.

In 1998, LAPD investigators began to suspect that a disgraced former officer, David A.



SEEKING DAMAGES: Voletta Wallace, mother of the rap star Notorious B.I.G., has filed a lawsuit accusing the LAPD of covering up police involvement in her son's killing.

Mack, may have been involved. By then, Mack was in prison for robbing a bank. He had been on the police force at the time of Wallace's killing.

Detectives learned that Mack owned a black Chevrolet Impala similar to one seen speeding from the murder scene. A witness said he saw Mack outside the automotive museum several hours before the shooting.

Then-Det. Russell Poole advanced the idea that Mack planned the killing at Knight's behest and arranged for a friend, Amir Muhammad, to ambush Wallace.

Other information gathered by investigators did not support the theory, however, and detectives turned their attention elsewhere. Knight, Mack and Muhammad, a Southland mortgage broker, have all denied any role in the killing.

Since resigning from the LAPD in 1998, Poole has continued to promote his theory in books and through appearances in documentaries and on TV shows. Voletta Wallace's lawsuit incorporates Poole's arguments, and he is listed as an expert witness for the plaintiffs.

Carson, the FBI agent, began his investigation after watching Poole on a TV special in the summer of 2003, court documents show.

Carson contacted Poole and interviewed other detectives, witnesses and informants around the country at the suggestion of Wallace family attorneys, records show.

In December 2003, Carson and other agents conducted surveillance of Muhammad and wired an informant in an attempt to illicit incriminating statements from him. The effort yielded nothing.

In February 2004, Carson visited Mack at a federal prison in Alabama. Mack has said Carson offered to seek a reduction in his 14-year sentence for the bank robbery if he cooperated in the Wallace investigation.

In a court filing, Mack said he rejected the offer in no uncertain terms.

"I advised Carson that he had to be either the most inept or laziest agent I had ever met," Mack wrote. "It was obvious that he... was only regurgitating the allegations contained in the Wallace civil complaint verbatim."

This week, FBI officials disputed Mack's account, contending that Carson never offered to seek a reduction in his sentence, which they said would have violated FBI policy.

In September, FBI officials say, they asked Carson to attend a meeting to discuss why his name was on a plaintiff's list of potential witnesses.

During the meeting, Carson's bosses also discussed his conduct of the investigation and explored his dealings with the plaintiff's attorneys, sources said.

FBI officials were concerned that Carson might have been influenced by the Wallace lawyers and that his contacts with them could embarrass the bureau, the sources said.

FBI agents are permitted to contact civil attorneys to see if they have information relevant to a criminal investigation. But bureau policy bars agents from sharing investigative information with them.

Carson and his FBI superiors said he never shared information with Wallace's lawyers.

Times staff writer Greg Korkorian contributed to this report.

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-----Original Message-----

Subject: Director's Note regarding national media attention in closed Los Angeles Case 194C-LA-232722 (Christopher Wallace, aka "Notorious B.I.G.," Etc.

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194C-LA-232722

The captioned investigation was opened by SA [REDACTED] on 12/17/2002. The investigation was predicated upon multiple source information alleging that the murder of nationally-recognized rap recording star Christopher Wallace (aka, "Notorious B.I.G.") was perpetrated by [REDACTED] and associate [REDACTED].

144B-LA-23222-140

[redacted] It was further alleged that the murder was orchestrated by [redacted] in retaliation for the murder of Tupac Shakur six months prior to the death of Wallace on 3/9/1997. Tupac Shakur was also a nationally recognized rap recording star and the most profitable recording artist signed to [redacted] Death Row label. Both Shakur and Wallace's deaths have received extensive media attention with respect to an alleged "East Coast - West Coast Rap War" and have been the subject of numerous newspaper articles, books, and television documentaries since late 1996. [redacted]

[redacted] a \$400 million civil lawsuit against the Los Angeles Police Department for its officer's alleged involvement and subsequent cover-up.

On 1/11/2005, after approximately 18 months of investigation, the captioned matter was closed by the Los Angeles Division. This occurred after routine administrative review by members of the Los Angeles Division management and the receipt of a declination to prosecute from the United States Attorney's Office, Central District of California.

