

Riverside Police Department

Division Commander's Commendation

To

Detective Ron Wright

On Friday, November 7, 2003, a homicide occurred in the Canyon Crest area of Riverside. The victim was struck and killed by her own car as it was being stolen. There were no productive leads and with the vehicle outstanding, investigators had little hope of solving the crime. There was a possibility the victim's purse containing her identification and credit cards was in the car and could be used by the suspect(s). On Monday, November 10, 2003, the lead investigator requested assistance from Detective Ron Wright to determine what credit cards the victim may have had and identify any fraudulent activity following the homicide.

Detective Wright used his contacts in the financial community to gather this information. He was dissatisfied with the quality of service he received at the first level of inquiry to Bank of America. He persisted and requested assistance from fraud management until he reached someone who was committed to providing productive, near real-time assistance with tracking the activity on the card.

He learned the cards had been used for gasoline purchases the day following the homicide. He also learned that on the night of November 10, 2003, one of the victim's credit cards was used to pay for a taxicab to another city. The pick-up location was an address in the City of Riverside. Within hours of Detective Wright providing this address to the Persons Unit, their detectives had located the victim's vehicle parked nearby and began preparing a Search Warrant for the house.

As a direct result of Detective Wright's voracity in this investigation, two suspects have been identified. If it were not for his willingness to jump in and get involved, the discovery of the victim's car may have come much too late to provide any substantive clues. Detective Wright is commended for exemplary investigative performance that put the process of solving a very difficult homicide into motion.


Captain Jim Cannon
Investigations Division Commander



John Clifford
Investigator
Legal Department

Outstanding *W.C.P.* *P. file*
RECEIVED
OCT 07 2002

Office of the Chief

October 3, 2002

Chief Russ Leach
Riverside California Police Department
4102 Orange St.
Riverside, CA 92501

**Re: Investigation of Troy and Christie Radford, d/b/a Advanced
Satellite Systems by members of the City of Riverside Police
Department Economic Crimes Unit**

Dear Chief Leach:

I am sending this letter to commend the members of your Economic Crimes Unit for the outstanding work they did in connection with the investigation referred to above and to request your department's further assistance.

The investigation began when I uncovered a scheme by the Radfords to sell HBO and other copyrighted television programming to a Travelodge in Van Nuys through the use of unauthorized satellite decoder units and other equipment. The decoder units were activated by DirecTV for a residential account in the name and at the address of Christie Radford in Riverside, but were installed in the motel by Troy Radford after he negotiated a multi-year contract to distribute the programming to the motel's guest rooms.

Shortly thereafter I contacted Time Warner Cable's Los Angeles area Director of Security and Audit, Robert Thoreson, a former LAPD detective with decades of experience, including service in that department's Homicide and Property Crimes Units.

Director Thoreson assisted me in the reporting of this scheme to the Property Crimes Unit of the LAPD who in turn seized the decoder units as evidence and contacted Detective Ronald J. Wright for assistance in the preparation and execution of a search warrant at the home of the Radfords (also the address of their business).

Detective Wright prepared a descriptive, yet concise, affidavit for the search warrant that was signed by the judge without any hesitance. In fact, when Director Thoreson read it he commented to me that, "In all of my years as a detective and in private industry combating (cable) piracy I have never seen a more well written application."

Detective Wright's organizational abilities were equal to his expressiveness in writing. He thoroughly briefed his supervisors, the other detectives assigned, myself, Director Thoreson and several members of his Security Department before the warrant was executed.

The evidence seized led to the discovery of five other commercial lodging properties that were paying the Radfords who were pocketing the money. Two of those properties are located in Anaheim and a case has been opened with the Anaheim Police Department (RDR 02-6971).

Detective Kerry Condon (714) 765-3439 (kcondon@anaheim.net) has been assigned. HBO's financial loss at the two properties is in excess of \$25,000 and Detective Condon has been trying to locate the Radfords without success.

Your unit expended long hours of diligent police work over several days on this case. They wrote the warrant application, conducted the searches, vouchered the evidence and obtained photographs of the defendants. It would be very unfortunate if these individuals avoided justice.

