

911 Timing Slow, Goldin Charges

By Chapin Wright
and Bob Drury

'The Police Department cons the public into thinking they are getting a rapid response'

— Harrison J. Goldin

Comptroller Harrison J. Goldin charged yesterday that the Police Department's response time to the scene of a crime or emergency was "woefully inadequate and outrageously slow." The charge brought a quick response from police officials.

At a midday news conference Goldin released the results of an audit claiming that police often take 30 minutes or more to reach the scene after they have been dispatched by a 911 operator, and cited 12 "random" samples of cases where the elapsed time between the 911 dispatch and the arrival of patrol cars to a crime in progress took between 22 and an "especially appalling" 46 minutes.

"The Police Department cons the

public into thinking they are getting a rapid response when they're not, which suggests they have something to hide," said Goldin, who also chided the department for "refusing to release their records so we can't get the full picture" and suggested that the Fire Department, which does release its response-time records, "should play a greater role in responding to emergencies."

Within hours, at a Police Headquarters news conference presided over by Assistant Chief Raymond W. Kelly of the Management Analysis and Planning Office, police officials disputed Goldin's findings, saying the cases he used as examples were skewed and that their most recent citywide study, for the week of April 17, showed police re-

'But he has to understand that the volume of radio calls has increased significantly.'

— Assistant Chief
Raymond W. Kelly

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Newsday / Alan Raja

Causing a Splash

Some roadways flooded yesterday after 1 to 3 inches of rain hit New York City. Police Officer Mike Coogan found that out as he directed traffic on the Interborough Parkway in Queens. (Story on Page 38.)

Witness for U.S. Is Gunned Down On B'klyn Street

This story was reported by Robert Kessler, Thomas Renner and Elaine Rivera and was written by Rivera.

A reputed high-level figure in the Russian emigre crime community who was convicted in a major gasoline tax scam three years ago and became a government witness was gunned down in Brooklyn yesterday while driving his Rolls-Royce, authorities said.

Michael Markowitz, 42, crashed the 1985 Rolls into two parked cars when he was shot twice in the torso in the Mill Basin section of Brooklyn about 1 a.m., according to police.

Markowitz collapsed after he got out of the car and knocked on the door of a house on 66th Street. He was pronounced dead at Kings County Hospital, police said.

Police said they did not know the motive for the shooting, but police sources said they believed that Markowitz still bootlegged oil and gas while cooperating with the government.

"He apparently was playing both ends against the middle," said one source.

Markowitz, of Manhattan's Upper East Side, was one of seven people convicted in a 1986 case of gasoline tax evasion, authorities said.

The group, which was headed by Michael **Franzese**, a reputed captain in

the Colombo crime family who later went to jail after his conviction, plotted to take over oil refining terminals and import shiploads of untaxed fuel from Eastern-bloc countries and Canada. At the time, authorities said the group had stolen hundreds of thousands of dollars in state and federal gas and oil taxes.

"He was a top-level figure in the bootlegging of oil and gas," said Vincent O'Reilly, an assistant attorney general with the state attorney general's office.

After his conviction, Markowitz cooperated with federal and state authorities and entered into a plea bargain in which he paid back \$3 million to the state of New York, \$1.5 million to

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An Off-Duty Cop Nabbed On Drug Rap

An off-duty police officer was arrested yesterday by a Bronx Tactical Narcotics Team after emerging from a "narcotics-prone" location with an envelope of heroin which he proceeded to snort, police said.

Eric Morales, 29, of 7779 Columbia St., Manhattan, was arrested at 1:30 p.m. in front of 667 Coster St. in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx, said Det. Joseph McConville, a police spokesman.

Morales was observed by members of the TNT Vehicle Confiscation Team coming out of a building at 865 Hunts Point Ave. with a glassine envelope in his hand, McConville said.

Morales got into his car and drove several blocks to Coster Street where he stopped and was spotted snorting the drug, police said.

Morales was charged with possession of a controlled substance. He was assigned to the Midtown South Precinct and has been a member of the department since July 8, 1985.