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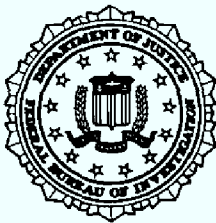
On 3/11/2005 an article appeared on page B-1 of the Los Angeles Times ("California" Section). Several sections of the article state that the FBI's investigation into the murder of Wallace was terminated because of pressure exerted by the Los Angeles Police Department. The article also specifically names and discusses SA [redacted] in detail with respect to a subpoena issues by [redacted] attorney [redacted] to testify in the civil lawsuit, currently scheduled to begin on 4/12/2005. The Los Angeles Division is currently opposing this subpoena and the article states that this is also a result of pressure from the LAPD and an on-going effort to cover up LAPD involvement in Wallace's murder.

The purpose of this note is to notify the Director of the national media attention that this matter is likely to generate in the next several days and weeks. The Los Angeles Division has already been contacted regarding the closing of the investigation by numerous media agencies and the Times article is being carried by both the AP and UPI. In addition, it is believed that the Times article is the first in a series of articles to be published in the immediate future. The Los Angeles Division will notify Headquarters of further developments in this matter as they occur.

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3/29/2005



FBI FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

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From: LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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194C-LA-232732-141



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

11000 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1700
Los Angeles, California 90024

March 25, 2005

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
[Redacted]
[Redacted] Liability Division
Los Angeles, California

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Dear [Redacted]

It is hereby requested that the Los Angeles City
Attorney's Office provide a copy of the deposition [Redacted]
[Redacted] to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Supervisory Special Agent

144A-23272-141

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OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
ROCKARD J. DELGADILLO
CITY ATTORNEY

March 25, 2005

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[REDACTED]
Supervisory Special Agent
U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
11000 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Dear [REDACTED]

I have enclosed for you a copy of the transcript of the deposition [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] taken on February 3, 2005 in Los Angeles. I have also enclosed the condensed
version of the deposition.

If I can be of further assistance in this case, please do not hesitate to contact me at

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED] City Attorney

By

[REDACTED]
Assistant City Attorney

DWV:gey
#248570

Enclosures

FBI Probes Rap Star's '97 Killing; The agency pursues a 6-year-old theory that a rogue LAPD officer arranged the murder of Notorious B.I.G. with rap mogul Suge Knight.:[HOME EDITION]

Chuck Philips. Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles, Calif.: Mar 20, 2004. pg. B.1

Full Text (1242 words)

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Seven years after the killing of rap star Notorious B.I.G., the FBI is investigating allegations that a rogue Los Angeles police officer orchestrated the slaying with rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight, according to court documents and law enforcement sources.

The FBI is pursuing a 6-year-old theory that then-Officer David A. Mack, acting at Knight's request, arranged for Amir Muhammad, Mack's friend and college roommate, to ambush the rapper outside the Petersen Automotive Museum on Wilshire Boulevard.

Over the years, the LAPD has offered conflicting assessments of the theory, which police at one point took seriously. Documents show that LAPD detectives are now focusing on an alternative theory that centers on a Houston rap entrepreneur.

Mack, Knight and Muhammad, a Southland mortgage broker, have long denied any involvement in the 1997 killing.

"I have stated from the outset that I have nothing whatsoever to do with any of this," Muhammad, who also uses the name Harry Billups, said in a telephone interview Thursday from his attorney's office. "I've done nothing wrong. I don't have anything to hide."

Knight, founder of Death Row Records, also rejected the allegations.

"I don't know David Mack or Amir Muhammad. I've never met them," he said by phone from Mule Creek State Prison, where he is serving time for a probation violation. "The FBI has never contacted me, but I'm glad they are looking into all of this stuff. I hope they solve it."

Notorious B.I.G., whose real name was Christopher Wallace, was gunned down just after midnight March 9, 1997, in front of hundreds of people who had just left a music industry party at the Petersen museum. The Brooklyn rapper was sitting in the passenger seat of a sport utility vehicle at a red light when a lone assassin in a dark Impala pulled up in the neighboring lane and opened fire.

The killing occurred six months after rap star Tupac Shakur was fatally wounded in a drive-by attack in Las Vegas.

No one has ever been charged in either killing.

Early on, detectives speculated that the murders may have stemmed from a rivalry between East Coast and West Coast rappers. Before their deaths, Shakur and Wallace had been feuding, and a rivalry between their record labels, Los Angeles-based Death Row and New York-based Bad Boy Entertainment, had escalated into a series of assaults and shootings.

Each label used gang members for protection, and police investigated the possibility that both killings were committed by members of Compton's Southside Crips gang.

The theory now being investigated by the FBI was first advanced in 1998 by then-LAPD Det. Russell Poole.