The cooperation among the Los Angeles and Riverside law enforcement officers, Time Warner Cable Security and HBO was a pleasure to see. I have rarely observed cohesive cooperation by inter-governmental agencies and private industry as has occurred in this case. Detective Wright's knowledge, experience and expertise were evident in the proficient manner in which he has handled this case. I respectfully request that you direct your unit do what it can to ensure a fruitful result.

Cable and satellite piracy cases are serious in that they result in losses to the industry in excess of six billion dollars per year. This does not include theft of pay-per-view movies and other pay-per-view events. In this case alone HBO has losses in excess of \$70,000.

Local municipalities like yours are also affected because they lose cable franchise fees and sales tax revenues.

Home Box Office ("HBO"), appreciates the diligent detective work by the Economic Crimes Unit of the City of Riverside Police Department in this case.


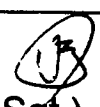
Thank you for your further anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



John Clifford

**RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PERSONNEL INCIDENT REPORT**

Name of Employee Ronald Wright		Date/Time of incident 01-19-2000	
Location of Incident Magnolia w/of Overland		Employee Notified 01-25-2000	Employee Initials 
459 P.C., 470 P.C., 529.3 P.C.		Related Report(s) P3-99-343-165	
Describe Incident and Action Taken: This report will serve as a note of commendation for a job well done on a difficult Economic crimes case. This department received the attached Memorandum from Riverside County Deputy D.A. Colleen E. Maas commending you for going the "extra mile" in a complex and sophisticated criminal case. As always, your attention to detail and tenacious work continues to exemplify the high standards of the Riverside Police Department. You are commended for an outstanding job.			
Attachment			
Employee Reporting S. Van Etten	Immediate Supervisor  S. Van Etten (Acting Sgt.)	Division Commander	



GROVER TRASK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

4075 MAIN STREET, FIRST FLOOR
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501
909/955-5400

- Ron Wright -

JAY E. ORR
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

JOHN L. REPLOGLE
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION

SUE F. STEDING
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
EASTERN DIVISION

RANDALL K. TAGAMI
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
WESTERN DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

Date: 1/19/00

To: Station Commander

From: Riverside County D. A. Office, Filing Unit

D.D.A. COLLEEN E. MAAS

RE: GOOD JOB by DET. RON WRIGHT

Agency: RIVERSIDE P. D.

Case #: P3-99-343-165 People v. CHRISTINE BURNS

THANK-YOU

Detective Wright "went the extra mile" as usual on this extremely complex major fraud case. He worked with Det. Renstrom of Corona P.D. to diligently pursue the track of this very sophisticated criminal. She has escaped the consequences of all her schemes and

cc: DET. RON WRIGHT

frauds thus far, and always manages to make bail amounts no matter how high. With Det. Wright, however, she

not

has finally met her match. Just when she was ready to bail out once again, Det. Wright not only rushed another set of charges against her, but went through much time and effort all of the hours from day to night to compose thorough 1275 and 1269 motions to ensure she does not walk out of custody immediately this time.

Detective Wright conscientiously followed the case to the D. A.'s Office to provide assistance in the filing of the charges. He certainly deserves the highest praise possible for his outstanding work.

CITY OF RIVERSIDE
INTEROFFICE MEMO



TO: Detective Ron Wright
Detective Terry Taulbee

DATE: January 9, 1994

FROM: Rick Albee
Operations Lieutenant, General Investigations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rick Albee', written over the 'FROM' line.

SUBJECT: **COMMENDATION**

During the latter part of 1993 you were involved in a sensitive investigation involving a fellow member of the Riverside Police Department. Compounding the relationship of the accused is the fact that this person is a very popular and visible member of the organization.

On the face of the investigation the allegations were very serious and condemning on their own merit. Regardless of the presupposed information, you did a thorough and comprehensive investigation which resulted in several splinter issues being discovered and resolved. You coordinated your efforts and worked well with the Internal Affairs Unit and kept the City Attorney advised of the progress of the case.

