# FILED BEFORE THE ILLINOIS TORTURE INQUIRY AND RELIEF COMMISSION

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In re:

CLERA OF THE CIPTUIT COURT CRIMINAL DEPT.

Claim of Jerry Mahaffey

DOROTHY BROWN

TIRC Claim No. 2011.043-M

#### **CASE DISPOSITION**

Pursuant to 775 ILCS 40/45(c) and 2 Ill. Adm. Code 3500.385(b), it is the decision of the Commission that, by a preponderance of the evidence, there is sufficient evidence of torture to conclude that the Claim is credible and merits judicial review for appropriate relief. This decision is based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions set forth below, as well as the supporting record attached hereto.

#### Findings of Fact

- 1. On September 2, 1983, at approximately 5:40 a.m., Area 2 detectives John Byrne, Charles Grunhard, Ronald Boffo, James Lotito, and Francis Gutrich entered the apartment of Claimant Jerry Mahaffey ("JM") at 11216 S. Indiana, Chicago. The Area 2 personnel were investigating a brutal home invasion which had taken place on the north side the night of August 29, and which had resulted in the murders and rape of a north side couple. Their son was strangled, stabbed, and beaten but survived.
- 2. Upon entering JM's apartment Grunhard punched JM in the nose after JM denied knowing anything about the offense. Another detective then grabbed JM by the collar, threw him against the wall, and put a gun to his head. The detectives then put JM on his daughter's bed, and kicked him in the groin and ribs. They threatened to put his children in an orphanage and his wife in prison. They retrieved a plastic garbage bag from the closet and "bagged" JM; that is, they tightened it over JM's head so that he could not breathe. JM was screaming and bleeding.
- 3. JM was then taken to Area 2. On the way he was threatened with death. At the station Bryne and Grunhard told JM that he was going to tell them what JM knew because JM was going to die anyway. JM eventually gave a court reported confession at Area 2 to the offenses committed during the home invasion.
- 4. At this time Jon Burge was a Lieutenant and Supervisor of Detectives in the Area 2 Violent Crimes Unit, and the detectives named in paragraph 1 above were supervised by Burge.

- 5. JM was later indicted for murder and related offenses in the Circuit Court of Cook County in case no. 83 CR 9326.
- 6. After he was taken to Cook County Jail, on September 7 8, JM was treated at Cermak Health Services, the jail hospital. As set forth in Exhibit A, and as the doctor testified at trial, JM complained of being hit in the ribcage on both the left and right sides, and of being hit on the left temple. He stated he was beaten 6 days before, which coincides with the date of his arrest, and he said he was kicked in his right side. There was an abrasion on his right lower rib, and a contusion on his left lower rib. X-rays of the chest and ribs proved negative for a fracture.
- 7. JM made a motion before trial to suppress his confession, and he testified in support of the motion. His wife, Carol, who was present in the apartment when the detectives arrived, also testified at the hearing. However, the motion was denied after each of the detectives denied any misconduct, and a report from a "medical intake worker" at the jail did not reference any complaints from or injury to JM.
- 8. Since the motion was decided, the following evidence has emerged:
  - a. In 1990 the Office of Professional Standards of the Chicago Police Department concluded after an internal investigation that there had been systemic abuse at Area 2 for over 10 years. The Report was not released publicly until 1992.
  - b. On November 12, 1991, Jon Burge was suspended, and on February 11, 1993, the Police Board of the City of Chicago separated him from his position as a Commander with the Department of Police after finding him guilty of abusing Andrew Wilson at Area 2 in 1982. In 2010 Burge was found guilty of perjury and obstruction of justice for lying and denying any knowledge of, or participation in, the torture of suspects in police custody. He was sentenced to 54 months' imprisonment.
  - c. In 2002 Judge Paul Biebel, Presiding Judge of the Cook County Criminal Court, appointed a Special State's Attorney to investigate allegations of torture by police officers under the command of Burge at Areas 2 and 3 to determine if any criminal prosecutions were warranted. Although the 2006 Report concluded that the statute of limitations barred any criminal prosecutions, the Report found that "[t]here are ...many cases which lead us to believe that the claimants were abused". (Report of the Special State's Attorney at 16) the Report also noted that, since Burge abused suspects at areas 2 and 3 while he was commander of the Unit, "[c]ommon sense compels the conclusion that those who worked for him would not be concerned about their own mistreatment of prisoners, if their commander mistreated them". (Id. at 12) Each of the detectives named in paragraph 1 above, with the exceptions of Grunhard (who is deceased) and Gutrich, was subpoenaed by the Special State's Attorney to testify before the grand jury, and each refused to testify

