

DL 44-1639

"November 26, 1963

"Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

"Subject: Shooting of Lee
Harvey Oswald

"Sir:

"On Sunday, November 24, 1963, I was working regular hours of 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. in the Special Service Bureau, Vice Section.

"At approximately 10:50 A.M., I was in the basement of City Hall near the jail office. I was engaged in conversation with Detective B. L. Beaty and Officer J. D. Hutchinson. We were approached by Captain O. A. Jones. Captain Jones told us to remain in the basement near the jail office. He further stated that all the other available officers in City Hall would be down into the basement soon.

"I overheard Sergeant J. A. Putnam reiterate his orders to the officer and the reserve officer working the passageway leading out of the basement into the parking basement. He stated very emphatically to the officer that no one but police and press members with press passes were to be admitted to the parking basement.

"A short time later several officers and detectives came down from upstairs. Captain Jones took all officers out into the passageway just outside the jail office. He told all of us that we were to form a line on each side of the passageway in order to make a lane for the prisoner Oswald to be escorted. He told some officers to get all the newsmen out of the jail office booking room. He then cleared the passageway immediately outside the jail office. At this time Sergeant J. A. Putnam asked all the newsmen to move to the far side of the driveway, this being the side across from the jail office. Captain Jones then told officers to keep the lines that we had and for officers to fall in behind and to keep newsmen from rushing in.

"Beside the above listed officers, other officers that I remember to be in the basement were:

"R.L. Lowery #1081, Chief M. W. Stevenson #16, T.D. McMillon #1349, W.E. Chambers #1087, Sgt. P.T. Dean #882, L.D. Montgomery #1047, J.R. Leavelle #736, L.C. Graves #702, C.N. Dhority #476, Charles Goolsby #1141, W.J. Harrison #579, L.D. Miller #1236, Cpt. F.M. Martin #397, 86

DL 44-1639

"W. J. Cutchshaw #1111, Cpt. C.E. Talbert #463, Lt.
W. L. Wiggins #434, Chief Chas. Batchelor #11, Lt.
G. E. Butler #51, Lt. R. E. Swain #531, C. W.
Brown #759, Capt. J.W. Fritz #9.

"I did not observe anyone that I knew who did not belong in the basement. Everyone that I saw were either police or people I thought to be newsmen. I did not observe Jack Ruby until just seconds before the shooting.

"Respectfully submitted,

/s/ B. H. Combest #1148
Detective, Vice Section
Special Service Bureau"

COMBEST EXHIBIT No. 5099—Continued