

## What Happened on December 9, 1981: A Timeline

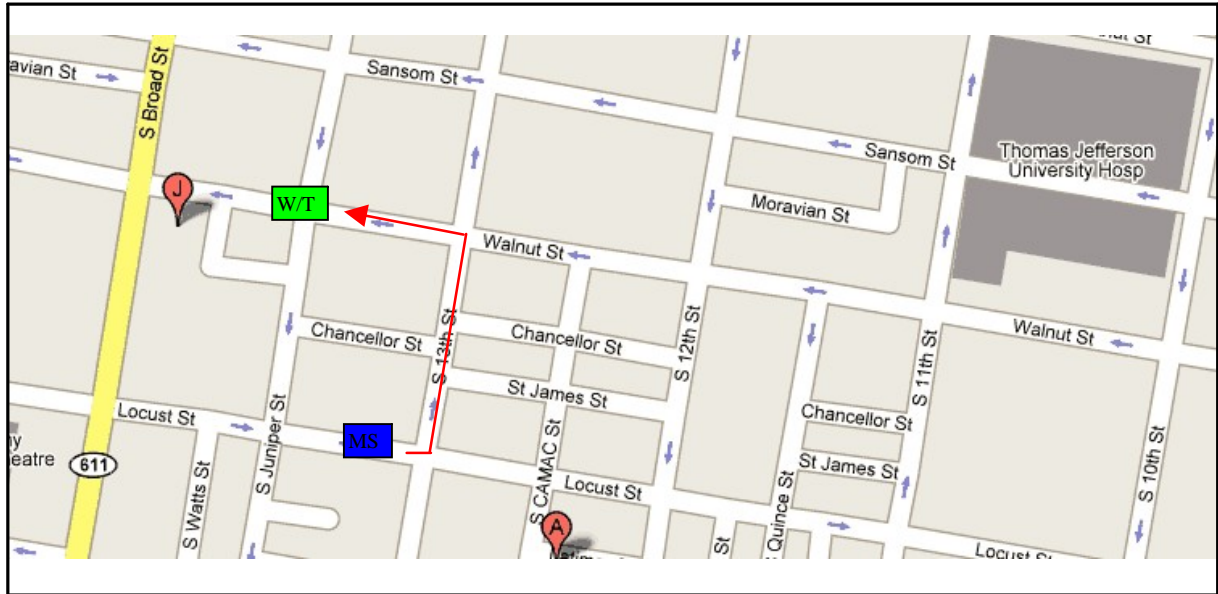
– A Preliminary (May 5, 2007) Analysis by Michael Schiffmann –

**3:51:08:** PO Faulkner's call on the police radio: "I have a car stopped at 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and Locust."

**3:51:23:** End of Faulkner call: "On second thought, send me a wagon."

**3:51:29:** Wakshul and Trombetta (Emergency Patrol Wagon [EPW] 601) assigned to backup by police radio.

**3:51:34:** PO Soboloski (Regular Patrol Car [RPC] 622) announces he also takes a ride over.



**3:52:27: Wakshul and Trombetta** (henceforth: W/T, position marked green) report: "We just got information from a passerby, there's a policeman shot." That passerby must have been **Michael Scanlan**. At **3:52:27**, 58 seconds after they were assigned to back up Faulkner, W/T were thus still at their original location, the corner of Juniper and Walnut, three blocks away from the scene. Noticing that Faulkner was shot, Scanlan (MS, marked blue) had to drive **these three blocks**, which I guess would take him some 30 seconds, getting started, driving around two corners, and stopping again. One might wish to do an experiment with a car similar to Scanlan's, a Ford Thunderbird. All this would mean that Faulkner was killed **sometime between 3:51:23 and 3:51:57**, i.e., a time frame of just 34 seconds.

**3:52:36:** PO Forbes and Shoemaker (Stakeout car [SAM] 105) arrive at the scene, allegedly as the first officers: "Sam 105 we're on location. ... Sam 105, policeman shot."

**Detailing this raw outline, we get the following scenario:** According to the most believable prosecution witness Albert Magilton, Faulkner followed Billy Cook's car on Locust Street from Juniper. Billy didn't come down the wrong way from 13<sup>th</sup> Street, as has been claimed so often.