According to Poole, Knight had Shakur killed because the rap star was about to leave his label -- and Knight then had Wallace murdered to make it appear that both slayings were the result of a bicoastal rap feud. Poole contends that Knight may have used corrupt police officers to help carry out both murders.

Mack, onetime partner of disgraced former LAPD Officer Rafael Perez, came under suspicion after he was arrested in December 1997 for robbing a bank. He was later convicted and is serving a 14-year prison term.

Mack owned a black Impala similar to the car used in the Wallace slaying, and a witness reported seeing him at the scene. Informants told investigators that Mack may have provided security for Knight. Both men grew up in Compton.

Poole began scrutinizing Muhammad, who was a classmate of Mack's at the University of Oregon, after learning that he had visited Mack in prison in December 1997. Several months earlier, a jailhouse informant had told detectives that Wallace's killer was a Southside Crip who went by a Middle Eastern name, possibly "Amir" or "Ashmir" -- and that his true name might be Abraham or Kenny or Keeky.

A driver's license photo of Muhammad resembles a police sketch of Wallace's killer based on witness descriptions. One witness told police he saw a man who resembled Muhammad outside the Petersen museum the night of the shooting.

Muhammad, in the phone interview, said the account was unfounded. "Anybody who says they saw me there that night or that I had anything to do with this is a liar," he said.

Poole resigned from the LAPD in 1999 after disputes with his superiors about the direction of various investigations, including the one into Wallace's murder.

Since then, Poole has promoted his theory of the Wallace slaying in newspaper interviews and books and through appearances on documentaries and TV shows. He has endorsed a screenplay treatment of it that is being shopped to Hollywood studios. Actor Sylvester Stallone has discussed portraying Poole in a movie.

Poole also joined forces with Wallace's mother, Voletta, who filed a wrongful-death suit against the city of Los Angeles two years ago. The suit contends the LAPD covered up police involvement in the rapper's killing.

The case is scheduled to go to trial July 27 in federal court in Los Angeles, with Poole testifying as an expert witness for the plaintiffs. Lawyers in the case have taken depositions from Poole and other police officers tied to the Wallace investigation. In those depositions, which have been sealed under court order, officers disclose details about the FBI probe.

The FBI's interest in the case was sparked by a TV special on the Wallace killing aired on the VH1 cable channel last summer. An FBI agent who saw the show later contacted attorneys for the Wallace family, who alleged that witnesses were afraid to talk to LAPD detectives about the case, documents show.

The FBI has interviewed several witnesses at the suggestion of the Wallace family's lawyers. Depositions suggest that agents have reviewed Muhammad's mortgage payments and phone records and conducted wiretaps, trying to link him to Mack.

The FBI recently conducted surveillance of Muhammad in San Diego and, sources said, wired an informant in an attempt to elicit incriminating statements from him. The effort yielded nothing, according to court documents and people familiar with the case.

An FBI agent recently tried to interview Mack at the federal prison in Alabama where he is serving 14 years for the 1997 bank robbery. Mack denied having anything to do with the Wallace murder, according to court records and sources.

The FBI declined to comment on the investigation. Documents indicate that the bureau is coordinating its work with the LAPD's Professional Standards Bureau, which looks into alleged police misconduct.

LAPD Deputy Chief Michael Berkow, head of the bureau, said Friday: "This is a joint FBI-LAPD investigation, and the LAPD is cooperating 100%."

Court documents, however, show that LAPD robbery-homicide detectives are focusing on a possible Texas connection to the Wallace slaying unrelated to the Poole theory.

Police have interviewed the owner of a blue 1996 Bentley that they suspect played a role in the shooting. Since September, police have traveled several times to Houston to interview witnesses and pursue leads about potential new suspects -- including a Houston rap entrepreneur and his friend who were allegedly near the crime scene on the night of the shooting, records show.

So far, Police have produced no evidence tying the Bentley or either man to the killing, sources said.

[Illustration]

Caption: PHOTO: RAP MOGUL: Marion "Suge" Knight is serving time for a probation violation.; PHOTOGRAPHER: Los Angeles Times; PHOTO: TARGET: Rap star Notorious B.I.G. was gunned down March 9, 1997, after a music industry party in Los Angeles.; PHOTOGRAPHER: Los Angeles Times

Credit: Times Staff Writer

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Section: *California Metro; Part B; Metro Desk*

ISSN/ISBN: 04583035

Text Word Count 1242

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 04/13/2005

To: Los Angeles

Attn: ET [REDACTED]

From: Los Angeles

WCC-4

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

Case ID #: 194C-LA-232722 (Pending)

Title: [REDACTED] Et Al;

Los Angeles Police Department;
CHRISTOPHER WALLACE - Murder Victim;
aka Notorius B.I.G.;
CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION;
OO: Los Angeles

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Synopsis: Response to destroying evidence of closed captioned case.