—Chapin Wright

The Ticket to a Cop's Troubles

Robert Olden, a 41-year-old, jammed-up cop stared at the defense table throughout the jury selection. If convicted of reckless endangerment and civil rights violation he faces the possibility of jail and the loss of his pension and other benefits. He chewed gum slowly, his jaw muscles balling up like little fists. Buried under the reams of paper on the table was 18 years of Olden's life as a cop.

At 9:30 a.m., Feb. 13, 1988, Olden went to Maimonides Medical Center at 4802 10th Ave. in Brooklyn to pick up his 15-year-old daughter Samantha who was being discharged after an appendectomy. Olden was with his wife

Andrea but parked his Cherokee jeep in front of the hospital in a No Standing Any Time zone. He put his PBA card on the dashboard and then he and his wife entered the hospital to get his daughter.

When Olden returned he found a parking ticket on his windshield. This became a one-way ticket to the defense table in the courtroom of Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Anne C. Feldman and yet another charge of racism leveled at a city cop.

Assistant District Attorney Andrew Frisch,

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Insanity Defense Likely In Bellevue Slaying

By Timothy Clifford

A Manhattan judge refused yesterday to suppress murder suspect Steven Smith's statements about the killing of Dr. Kathryn Hinnant, prompting the homeless man's lawyer to say his client probably would offer an insanity defense.

In a 21-page decision, State Supreme Court Justice James J. Leff rejected defense arguments that police and prosecutors illegally obtained Smith's three statements, including one on videotape, after his Jan. 9 arrest. The judge also ruled that police legally arrested Smith at the Ward's Island homeless shelter.

Smith, 23, is charged with raping, sodomizing, robbing and murdering the pathologist, who was five months pregnant, in her office at Bellevue Hospital on Jan. 7.

Citing the decision and preliminary DNA test results indicating that Smith's semen was found on the doctor's body, defense attorney Marvyn M. Kornberg said yesterday, "It appears more than likely that we will be entering a defense of lack of criminal responsibility."

In his statements, the defendant admits to the killing and robbery, but says there was an accomplice named "John" who helped strangle the 33-year-old doctor and then raped her. Authorities have said they do not believe "John" exists.

Even if his client's statements had been suppressed, Kornberg maintained yesterday the defense would have introduced them at the trial if Smith pleaded insanity.

The attorneys are scheduled to appear before Leff on May 10 to determine whether there will be any more hearings before trial.

FBI Agents Nab 3 Belgians In Theft of Renaissance Art

Three Belgians have been arrested by the FBI in New York on charges of transporting \$4 million in Dutch Renaissance paintings stolen from a Swiss gallery, federal authorities said yesterday.

According to a complaint filed yesterday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, defendant Rene De Grove, 54, admitted that he and a co-defendant, Thierry Houze, 29, took part in the robbery April 12 of an art gallery in Zurich. The third defendant was identified as Martine Wins, 26, a companion of Houze.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robin W. Morey said the FBI recovered nine paintings worth \$4 million out of 21 works that were stolen. The defendants allegedly tried to sell the stolen paintings to an unidentified New York art gallery. The paintings included the work of such Dutch masters as Jan Steen and Jan Meertens.

Federal agents said they posed as potential buyers and on Monday they seized some of the paintings in an apartment De Grove maintained at 200 Central Park South.

Each defendant faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted. —Paul Moses

Witness Is Gunned Down

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the federal government and \$500,000 to the state of Florida. He also was sentenced to six months of house arrest and placed on probation for five years, said Ed McDonald of the federal Organized Crime Strike Force of the Eastern District of New York.

"He was offered the witness protection program but he refused," McDonald said.

Markowitz was also a witness who had testified against Jay Turoff, then-chairman of the Taxi and Limousine Commission, who was tried on mail fraud and conspiracy charges in connection with a Brooklyn-based credit union called Hyfin.

While Markowitz was believed to have had ties with the Colombo crime family and to have been a high-level mobster in the Russian emigre crime community, authorities said that he also dealt with the Luchese and Gambino crime families. His death marked the 11th homicide that authorities believe may be connected to the gasoline tax scandal.

Markowitz, who was also involved in purchasing real estate, lived with his father in an East Side cooperative on 86th Street, sources said.

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