**3:51:25:** Faulkner gets out of his car, in full knowledge that there are two people in Billy Cook's VW. He checks the passenger, **Freeman**, and puts **Arnold Howard's** (for both, see below) copy of a license application in his pocket.

He has Billy get out of the car and gets into a quarrel with him. In a classical DWB situation, he starts beating Billy, who later on has blood on his clothes. Contrary to prosecutor McGill's claims at the trial, Faulkner remains unhurt.





**Abu-Jamal** is positioned at the **Whispers Club** in 13<sup>th</sup> Street, double parked there and hoping for customers. Sees by turning around or in the rear mirror how his brother Billy is being beaten.

The photo – with Faulkner’s car already removed – quite clearly shows Abu-Jamal’s perspective as he runs diagonally across the **parking lot located at the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Locust.**

**What happened in those 32 seconds (subtracting from the 34 above 2 for Faulkner exiting his car) between Faulkner leaving his car and Scanlan starting his car to look for additional police? And what about the prosecution’s witnesses? Last question first:**

Let’s give Faulkner 20 seconds for the car control and brutalizing Billy Cook.

My suspicion would be that **Cynthia White** may have seen the beginning of the traffic stop, but then ran away as fast as she could as soon as she saw there was trouble involving a police cruiser with its dome lights on.

*Perhaps* at the beginning she was really where she claimed to have been, **but certainly not later**, since not one witness saw her there, at the South-Eastern corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Locust (see picture to the right).



Probably exactly the opposite is true of **Robert Chobert**, who was NOT as he later claimed parked behind Faulkner’s police car, but on the right side of 13<sup>th</sup> Street, approximately right across the street from Abu-Jamal!

The photo on the right below shows 13<sup>th</sup> Street North of the intersection.

**Abu-Jamal** would have double parked approximately where I inserted the red square. Ironically, **Chobert** would have been on the opposite side of the street, closer to the intersection. He would **not have seen the shooting**. But he may very well have seen the shooter run away: According to the physical description Linn Washington gave me of the likely perpetrator, Kenneth Freeman (whom he knew pretty well), Chobert’s first description of the shooter **fits the man very well.**



There is little doubt that **Michael Scanlan** and **Albert Magilton** were actually where they claimed to have been. Magilton’s testimony is basically undisputed and **doesn’t really implicate Abu-Jamal in the shooting**, and Scanlan reported the shooting to Wakshul and Trombetta.



On the other hand, **Scanlan’s** description of what happened is certainly false, and for **two reasons**, the first being the absence of bullet traces in the sidewalk (see left above).

But there’s another reason still. Had **Robert Chobert’s taxi cab** really been behind Faulkner, Scanlan’s view would have been **totally blocked**, reducing his prosecution-induced graphic trial description about how Faulkner wiggled on the sidewalk to escape the shots of his attacker to a figment of the imagination. But I firmly believe that even in the absence of the cab, **Scanlan’s view was blocked.**



The photo on the previous page, taken in 2002, approximately shows Scanlan's perspective. The black car next to the cab is where Faulkner's cruiser would have been. Hard to believe Scanlan would have been able to see past it, especially to see what happened on the ground.

**So much for the prosecution's "eyewitnesses." Given the above, we can summarize:**

### Timeline

**3:51:08 - 25:** Faulkner calls for backup, gets out of his car.

**3:51:25 - 45** Faulkner gets the papers that 1995 PCRA witness Arnold Howard had loaned to Kenneth Freeman. He then gets into a dispute with Billy Cook, and beats him.

**3:51:45 - 57:** The decisive turn of events. **Abu-Jamal** sees his brother being brutalized, gets out of his cab, runs diagonally across the parking lot on the North-Eastern corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Locust.

**Faulkner**, who is alone in a "bad" neighborhood and knows fully well he is already confronted with two blacks whose intense hostility he has just generated, notices that a third person is approaching the scene rapidly, **panics and fires a shot into Mumia's chest** at close to point blank range.

**Freeman**, whose furious hostility towards the police is a documented fact, gets out of the car, **shoots Faulkner in the back**, probably seeing this as a justified act of self-defense, and also as defense of others, persons he has known as friends from childhood. He fires **another shot** that misses, possibly the one that ended up in the door frame of 1234 Locust.