Details: Even though case is closed, all 1C material will be maintained for the following 6 months as the potential for new evidence is a possibility. If this were to occur, captioned case would be re-opened. The following is the list of 1C material:

- 1C1 Case file of Christopher Wallace
- 1C2 Case file from Federal Civil Attorneys - [REDACTED]
- 1C3 Copy of contacts [REDACTED]
- 1C4 Copy of all interviews done by LAPD

♦♦

194C-LA-232722-143

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 04/07/2005

The following is a chronology of events/phone calls that took place between April 1 and April 6, 2005:

April 1, 2005:

SA [redacted] received a telephonic message [redacted] to call him. In this message, [redacted] states how somebody wants to interview him regarding the "Biggie Smalls" case. This message has been saved.

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April 4, 2005:

SA [redacted] received another telephonic message [redacted] to call him. [redacted] will try to contact SA [redacted] at a later time. This message has also been saved.

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Assistant Division Council (ADC) [redacted] contacted SSA [redacted] for SA [redacted] ADC [redacted] requested that SSA [redacted] contact [redacted] in order to obtain a contact telephone number [redacted]. Later on the same day, SSA [redacted] provided ADC [redacted] with telephone number for Los Angeles Sheriffs Department (LASO) Deputy [redacted] and the telephone number [redacted]. SSA [redacted] stated that Deputy [redacted] had spoken [redacted] within the hour.

April 5, 2005:

SA [redacted] and ADC [redacted] contacted Deputy [redacted] telephone number [redacted] provided a telephone number [redacted] and added he spoke with him yesterday on an unrelated matter. [redacted] the L.A. Times is attempting to interview people associated with the "Biggie Smalls" case as the pending Federal Civil trial is approaching. [redacted] the L.A. Times is trying to disprove [redacted] theory [redacted] that [redacted] shot Biggie Smalls). [redacted] stated he has been successful so far on avoiding L.A. Times [redacted] and uses his supervisor to divert any contact [redacted]. SA [redacted] and ADC [redacted] then attempted to contact [redacted] throughout the entire day, with no success.

Investigation on 04/06/2005 at Los Angeles, CA

File # 194C-LA-232722-149 Date dictated _____

by SA [redacted]
ADC [redacted]

194C-LA-232722

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Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED]

, On 04/06/2007^{b7D}, Page 2

April 6, 2005:

SA [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] at 5:57 AM. SA [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] he was hard to get a hold of, [REDACTED] told SA [REDACTED] that the Peoples Court wanted to "Put him on" [REDACTED] adding [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] to call him back between 9am - 10am and provided a pager number [REDACTED] as well.

At approximately 10:40am, SA [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] and advised him he would call [REDACTED] back in 2 minutes. SA [REDACTED] met with ADC [REDACTED] and both called back [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

first of the year. [REDACTED] when speaking [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] name came up [REDACTED] telling [REDACTED] he has spoken to SA [REDACTED] on a few occasions and that he's (SA [REDACTED]) a good guy.

[REDACTED]

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194C-LA-232722

Continuation of FD-302 of

[Redacted]

, On 04/06/2005 , Page 3

provided an address

[Redacted]

He added

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- 1 -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 04/12/2005

The following is a chronology of events/phone calls that took place on April 7 & 8, 2005:

April 7, 2005:

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SA [redacted] and ADC [redacted] attempted to contact [redacted] A
message was left [redacted] stating agents were
attempting to contact him regarding [redacted] b7C
[redacted] the pending Federal Civil lawsuit involving the LAPD b7D
and the City Attorney's Office.

April 8, 2005:

SA [redacted] received a page from an unknown number. When
SA [redacted] returned the page, it was the home number for [redacted]
and the following conversation took place:

[redacted] is familiar with captioned case and
knows [redacted] has been trying to get
a hold of [redacted] as well as [redacted]
[redacted]
the major crimes section. [redacted]

[redacted] According
to [redacted] has been able to obtain [redacted] home
telephone number but is unaware of his location.