- based upon the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. (Id. at 14)
- d. TIRC records, attached as Exhibit B, indicate that Byrne has been accused of abuse and coercion in 21 cases, including 9 complaints of "bagging".
- e. TIRC records, attached as Exhibit C, indicate that Grunhard has been accused of abuse and coercion in 6 cases, including 5 complaints of "bagging".
- f. TIRC records, attached as Exhibit D, indicate that Boffo has been accused of abuse and coercion in 7 cases, including 4 complaints of "bagging".
- g. TIRC records, attached As Exhibit E, indicate that Lotito has been accused of abuse and coercion in 8 cases, including 4 complaints of "bagging".
- h. As set forth in Exhibit F, Charles Patterson, who lived in the apartment above JM, would have testified that on the night of JM's arrest Patterson awoke and heard JM screaming, and the sounds of somebody being thrown against the wall and on the floor.
- 9. After his motion to suppress was denied, JM was convicted after a jury trial in which his confession was introduced against him. He was sentenced to death but in 2003 the sentence was commuted to life without parole.
- 10. In 1992 JM filed a state post-conviction petition raising his coercion claim and alleging ineffective assistance of trial counsel in failing to introduce corroborative evidence that his confession was coerced. <u>People v. Mahaffey</u>, 165 Ill.2d 445, 463-65, 651 N.E.2d 174 (Ill. Sup. Ct. 1995)
- 11. In 1995 JM filed a petition for federal habeas corpus relief raising the coercion claim and alleging ineffective assistance once again. <u>Mahaffey</u> v. <u>Page</u>, 151 F.3d 671, 683-84 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998)

#### Conclusions

- 1. JM's Claim qualifies for summary referral pursuant to 2 Ill. Adm. Code 3500.370, in that:
  - a. JM has consistently claimed since he was taken to Cook County Jail to have been tortured in the manner stated in his TIRC Claim;
  - b. JM's Claim is strikingly similar to other claims of torture contained in the Reports of the Chicago Police Department's Office of Professional Standards and the Special State's Attorney regarding their investigations of Jon Burge and police officers under his command;
  - c. The officers accused are identified in other cases alleging torture; and
  - d. The Claim is consistent with the Office of Professional Standards' findings of systematic and methodical torture at Area 2 under Jon Burge.

- 2. In addition, the other available evidence set forth above indicates that the Claim is credible and merits judicial review, particularly the corroboration by medical evidence and the pattern and practice evidence regarding the "bagging".
- 3. While it can be argued that some of the evidence has already been presented to the courts and found wanting, no court has ever viewed it from the present perspective aided by the <u>entirety</u> of the evidence set forth above. It should also be remembered that for years courts ignored the evidence of torture under Burge in cases such as Andrew Wilson, Darryl Cannon, and Aaron Patterson. Indeed, this reluctance to engage this fundamental issue is one of the reasons for the Commission's existence.
- 4. While in most cases the complaints of abuse and coercion against the accused officers are allegations and not judicial findings, they are nevertheless relevant in deciding whether abuse occurred in a specific case. People v. Patterson, 192 Ill.2d 93, 114-15, 735 N.E.2d 616 (Ill. Sup. Ct. 2000); People v. Cannon, 293 Ill.App.3d 634,640, 688 N.E.2d 693 (1Dist.1997).
- 5. While invocation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment privilege is not an admission of guilt, in a civil proceeding such as this a negative inference can be drawn from that fact. 2 Ill. Adm. Code 3500.375(g)

DATED: July 25, 2013

Cheryl Starks

Chair

Illinois Torture Inquiry and

**Relief Commission** 

### EXHIBIT A:

Treatment of Jerry Mahaffey at Cermak Health Services September 7 – 8, 1983

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P. TALWAR, M.D. ATT. RADIOLOGIST 9 11 83 jcl.

