



Left to right: Top row — Robert Barrios, Robert Faulcon, Ignatius Hills, Robert Gisevius, adjacent — Kenneth Bowen, Anthony Villavaso, and Michael Hunter.



# Seven indicted La. officers surrender

NEW ORLEANS, (AP) — Seven policemen charged in a deadly shooting in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina turned themselves in Tuesday at the city jail, where more than 200 supporters greeted them in a show of solidarity.

Each of the indicted men faces at least one charge of murder or attempted murder in the Sept. 4, 2005, shootings on the Danziger Bridge, less than a week after the hurricane hit New Orleans. Two people died and four people were wounded.

Defense attorneys say the officers are innocent.

Sgts. Kenneth Bowen and Robert Gisevius, officer An-

thony Villavaso and former officer Robert Faulcon were charged with first-degree murder.

Officers Robert Barrios and Mike Hunter were charged with attempted first-degree murder, and Ignatius Hills was charged with attempted second-degree murder.

A first-degree murder conviction carries a possible death sentence. A spokesman for District Attorney Eddie Jordan said Monday that prosecutors haven't decided yet whether to seek the death penalty in the case.

Those accused of first-degree murder will get no bail and bail will be \$100,000 per

count for the other three, a judge said.

The officers are scheduled to be arraigned Friday.

Police say the officers were responding to a report of other officers down, and that they thought one of the men, Ronald Madison, was reaching for a gun. Madison, a 40-year-old mentally retarded man, and James Brissette, 19, were killed on the bridge. The coroner said Madison was shot seven times, with five wounds in the back.

Madison's brother Lance, who was also on the bridge and was cleared of attempted murder charges, said he and his brother were not armed.

## Inquest

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evant.

"I'm responsible for legal issues, since I'm a lawyer," said Quillin. "I have been meeting with the committee and staff to facilitate the final product," she added.

The groups represented and members on the panel include: Metro Sheriff Doug Gillespie, Police Protective Association, Assistant District Attorney Chris Lolli, ACLU Nevada Executive Director Gary Peck, LVMPD Citizens Review Board Executive Director Andrea Beckman, NAACP President Dean Ishman, and State Attorney General's Representative Doug Smith.

Reid stated: "We might need changes to state law." He said those changes would go through a state legislative procedure. Nevertheless, Reid said, "It is on our agenda for February... even if legislative action is required, it will be done quickly."

County Coroner Mike Murphy spoke with the Sentinel-Voice by phone about the process: "We follow the law and do what we are told," he said. "We don't make policy. If the county commission tells us to make changes, we make changes," Murphy said.

Quillin and Reid say they will take the public's input seriously and will fold them into a finished product.

The committee reps are in general agreement on the proposals, but Beckman and Peck take issue with certain aspects of the questioning process. Ishman said he will meet with his NAACP representatives this week and bring to the hearings their positions on the proposal and other recommendations.

Lolli said, "I made a pledge I wouldn't talk to the media, and I'm keeping that pledge."

Beckman agrees with the stance of the ACLU's representative — that the process must include direct examination of witnesses by attorneys, rather than submit questions to the judges.

Gillespie, who was sworn in as Metro sheriff this week following his fall election victory, spoke in a phone interview with the Sentinel-Voice. He stated:

"I'm for discussion and agreement without conflicts and with community input — that we get together to implement a process that best serves the public."

Gillespie said "credibility and openness" is what he seeks.

## MLK Events

(Continued from Page 1) Empowerment Forum will be held at the Lied Arts Center, 833 Las Vegas Blvd. North, on Tuesday, January 9, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This event is free of charge.

On Wednesday, January 10, the MLK Committee will host Youth Night. There will be a performance by UNLV's college preparatory program, ACT-SO, in the Horn Theater at the Community College of Southern Nevada's Cheyenne Campus at 3200 E Cheyenne Ave. from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free.

On Thursday, January 11, an Interfaith Service will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, located at 3616 East Lake Mead Boulevard near Pecos, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"All are welcome to attend this service. No matter what denomination you assume, you may attend," said Williams.

"We want everyone to come together, the way Dr. King envisioned."

On Friday night, January 12, the MLK Committee hosts the Jazz Festival at the Cosmopolitan Club located at 4770 Maryland Parkway, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. This event has a \$10 admission, and it is open to adults ages 21 and over.

Saturday morning, January 13, is reserved for the 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Parade. The parade, the largest in the state of Nevada, will be begin at 10 a.m. in Downtown Las Vegas at 4th Street and Gass.

The parade will make milestones, as this year's celebration will be the first to have a corporate spon-

sor, Macy's.

On Saturday evening, the 25th Annual Scholarship Banquet will be held on the Strip at the Monte Carlo Hotel and Casino in the Main Ballroom.

On this night, local youth are awarded scholarships for exemplary academic success. Tickets for the event are \$100.

According to MLK Committee member Dora LaGrande, the proceeds from the banquet will help to fund this year's events, which are provided by the committee to the public at no cost. Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m. and dinner will follow promptly at 7 p.m. There are no age restrictions for this event.

On Sunday, January 14, the musical dramatization "Freedom Rings... So We Sing," which reflects the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will be performed at the West Las Vegas Library Theater at 951 West Lake Mead Boulevard. Seating for the event starts at 3:30 p.m., the performance from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. This event is open to all ages and admission is free.

The Equal Opportunity Day and Dr. Martin Luther King Luncheon, hosted by the Las Vegas Clark County Urban League Guild, will be held on January 14 in the Staten Island Ballroom of the New York-New York Hotel and Casino on the Strip. The event will begin at 1 p.m. and admission is \$50 per person. Seating is limited.

On Dr. King's birthday, Monday, January 15, the MLK Committee hosts the Annual Directions Breakfast, which was designed to discuss future direction for the Black community. The breakfast will be held at Nevada Partners, located at 710 West Lake Mead Boulevard,

at 9 a.m. There is no cost associated with this event.

On Monday night, the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Vigil and Peace Prayer, honoring his life and achievements, will be held at the statue of Dr. King located at 2424 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., at the intersection of Carey Avenue and Martin Luther King Blvd. This free event begins at 5:30 p.m.

"I hope everyone comes out to enjoy the events being offered. With these events, we tried to provide interesting activities for both adults and children," said Williams.

"These events were designed to bring us together, in both large and small groups. With these events, we honor a man that gave his life to ensure our freedom. And for a lifetime of freedom, we honor him, through our actions and in our thoughts."

The Martin Luther King Committee was founded in 1982.

According to Williams, it began with a petition drive to initiate the observance of Dr. King's birthday in the state of Nevada. Since that time, the committee has initiated dozens of members, Highland Drive was renamed Martin Luther King Boulevard, and President George H.W. Bush and President William J. Clinton have recognized the committee's tutorial program.

"We've had a good response from our members, both past and present," Williams said. "We just want to positively impact our community with the work that we do and, in the process, hope to further enlighten our people."



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