**He wrestles with Faulkner** (this would link the actual events with the testimony of 1995 PCRA witness Robert Harkins), and in the process they change positions. **Faulkner is now facing westwards** in the direction of 13<sup>th</sup> Street, and either before or after **being shot in the head by Freeman**, Faulkner falls on one knee, and then on his back. **Apart from the deadly shot**, Freeman fires another shot at him that misses the body but drills a hole in the shoulder area of Faulkner's jacket.

**Neither Cynthia White nor Robert Chobert see the actual shooting**, with White possibly observing the beginning of the traffic stop and Chobert the aftermath of the shooting.

**Albert Magilton** never claimed to have any substantial thing to say about the shooting itself.

As for **Scanlan**, what he actually sees is **1)** that Abu-Jamal approaches the scene and **2)** that the cop goes down. As I will show in a **forthcoming article on Billy Cook's trial**, his testimony there was **wildly inconsistent** with both White's at the same trial and the physical/geometric situation at the scene. Scanlan then takes the **half minute drive to the corner of Walnut and Juniper**, where he encounters **Wakshul and Trombetta**.



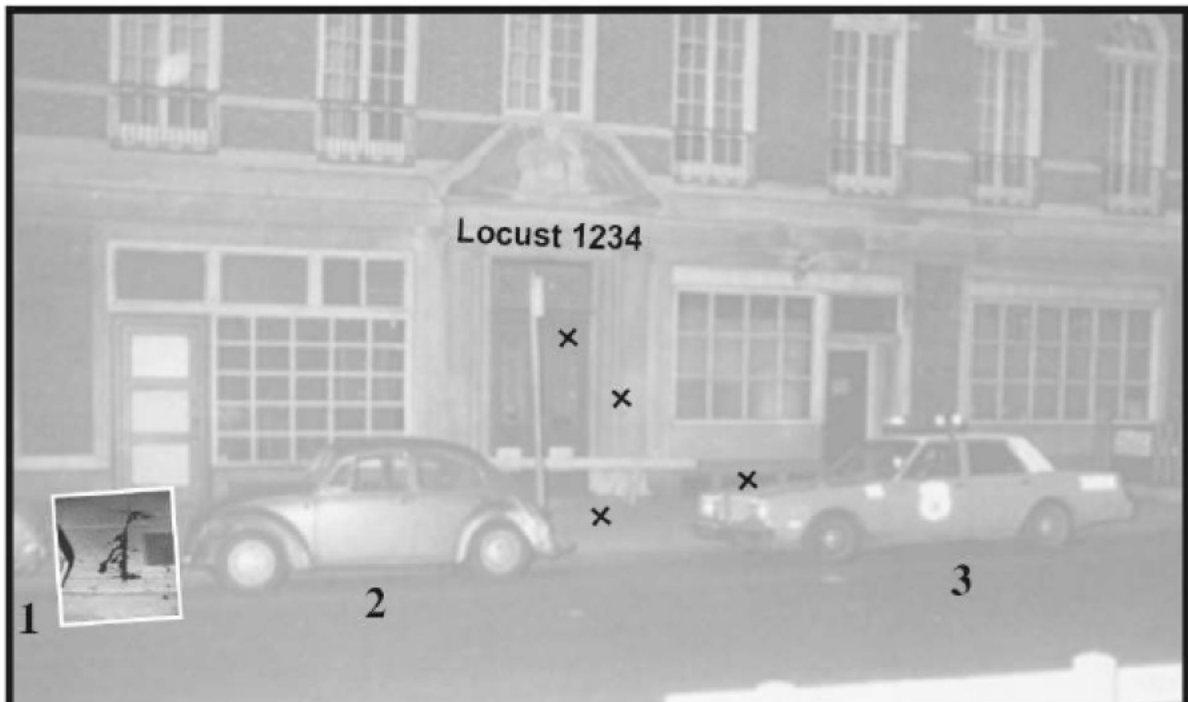
Shortly after that, later prosecution witnesses **Shoemaker** and **Forbes** arrive at the scene, **starting to kick Abu-Jamal** right away, allegedly to prevent him from reaching for his gun. For the results of this and later abuse of Abu-Jamal by the cops, see photo on the left.