[redacted] stated he has spoken with [redacted]
[redacted] on several occasions and noted [redacted]
[redacted] what occurred in San
Diego (newspaper article disclosing what occurred), including [redacted]
[redacted] the "Biggie Smalls" murder [redacted]
[redacted]

Investigation on 04/08/2005 at Los Angeles, CAFile # 194C-LA-232722-145

Date dictated _____

by SA [redacted]

194C-LA-232722

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Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED], On 04/08/20**b7D**, Page 2

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] if writer
wanted to speak with him he would be in Los Angeles [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is now the contact person [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] without worrying about a thing.

After the conversation concluded, SA [REDACTED] notified ADC
[REDACTED] of what transpired [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (LA) (FBI)

From: [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2005 3:07 PM
To: [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI)
Cc: [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI)
Subject: Christopher Wallace murder investigation

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[REDACTED]
I called [REDACTED] today after you told me that he had left you a message for me to call him. [REDACTED] stated that he had new evidence that he thought the FBI would be interested in investigating. He said that he had a confession [REDACTED] from someone [REDACTED] including the murder of Tupac and Biggy. He would not give me the informant's name over the telephone, but stated that he would if he could sit down with you and your supervisors.

He also stated that he could not believe that the FBI had commented [REDACTED] that the USAO had declined the case citing "no basis for prosecution." I told him that was not an uncommon procedure (the declination), but [REDACTED] said that he thought our comment on the declination was unheard of and that it would probably be an issue in some national press articles (Time magazine).

[REDACTED] had nothing good to say [REDACTED] and felt [REDACTED] was wrecking his case. He said that [REDACTED] thought it was interesting that the FBI [REDACTED]. He said that [REDACTED] was also trying to get any dirt possible on you. [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] asked him a lot of terrible questions about you, but [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that you always acted properly.

I asked [REDACTED] if you gave him any information [REDACTED] and he stated that you did not. I told him that [REDACTED] had told me that [REDACTED] had given [REDACTED] confidential FBI information. [REDACTED] said that this was not true and that [REDACTED] was "full of shit."

In any case, please let me know whether you want to meet with Sanders regarding this new evidence.

[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED

5/5/2005

194C-LA-232722

[REDACTED] (LA) (FBI)

From: [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI)

Sent: Monday, June 20, 2005 9:14 AM

To: [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI); [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI); [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI); [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI); [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI)

Cc: [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI); [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI); [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI); [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI)

Subject: Notorious BIG Article - 06-20-2005

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Here is the electronic version of the latest [REDACTED] on the Notorious BIG matter. As you may know - he left SA Carson a message yesterday [REDACTED] and that SA [REDACTED] did not respond. Once again [REDACTED] is throwing completely ludicrous statements out there to get a rise out of us. It would be my recommendation that we continue to ignore him at this juncture [REDACTED] Hopefully - once the civil trial is over [REDACTED] will end this nonsense. If you have any questions, please call me.

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6/20/2005

194C-LA-232722-47

[REDACTED] (LA) (FBI)

From: [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI)
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2005 9:20 AM
To: [REDACTED] (LA) (FBI)
Subject: Call from [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] this is just a quick e-mail regarding our conversation last night when I informed you about a message [REDACTED] left on my work voice mail on June 17, 2005 (Sunday night) at 6:00 PM that I received around 7:00 PM when I checked my messages. I obviously did not return his call. He stated he wanted to let me know that

[REDACTED] specifically stated the FBI is only noted a few times [REDACTED] He added he wants me to return his call as he is very "perplexed" on why I have been [REDACTED] and what my reason for doing this is. He added I have shared [REDACTED] that I "stole" [REDACTED] and wants to know why I have done this - [REDACTED] stated in his message which is saved that [REDACTED] told him this.

First of all, I am very familiar with SSA [REDACTED] and his past relationship [REDACTED] as I have spoken [REDACTED] about this. Also, I have spoken and met [REDACTED] on several occasions regarding this case. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I won't bore you with all the other details, but the bottom line is I have no idea what [REDACTED] is talking about regarding stealing [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] did call me 2 weeks ago asking if there was something I could do to squash a subpoena he received to testify in this civil case. I returned his message stating there was nothing I could do about that, and added I hope all is going well [REDACTED] I did not speak with [REDACTED] directly. [REDACTED] and I got along fine and I'm sure [REDACTED] is going to try and get him to say something bad or unethical about me and the FBI as I know [REDACTED] was very upset about how he was handled by [REDACTED] (I read what happened between those two).