## EXHIBIT B:

TIRC Database of Abuse Allegations against John Byrne

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	Byrne, John	

Victim	Date	A 15	
Wille Porch	1979	Beaten; threatened with a gun (Russian Roulette); pistol whipped; hung by handcuffs, threatened with Fred Hampton fate; stepped on groin	Source 5/22/81 Testimony in People v. Porch; 6/27/89 Testimony in Wilson v. City of Chicago
Lee Holmes	1982	"Bagged", beaten to the body; beaten with a flashlight and rubber hose on the penis	6/24/93 Holmes OPS Statement
Stanley Wrice: codefendant of Williams and Benson	1982	Beaten to the body; repeatedly hit with a flashlight and a black jack, including on the groin	1983 Testimony in People v. Wrice and Benson, et. al.; 9/23/82 Wrice OPS Statement
Bobby Williams: codefendant of Wrice and Benson	1982	Beaten on the thighs and groin with a long black flexible object with a black ball on the end	1983 Williams testimony in People v Wrice and Benson et.al; 1/29/94 Williams OPS Statement
Kodney Benson: codefendant of Wrice and Williams	1982	Beaten with a piece of rubber with a tape on both ends and with a flashlight on the groin, back, knee, chest, and stomach; threatened with hanging like they had done to "other niggers"	12/23/82 verified Motion to Suppress in People v Benson and Wrice, et. al.
Alonzo Smith	1983	Beaten to the body with a stick and blackjack; kicked in the groin while "bagged"	8/3/83 testimony in People v Smith;
Jerry Mahaffey	1983	Beaten to the body while bagged; threatened with a gun; kicked in the groin	2/9/84, 2/16/84 testimony in People v.
ffey	1983	Kicked in the head, groin, and ribs; hit with a flashlight; "bagged"	2/10/84, 2/13/84 Testimony in People v. Mahaffev
Gregory Banks	1983	OPS sustained findings that Byrne failed to report use of excessive force (sticking gun in mouth and striking w/flashlight), testified falsely at Motion to Suppress, and kicked Banks	5/17/85 testimony in People v. Banks; OPS Sustained Findings; 4/00 testimony in People v. Cannon

David Bates	1983	Beaten to the body while "bagged"; kicked in the groin; threatened	5/17/85 testimony in People v. Banks; 4/00 testimony in People v. Cannon
Darrell Cannon	1983	OPS sustained allegations that Byrne shocked DC w/ cattle prod; held gun to head and played Russian roulette; repeatedly shocked on testicles & penis; hung by his cuffs; repeatedly called "nigger"	3/27/84 testimony in People v. Cannon; 1993 OPS Sustained Findings; 8/27/04 Prisoner Review Board testimony
Lavert Jones	1984	Repeatedly beaten to the body and head; beaten with a telephone book and club; kicked in the genitals; called "nigger"	3/5/87 Testimony People v. Jones
Phillip Adkins	1984	Beaten to the body; beaten w/a flashlight on body & groin; repeatedly called "nigger"	Testimony in People v. Cannon; 1993 OPS Sustained Findings
pardiney howard: granted full pardon based upon innocence in 2003	1984	Beaten to the body while "bagged"; slapped and kicked until unconscious	1/28/87 Testimony in People v. Howard; 1993 OPS Sustained Findings
	1984	electric shocked , beaten, repeatedly called "nigger"	Special State's Attorney's Case
Alphonso Pinex	1985	Severe beating	Special State's Att
Aaron Patterson: granted full pardon based upon innocence in 2003	1986	Beaten to the chest and upper body while "bagged" with typewriter cover; nose held while bagged; threatened with a gun and with worse treatment; kicked; choked	Summary: would have indicted but for Statute of Limitations 3/30/88 Testimony in People v. Patterson; etchings in bench at Area 2; 8/11/00 decision in People v. Patterson;
Stephen Bell: codefendant of M. Tillman	1986	Repeatedly beaten to the head and body; head smashed into wall; kicked in groin, head and ribs; beaten with a phone book	innocence pardon 11/20/86 Testimony in People v. Tillman and Bell