**Around 4:04:** Press photographer **Pedro P. Polakoff III** arrives at the scene. He later says this was the most unprofessionally guarded crime scene of his whole career. Asked what had happened, the cops tell him: **"A fellow cop has been killed, and we got the motherfucker who did it."**

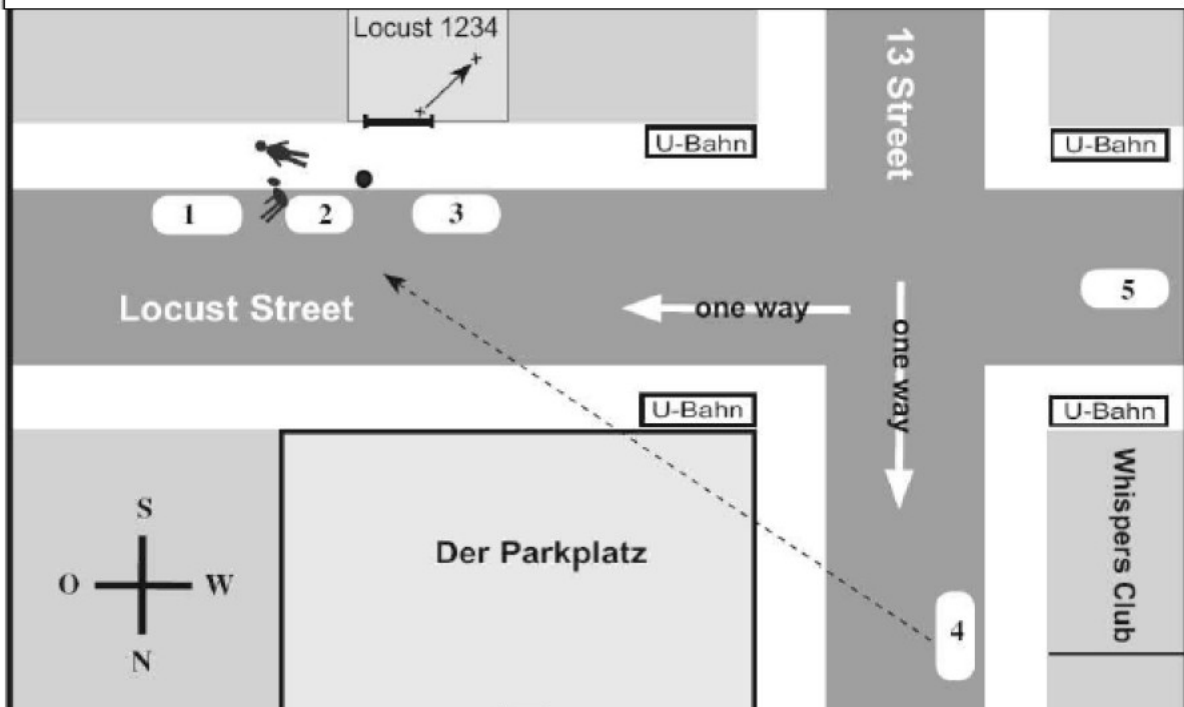
There hasn't been any official witness statement, there hasn't been any collection of evidence, the Mobile Crime Detection Unit of the PPD hasn't even arrived at this point – **but the cops already proclaim Mumia Abu-Jamal guilty**, and not only privately, but to a journalist!

The rest, as they say, is history.

## Appendix: Overview of the Crime Scene



**1:** Ford parked in front of VW; **2:** Billy Cook's VW; **3:** Faulkner's police squad car RPC 610. The "x"-marks from left to right: \* entry location of bullet fragment found inside the vestibule of 1234 Locust \* copper bullet jacket on sidewalk \* whole bullet found in frame of entrance door \* 7 very small lead fragments found in lower wall (next to the hood of Faulkner's police car).



**4:** Mumia's car; **5:** Scanlan's car. → = trajectory of bullet inside vestibule; arrow from **4:** Mumia approaching the scene. Note that Mumia's direction is in contradiction to the bullet trajectory and the fragments found in the wall. Schiffmann says Faulkner was more likely shot in the back by someone standing on the curb next to Billy Cook's car (**2**), with the bullet traveling in Northwestern direction toward the intersection 13<sup>th</sup> and Locust after exiting Faulkner's body.

This article is part of ongoing research. It may be quoted if this fact and the date – May 5, 2007 – are duly noted.