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

6/20/2005

Witness in B.I.G. Case Says His Memory's Bad

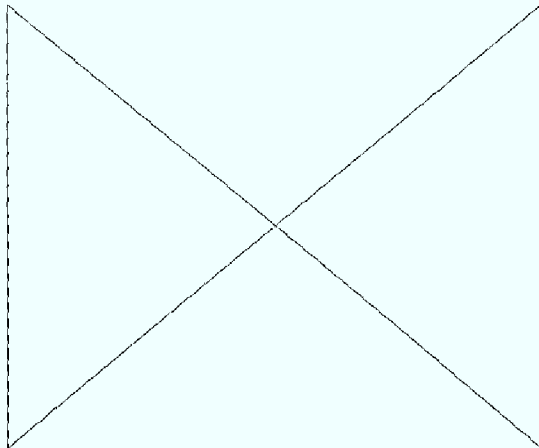
- The admission comes as trial is set to begin in suit filed by family of slain rap star against the city.

[REDACTED]

On the eve of testifying about the murder of Notorious B.I.G., a prime witness for the rapper's family has revealed that he suffers from severe memory lapses [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who was expected to provide eyewitness testimony tying corrupt police officers to alleged conspirators behind the 1997 slaying, spoke out Friday after learning that an arrest warrant had been issued to force him to testify in the family's wrongful-death lawsuit against the city of Los Angeles.

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The suit is set to go to trial Tuesday in Los Angeles federal court.

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Notorious B.I.G., born

Christopher Wallace, was gunned down March 9, 1997, after a music industry party outside the Peterson Automotive Museum in the Mid-Wilshire district. The case has spawned several investigations, and a cottage industry of books, documentaries and magazine articles exploring possible conspiracy theories involving Wallace and Tupac Shakur, the other leading rap artist of his generation, who was shot to death in Las Vegas the year before. No one has been charged in either slaying.

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Early on, Los Angeles Police Department detectives speculated that the killings stemmed from a turf war between East Coast and West Coast rappers. Before their deaths, Shakur and Wallace had been feuding, and a rivalry between their record labels [redacted] Los Angeles-based Death Row and New York-based Bad Boy Entertainment, had escalated into a series of assaults and shootings.

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[redacted] and other relatives sued the city three years ago, alleging that an ex-LAPD officer [redacted] conspired [redacted] to kill [redacted]. The suit says [redacted] ambushed Wallace as his motorcade waited at a stoplight.

However, the FBI, citing lack of evidence, closed an investigation into this theory in January. On June 13, the family dropped [redacted] as defendants in the suit.

The next day, the rapper's relatives persuaded U.S. District Judge Florence-Marie Cooper to issue the arrest warrant after [redacted] to answer a subpoena to testify in the trial.

[redacted] statements Friday cast further doubt on the theory at the center of the lawsuit: that corrupt police officers orchestrated the slaying of the 24-year-old rapper, and that top LAPD officials covered up their actions.

In a declaration filed June 6, 2004, [redacted] [redacted] had "personal knowledge" regarding Wallace's slaying, alleging that "persons within Death Row Records offered \$25,000 to a law enforcement officer" to kill the rapper.

According to [redacted] declaration, it was "well known within Death Row" that [redacted] other LAPD officers worked as "covert agents" for the rap record label [redacted] observed [redacted] at the 1995 Black Image Awards, a 1996 boxing match in Las Vegas and "numerous Death Row functions" that were reserved for

[redacted] close associates.

On Friday [redacted] the [redacted] legal team had "altered" his statements before placing them in the declaration.

"My statements were taken out of context [redacted] Some things in there I never even said. They added them in. As far as [redacted] attending private Death Row parties, I never said that. [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] he takes "full blame" for signing a false declaration.

[redacted]
[redacted] I signed off on it one day when [one of the [redacted] lawyers] said it was imperative that it be signed. The fact is, I skimmed through the papers, but I didn't really read it. I just signed it."

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Attorneys for the [redacted] estate suggested that [redacted] was afraid to testify.

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[redacted] have recently expressed extreme fear and reluctance to voluntarily participate," said attorney [redacted] "An earlier motion that we filed on his behalf to preserve his testimony because he was afraid was fought by the city, and the court denied it being taken. Now here we are on the eve of trial and it's no wonder he attempts to distance himself from statements he made long before a lawsuit was ever filed."

In his declaration [redacted]
[redacted]

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