

DAILY NEWS



NEW YORK'S METRO TOWN NEWSPAPER

JAIL 'BREAK'

CORRECTION COMMISH
OFTEN OUT — PAGES 4-5



Cynthia Brann

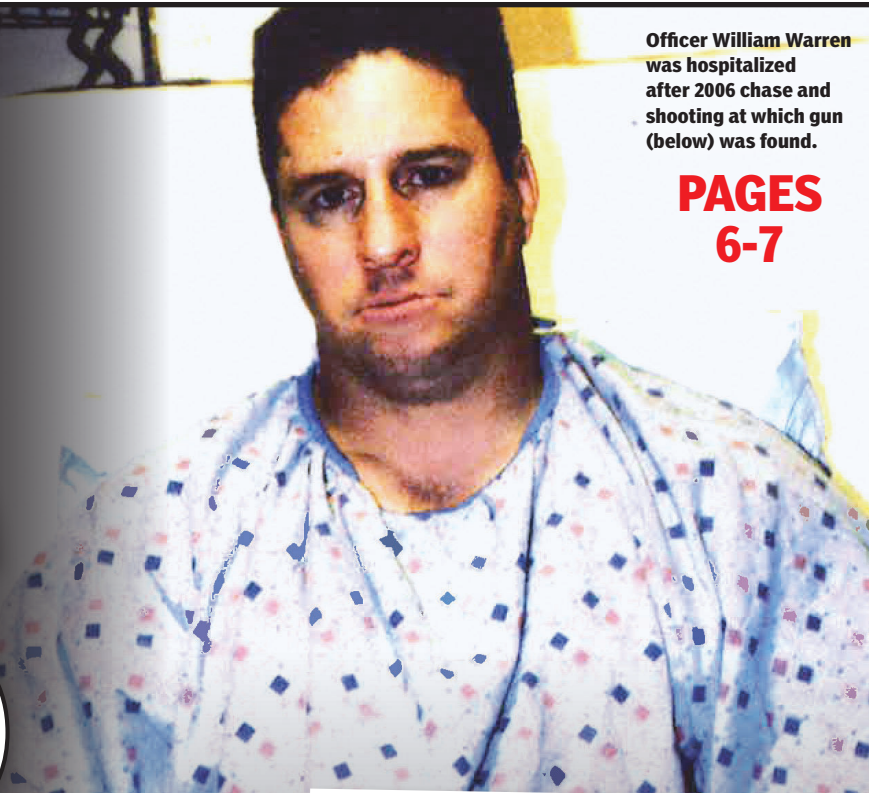
PISTOL PETE

METS' ALONSO BREAKS ROOKIE
HOME RUN RECORD — SEE SPORTS



Pete Alonso

CITY PAYS IN COP SHOOT

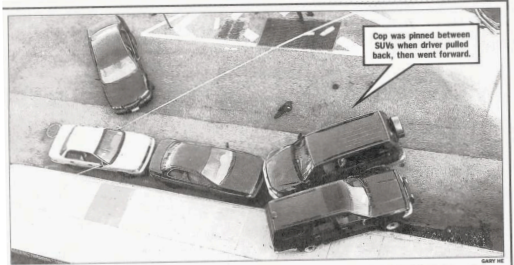


Officer William Warren was hospitalized after 2006 chase and shooting at which gun (below) was found.

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Grainy video
may have cost
taxpayers \$1.5M



SHOOTS TO KILL

BY JOTHAM SEDERSTROM and ROBERT E. MOORE

A CITY COP who was pinned between two vehicles after a car chase shot an armed suspect to death in Brooklyn yesterday, authorities said.

The incident unfolded 10 minutes after cops began following a red Mitsubishi Montero SUV that was barreling southeast on Kings Highway at speeds up to 90 mph just after 1 p.m.

He was a crazy person," said Stella Lipori, 41, who witnessed the chase. "He was like a maniac. He was driving like a demon."

After several near-collisions and a blaring red light, the driver, Karrell Butler, 28, stopped and fled into East Flatbush, cops said. Two plainclothes officers assigned to the 73rd Precinct got out of an unmarked car to question him.

A male officer, an ex-Marine with three years on the NYPD and more than 100 arrests, went to the driver's side door. A female sergeant, with six years on the force and more than 200 arrests, went to the back of the passenger side.

Both cops spotted the driver holding a 9-mm handgun, police said.

Butler allegedly lurched his vehicle back, waving a street sign as he tried to make a getaway. Then he pulled forward, pinning the male officer between the driver's side of the Montero and the side of a parked SUV.

As Butler raised his gun, the pinned officer whipped out his service weapon and fired three times, killing Butler and wounding the suspect's passenger in the leg, police said.



Cop wearing gloves examines gun at scene of confrontation.



Plainclothes NYPD Officer William Warren (far right) was pinned between cars and fired at Katrell Butler (inset), killing him. Another man in the car was wounded. Investigators (right) examine gun found at scene of November 2006 incident in Brooklyn.

