

Cops to Cut Back Guard at Site Of Firebombings

By Richard Sandomir

Rosedale—Police protection ordered by Mayor Edward I. Koch in August for a black couple whose home was firebombed twice will be reduced beginning Monday and may be discontinued a week later.

The police order to reduce the protection came a day after two muggings within several blocks of the house. Police deny there was any connection between the police commitment and the muggings.

However, the son of one of the victims said yesterday that the muggings might have been averted if the car stationed at the house had been on regular patrols throughout the primarily white neighborhood.

Three patrol cars are assigned to the neighborhood each shift and one of them is stationed at Sicard's house 16-hours a day.

Arsonists struck the Huxley Street house of David Sicard, 39, and his fiancée, Renee Burrell, 27, on July 31 and Aug. 23, and three gunshots were fired at Sicard on Aug. 25. In a firebombing Aug. 24, flammable liquid was thrown through a window, lighted and the resulting blaze damaged the boiler room and pipes, destroyed the furnace, and charred walls. Koch visited the Sicards Aug. 27. "Anyone in this town who seeks to prevent anyone from moving in where they can afford to live—we're going to get them," the mayor said.

A patrol car from the 105th Squad began 24-hour surveillance outside the \$50,000 home. The protection later was reduced to 16 hours. No suspects were arrested.

Borough Zone Insp. William Tracy said yesterday, "We put it there but now we're going to gradually take it off." He asked that details of the plan be withheld. The surveillance might end Jan. 14, Tracy said, if no further incidents are reported. After that date, the precinct will "continue

to give attention to the house," he added.

Donald Falzone, 21, said his father was returning from work to his home at 149-75 255th St., about 6:30 PM Wednesday when he was assaulted by two youths. One put a gun to 49-year-old Emmanuel Falzone's neck as the other stole his wallet containing about \$100 and jewelry, including a diamond ring and a gold necklace. A neighbor's screams caused the two to flee.

A half hour later, at 7 PM, police reported that Gertrude Kennedy, of 143-07 243rd St., was beaten and robbed by two youths who matched the description given by Falzone. Mrs. Kennedy was cut on her head. Her house was robbed and her car stolen by the youths.

The younger Falzone said that the neighborhood resented the constant presence of the patrol car at the Sicard house. He attributed the muggings in the area to the loss of the patrol car needed for the Sicard duty. "I think it's wrong that they have the protection and we don't have anything."

Falzone said after the attack that his father drove in his car to the officer on duty in front of Sicard's house, about five blocks away from Falzone's residence. Falzone said the officer told his father that he couldn't leave his post. "This is very inadequate protection for the neighborhood," said Falzone. "The guy in the car could have prevented the woman from being hurt."

Although the officer outside Sicard's house is supposed to remain stationary, he is allowed to move if he sees a crime in progress, Tracy said.

"If they're cutting the shift," Falzone said, "I'd like the rest of the shift to be stationed in front of my house and they should put a car in front of Mrs. Kennedy's house. I just want everything to be fair. And when that patrol car is back patrolling the street, I'll be satisfied."



Newsday Photo by Dan Neville

Bob Conroy at work at Children's World in Astoria

Navy Veteran Bumps Into Heavy Traffic

By Ken Gross

Astoria—Life is almost back to normal on Steinway Street. Bob Conroy is back at work at Children's World, delivering furniture. And the two policemen in the Neighborhood Stabilization Unit are back on patrol.

It is almost as if the incident on Christmas Eve never happened.

There was an ugly confrontation between two policemen and Conroy—that no one disputes. But the story of a holiday gone sour lies about in fragments—like broken ornaments from a Christmas tree.

Bob Conroy still faces two felony charges a week from Monday. And about a dozen merchants and residents are like survivors of a shipwreck: still in shock.

"It happened so quickly," said Al Haines, manager of Children's World at 30-63 Steinway St.—the scene of the incident. "You just don't believe that something like that happens so quickly."

It began at the most perilous moment for jittery nerves—4:30 PM, December 24th. Conroy, the delivery man at Children's World, had been out all day on deliveries—the last-minute Christmas rush.

"You have to understand what kind of man he is," said Ken Schacter, owner of the store and a neighborhood merchant for a decade. "We send him into homes with unprotected women and little children. We have to trust him."

Conroy, 30, is a Navy veteran of Vietnam. He has two Purple Hearts and one Bronze Star. He works as a maintenance man at night and at Children's World during the day. He works two jobs to support his wife and six-year-old son.

At 4 PM, he double-parked in front of the store to pick up some deliveries. Just then, Patrolmen Frank Salvio and Steven Reardon—both members of the Neighborhood Stabilization Unit in the 114th Squad—pulled alongside in their car and ordered Conroy to move the station wagon.

"I moved it a few feet and then stopped to bring something in the store," said Conroy. "I thought that they had pulled away. But they hadn't. They just pulled up and stopped and came back and attacked me."

A neighborhood resident was at his window right over the store and watched what happened. He did not want to publish his name, although he has agreed to testify. "The policeman came out of his car and began to drag this man out of his car," said the witness. "There was no discussion. No provocation. He just started working on him with his nightstick. Brutally. Really brutally."

Two other witnesses who watched the episode have offered to testify for Conroy. Haines, who was in Children's World, saw his driver being taken into custody through the window: "I saw them drag him out of the car, ripping his shirt and breaking the gold chain around his throat. Then they came in here with Conroy handcuffed and said, 'Does this filth work here?' When I tried to get them to calm down, when I suggest—

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Berkowitz Probe Kept Alive by DA

NEWSDAY, FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1980

Kew Gardens (UPI)—The Queens district attorney's office is continuing an independent inquiry on whether "Son of Sam" killer David Berkowitz may have had an accomplice, although city police have dropped a similar investigation, it was learned yesterday.

Queens District Attorney John Santucci and members of the task force that he created Oct. 19 to take "another look at the case as a result of new questions" declined comment on any aspect of the investigation. However, an assistant district attorney and at least one county detective are still assigned to the special unit.

A police department detective in the Bronx, who also looked into the "conspiracy theory" late last year and flew to Minot, N.D., to follow up reports that Berkowitz and the late John Carr were friends, is facing disciplinary charges.

John Carr, who was 31 when he was shot to death in Minot in February, was the son of Sam Carr, a Yonkers neighbor of Berkowitz. Berkowitz said after his arrest on Aug. 10, 1977, that the elder Carr was his "master" who spoke to him through a dog and ordered him to kill.

John Carr's death initially was ruled a suicide, but the sheriff's office in Ward County, N.D., has been investigating the death.

Berkowitz, now in the State Correctional Facility at Attica, said he acted alone when he killed six persons and wounded seven others with a .44-cal. revolver.

A police department spokesman said the Bronx detective, Henry Cinotti, assigned to the Sedgwick Avenue station-house, "will be served with disciplinary charges in the next few days."

The spokesman refused to say what charges will be. Cinotti's superior, Deputy Chief Edwin Dreher, said yesterday that the detective had, indeed, flown to Minot but refused to comment on whether Cinotti did so without permission.

He declined to say if Cinotti found information in the case that would cause the police department to reconsider its skeptical view of reports that Berkowitz did not act alone.

Cinotti was unavailable for comment. He has been placed on "modified assignment." His gun has been taken away, and his duties are mainly clerical.

A colleague in the precinct described him as a "good guy, a good detective and a man of strong convictions who does what he feels is right."

The co-worker, who asked not to be identified, said, "Cinotti is very religious and answers only to one person—God—and may have had a run-in with superiors."