UPDATE Friday 7/24/92

After marching on the Sixth Precinct on Sunday 7/19 only to be met by barracades manned by a couple dozen uniformed officers, a meeting was negotiated through Acting Commanding Officer McShane for Tuesday 7/21 between Det. Jim Abreu, his supervisor Det. Sgt. John Mullally & Commander Kennedy.

The meeting took place on tuesday 7/21/92 bewtween Det. Abrea, Sgt. Mullally & gay activist attorney Bill Dobbs, roommate Randy Wicker, friend John Gray & writer Jeremiah Newton. Commander Kennedy was on vacation caring for a sick relative & could not attend but was briefed about the matter via telephone.

For an hour and half, a frank exchange of views took place. Just before the meeting commenced, City Councilman Tom Duane's office talked with Det. Abreu to convey their concerns about the perception in the communijty that the investigation had been inadequate & the classification of "suicide" premature.

Sgt. Mullally agreed that persons calling with information should always reach a detective aware of the case & said that if Det. Abreu was not available, persons calling should ask for him--& in the unlikely event niether he nor Det. Abreu were available they should ask for Det. Richardson. This effectively satisfied one of the demands made during Sunday's demonstration for continuous 24-hour 7-day-a-week detective availability.

Det. Abreu, who had earlier indicated a willingness to have "cause unknown" substituted for "suicide" on the death certificate seemed to change course a bit and insisted "more hard factual information" was needed for him to do this.

Bill Dobbs, asked for a subsequent meeting involving Sgt. Mullally's superiors, representatives of the Anti-Violence Project, Tom Duane's Office, the Mayor's Office, the Medical Examiner's Office & those concerned about the matter to settle the issues at hand. That is currently being planned.

The next day, on Wednesday 7/22, the Mayor's office of Lesbian & Gay Community affiars (Jan Park) promised to call the Medical Examiner's office "to see what can be done" to get the death certificate with the insult of suicide changed to unknown.

On Wednsday, an invitation was issued to Mayor Dinkins, schedule permitting, to drop by & say a few words at Marsha P. Johnson's Memorial service on 7/26 at Duane Methodist Church.

Jan Park indicated that he would convey the invitation faxed to the Mayor via their office to the Mayor. While it was unclear if the Mayor would be available himself on such short notice, Mr. Park said he & Marjorie Hill-the director of the Lesbain & Gay Community Affairs office intended to attend & thought they would at least bring a letter of condolence to be read at the service.

On Thursday, Bob Kohler Christopher Street merchant (ownr of The Loft clothing shop & leader in the Christopher Street Merchant's association)& Susan Lori, a volunteer & longtime friend of Marsha's, decided to use the area between the Stonewall Inn & the Gay Monumant in the park--7th Ave to Waverly Place--for which they had successfully obtained a permit to shut off the street for entertainment & a street fair honoring Marsha between the hours of 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.--to host an alternative "open mike" remembrance service for those unable to fit into the church.

The entertainment was originally scheduled to begin at 5:30 so as not to conflict with the memorial service at the church. Now, it was decided that on the march to the river, lead by the Big Apple Corp Band, the group from the church would pass by the Sheridan Square area where those attending the street memorial could join the others in the march to the People's Memorial in the park where Marsha's ashes would be returned to the Hudson river at the exact spot her body was pulled out.

Then, everyone would return to the area in front of the Stonewall for some variety entertainment featuring Drag Queens like Barry Bunny & the sensuous Boy Bar Beauties (luscious gggo boys that Marsha always got off on).

Thursday night, 7/23/92, Randy Wicker appeared before the Christopher Street Merchant Association meeting to propose that Marsha P. Johnson be memorialized by a flagpole erected in her honor at the foot of Christopher Street where a gay flag would fly & a bronze plaque would explain who she was & what she stoof for. The idea was warmly received. An hour later, Queer Nation with only one dissenting vote endorsed the Memorial Flagpole Campaign.

To Be Continued ....