

Paul McCaghren Testimony

HSCA volume II, pp. 107-110

Kevin Tiernan

4.0.1.3

Paul McCaghren was a Dallas Police Lieutenant in 1963. He was part of the team of internal investigators charged with evaluating the performance of the Dallas Police Department. Chief Curry stopped their investigation after approximately one month, and their reports and collected evidence were turned over to him. In 1969 Curry's successor, Chief Batchelor, discovered the material collected by the internal investigative team in a locked filing cabinet outside of his office. Batchelor gave the material to McCaghren for safe keeping and ordered that no one was to have access to it. In 1971 or 1972 an outside agency was brought in to look at intelligence files in the Dallas Police Department, and McCaghren did not trust them so he quietly removed this investigative material to his home. It was maintained at his home until an HSCA investigator came to Dallas and McCaghren revealed that he was holding these Dallas Police records. Among the items were a tape recording of the Dallas Police Dispatcher following the assassination, and the dictabelt recording from the Dallas Police radio that was stuck in the on position. The committee asked McCaghren to testify so as to establish the chain of possession of these items.