11/20/86 Testimony in People v. Tillman and Bell	Testimony in People v. Johnson, OPS	File, civil complaint in Johnson Special State's Attorney's Case Summary	
Repeatedly "bagged"; beaten to the body and head; threatened with a gun to head; thumb pressure to ears; beaten with a flashlight and phone book	Beaten w/flashlight and phone book; hung out window; head pushed into foller: "hange."	Struck on face; knocked to ground; kicked in stomach, chest and face	
1986	1988	1990	
Michael Tillman: exonerated in 2010- codefendant of S. Bell	Grayland Johnson	Eric Johnson: released in 2011 after pleading guilty to lesser charges in return for time-served	

## EXHIBIT C:

TIRC Database of Abuse Allegations against Charles Grunhard

Charles Grunhard	and head; 3/4/83 Testimony in People v. Green	2/9/84, 2/16/84 Testimony in People v. Mahaffey		s mouth; beaten OPS Sustained Findings; 4/00 Testimony in People v. Banks; ave something for Testimony in People v. Cannon	agged:; kicked in 5/17/85 testimony in People v. Banks; 4/00 testimony in People v. Carrette	tte;	
Charles	"Bagged"; beaten to body and head; repeatedly threatened and called "nigger"; threatened his "balls"	Beaten to the body while "bagged"; threatened with a gun; kicked in the groin	Kicked in the head and ribs; hit with a flashlight kicked in the groin; beaten and "bagged"	Beaten to the body while "bagged"; threatened with a gun in the mouth; beaten with a flashlight; told "we have something for niggers" while bagging him	Beaten to the body while "bagged;; kicked in the groin; threatened	Threatened with a gun/ Russian roulette; mock execution; repeatedly shocked on testicles and penis; hung by his cuffs; repeatedly called "nigger"	
	1981	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983	
	Victim Sylvester Green	Jerry Mahaffey	Reginald Mahaffey	Gregory Banks	David Bates	Darrell Cannon	

## EXHIBIT D:

TIRC Database of Abuse Allegations against Ronald Boffo

		2/9/84, 2/16/84 testimony in People v.	2/10/84, 2/13/84 Testimony in People v.		1/28/87 Testimony in People v. Howard;		11/20/86 Testimony in People v. Tillman and Bell	TIRC Claim Form	
Boffo, Ronald	All = 1	Beaten to the body while "bagged"; threatened with a gun; kicked in the groin	Kicked in the head and ribs; hit with a flashlight; kicked in the groin; "bagged"	Hit with flashlight; beaten to the body; beaten w/a flashlight on body and groin; repeatedly called "nigger"	Beaten to the body while "bagged"; slapped and kicked until unconscious	Repeatedly beaten to the head and body; head smashed into wall; kicked in groin, head and ribs: beaten with a phone	Repeatedly "bagged"; beaten to the body and head; threatened with a gun to head; thumb pressure to ears; beaten with a flashlight and phone book	Slammed against wall; beaten; held incommunicado for 36 hours	
	Date	1983	1983	1984	1984	1986	1986	1986	
	Victim	Jerry Manaffey	Reginald Mahaffey	Phillip Adkins	Stanley Howard: full pardon in 2003 based upon innocence	Stephen Bell; codefendant of M. Tillman and C. Trotter	wichael fillman: codefendant of S. Bell and C. Trotter- exonerated in 2010	Clarence Trotter: codefendant of S. Bell and M. Tillman	