You are to be commended for your performance during this investigation. It is because of your dedication and professionalism that the employee under investigation was totally exonerated of any wrong doing.

I wish to extend my personal thanks and the appreciation of the department for a job well done.

cc: Division Personnel File
Chief's Office



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

4075 MAIN STREET, FIRST FLOOR
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501
714/275-5400

GROVER TRASK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RANDALL K. TAGAMI
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
WESTERN DIVISION

DON R. INSKEEP
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

June 29, 1992

Chief Sonny Richardson
Riverside Police Department
4102 Orange Street
Riverside, CA 92501

RE: Brian David Forrett, CR No. 41700

Dear Chief Richardson:

I write to commend the outstanding work of Detectives Ronald Wright and Ronald Adams of the Riverside Police Department in connection with the apprehension, investigation and prosecution of Brian David Forrett.

Mr. Forrett committed a series of day time burglaries in the Wood Street area of Riverside and the area surrounding Harris' Plaza in the fall of 1990. Residents were at home during the last of these burglaries, and Mr. Forrett shot one of them in the head, causing this victim to lose an eye and maiming him for life. There was a subsequent chase and officer-involved shooting involving a good part of the Riverside Police Department's officers assigned to Riverside on that particular day.

The investigation that followed was therefore complex since so many police officers were involved. Detective Adams' handling and coordination of the case was outstanding. I inherited the case from another deputy district attorney a year after it occurred, something that is not always easy to do in a case of this magnitude. My job was made so much easier by the thorough and competent investigation, together with the outstanding case book that was put together for the District Attorney's Office by Detective Adams.

As a result of follow-up work done on this case, the defendant was tied to no less than seven other residential burglaries. This was as a result of the painstaking and thorough investigative work of Detective Ron Wright. He traced down prior police reports of these burglaries and tied the defendant to them by tracking pawn tickets and loan contract receipts for jewelry items taken in the

Chief Richardson

2

June 29, 1992

burglaries. His reports were models of clarity, and his summaries of a complex investigation made life so much easier for a deputy district attorney stepping in to take over the case further on down the line.

Both detectives were a pleasure to work with, briefing me thoroughly before the preliminary hearing, and making themselves available when I needed them, Detective Wright coming in when his leg was broken.

The defendant ultimately pled guilty and received a sentence of 32 years and 8 months. It is my belief that the successful resolution of this case was in large measure due to the outstanding work of both Detective Ronald Adams and Ronald Wright. They are to be commended.

Very truly yours,

GROVER C. TRASK II
District Attorney

By:


VILIA G. SHERMAN
Deputy District Attorney

VGS:fmg

592

cc: ✓ Detective Ronald Wright
Detective Ronald Adams



July 11, 1991

Ron Wright
Investigative Division

On May 15, 1991, a large scale, multi-agency operation designated "California Storm" was conducted for the purpose of confiscating records and money from two large organizations which were ostensibly soliciting money from the public to assist needy veterans. Approximately twenty search warrants were served simultaneously on these two organizations, known as NOSAD (No On Smoking, Alcohol and Drugs), and ANV (American National Veterans). These two organizations were operating in Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Ventura Counties.

To implement a plan of such magnitude, the ICS (Incident Command System) was utilized. The Riverside Police Department spear-headed the operation, with assistance from the Riverside County District Attorney, the State of California (Employment Development Department, Bureau of Labor Standards, and Attorney General), the Corona Police Department, San Bernardino Police Department, Fontana Police Department, Rialto Police Department, San Bernardino County Sheriff, Oceanside Police Department, and Huntington Beach Police Department.

Each individual who serves in the ICS performs a single function; each function is integral to the overall success of the operation. Individuals are selected for key positions within the system based on needs and individual skills or abilities.

Your planning and case preparation were crucial in helping operation "California Storm" achieve its goal of gathering records and monies, in addition to identifying and interviewing principals within these two organizations. You are to be commended for performing your duties in an efficient, professional manner, thereby contributing to the overall success of the operation.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dave Cunradi".

Captain Dave Cunradi
Investigative Services Division

DC:EB:pd

2788D