## EXHIBIT E:

TIRC Database of Abuse Allegations against James Lotito

Lotito, James (has taken 5 <sup>th</sup> )		Source 2/9/84, 2/16/84 Testimony in People	v. Mahaffey	2/10/84, 2/13/84 Testimony in People v. Mahaffey		S OPS Sustained Findings		Reported Statement: OPS Count	1/28/87 Testimony in People v.	Sustained Findings; 3/30/93 Affidavit	in Houston v. Marblocki; Houston and	Cleveland 1986 OPS Statements	10/4/88 Terrence Houston Deposition	and Cleveland 1986 OPS State	8/87 Hobley OPS Statement; 9/29/87	Copie V. nobley	
	O HOUSE	Beaten to the body while "bagged"; threatened with a gun; kicked in the	Kicked in the head and the tri	flashlight; kicked in the groin; beaten; "bagged"	OPS sustained findings of hitting w/flashlight	had injuries prior to arrest. Beaten to the body; beaten w/a flashlight on body & groin; repeatedly called "nigger"	Repeatedly beaten and kicked:	W/paper in throat; whipped w/phone books  Beaten to the body while "books"	and kicked until unconscious	Hit w/flashlight and shocked w/stun gun:	Deaten	Head slammed on totic		"Bagged" MH while During	stomach; hit in chest; thumbs to neck; racial	bagged and passed out; threatened to kill him	
	Date	1983	1983		1984	-	1984	1984		1986		1986		1987			
	Victim	very wananey	Reginald Mahaffey		Phillip Adkins		Robert Billingsley	Stanley Howard:	choireighed in 2003	Terrance Houston		Darrell Cleveland		Madison Hobley:	Control at a Columbia		Tribling Welgestern Communication

## EXHIBIT F:

Affidavit of Chales Patterson

STATE OF ILLINOIS )
COUNTY OF COOK ) SS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

Plaintiff - Respondent,

- vs -

JERRY MAHAFFEY,

Defendant - Petitioner.

Case No: 89-5435

Honorable Thomas Hett, Judge Presiding

### AFFIDAVIT OF CHARLES PATTERSON

I, Charles Patterson, being duly sworn, to hereby state the following under oath:

TO WIT:

- 1) On September 2, 1983, I was living at an apartment located at 11216 South Indiana in Chicago.
- 2) In September of 1983, I was employed as the resident janitor of the building located at 11216 South Indiana.
- 3) In September of 1983, I lived in the apartment directly above Jerry and Carol Mahaffey and their two children.
- 4) I knew Jerry Mahaffey, was familiar with his voice and able to recognize his voice when I heard it.
- 5) During the early morning hours of September 2, 1983, I was awakened by the sound of fighting coming from the Mahaffey apartment.
- 6) I heard someone repeatedly being thrown against the walls and knocked to the floor. I heard Jerry Mahaffey

screaming. The only other voice that I heard was that of a strange man yelling "Get up!"

- 7) It was my impression from what I heard that Jerry Mahaffey was getting the "shit beat out of him."
- 8) I listened to the fighting for about five minutes and then went to my front door. When I opened the door I saw that the building was surrounded with police, all of whom had their guns drawn.
- 9) I asked a white plain-clothes officer what was going on and he told me that they had just arrested the "motherfucker" who had killed the northside couple and beat the couple's son with a bat.
- 10) Although I was willing and available to testify to the events I heard and witnessed, I was never contacted or interviewed by any attorney representing Jerry Mahaffey or the prosecutor's office.

WHEREFORE, the above stated is true and correct, to the best of my knowlege.

harles Patterson

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED in my presence this 29 day of Mondale 1990.

Motary Fiblic Stephens

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MISTY L. STEPHENSON

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MY COMMISSION EXTERS 4-12-94