SLAY-BY-COP

City pays \$1.5M in shooting that left 1 dead, 1 hurt

BY GRAHAM RAYMAN AND TOM ROBBINS
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

The sounds of a loud car wreck, followed by gunshots, brought the young man to his Brooklyn apartment window.

He peered down to see an SUV plowed into a parked car, with a man — a plainclothes cop — pinned between the vehicles. A nearby female officer slapped handcuffs on a second man sprawled face-down on the ground. As sirens roared and dozens of police and emergency workers converged in the chaos, the witness reached for his phone and pressed “record.”

It was the aftermath of a wild, 3-mile car chase through east Brooklyn, ending moments earlier with the crash and the now-trapped cop fatally shooting the SUV driver and shatter-

ing the left leg of its passenger with another gunshot.

Almost 13 years after the lethal Nov. 11, 2006, encounter, the 6½-minute video clip is raising questions about whether police anti-crime squad members planted a weapon inside the dead man's SUV. Last month, after more than a decade of fighting a lawsuit filed by surviving victim Gregory Brown, the New York City Law Department agreed to a \$1.5 million settlement in the case.

The deal came just two weeks after a judge ordered Officer William Warren, who fired the fatal shots, and Sgt. Vicki Lisa, who cuffed the wounded Brown, to provide sworn testimony about the video's content. The recording was turned over to police one day after the incident, although

Brown's lawyers did not see the video for another decade.

Brown, currently jailed on a parole violation in Pennsylvania, insisted from the start that police dropped the weapon in the car.

“Ain't no ‘might have’ — they did it,” Brown told the Daily News. “I know what police do. I am 47 years old and I've been dealing with that all my life. It may be new to some people, but it's not to me.”

The deadly chase began when Warren and Lisa, on anti-crime patrol, said they tried to pull the SUV over for running a red light in Bedford-Stuyvesant. The maroon Mitsubishi instead sped off, weaving through the Brooklyn streets with the unmarked black Impala in pursuit. Warren, who was behind the wheel, later recalled seeing a gun passed back

and forth between the two men in the car.

But Lisa, who was working the radio, never relayed that warning to central command.

The SUV driver was 28-year-old Katrell Butler, and he had good reason to flee. Butler was a fugitive from a out-of-state police warrant after cops discovered assault rifles, drugs and counterfeit money in his Berwick, Pa., home. Brown had his own long criminal record, including bank robbery, and was carrying more than \$20,000 when shot.

Warren, a former Marine and three-year NYPD veteran, later recounted reaching into the SUV to grab the keys from its ignition and then grappling with Butler — who reached for a gun on the floor. As the vehicle started rolling, Warren opened fire: Butler was shot in the chest

and killed, Brown took a bullet in the leg and was arrested.

The grainy witness video, filmed through a second-floor window screen, shows cops and emergency service workers frantically trying to free Warren from between the two autos. Although shrouded in shadow, Brown and Butler lie in the street near the crashed car. As police prepare to lift the bumper of the car that had been forced onto the sidewalk, Lisa — in a bright red T-shirt — is seen reaching out to one of the other members of her anti-crime squad.

She then quickly darts around the rear of Butler's SUV, enters through the front passenger door and remains inside the auto for about 15 seconds.

Butler's relatives, while acknowledging he was fleeing the police, have long insisted he



SUIT CLOSED

● Officer pinned after '06 chase fired at 2 men in SUV

was unarmed.

"He was not violent," said Juanita Alston, Butler's sister-in-law and a former administrative aide at a Brooklyn police precinct. "If there is newly discovered evidence of a video of a gun being planted, that doesn't surprise us."

There were other issues with the crime scene. Weapons, unless they pose a threat to public safety, are supposed to be left in place for photographs and documentation by the NYPD's Crime Scene Unit. But anti-crime team Officer Rashan LaCoste recounted finding the gun on the driver's side floor and putting the weapon in his pocket.

Lt. Mark Molinari, now a deputy inspector, was the first uniformed officer to reach the scene. In a deposition for the lawsuit, Molinari said he did

not see a gun when he looked into the SUV. Officer Kruythoff Forrester, who arrived with two other members of Warren and Lisa's anti-crime team, said he quickly pulled the dying Butler out of the car.

In his deposition, Forrester also did not recall seeing a firearm.

Despite Warren's claim that the driver had his hand on the gun when he was forced to shoot, a police lab test for fingerprints on the pistol, the magazine and cartridges all came up negative.

Former NYPD Capt. John Eterno, now a criminal justice teacher at Molloy College, questioned the absence of any prints on the weapon. "It raises the question 'Was the gun wiped down clean?'" he said.

But an NYPD investigation found Warren was within de-

partmental guidelines when he fired, and city officials deny any cover-up.

"These officers responded to a very challenging policing situation," said Law Department spokesman Nick Paolucci in a statement. "The detective had to respond quickly when the driver presented a lethal threat. ... We stand by these members of the service and believe there was no merit to the claim they planted a weapon, but have determined that settling this long-standing case is in the best interest of the officers and the city."

An NYPD spokesman provided the same response to The News' questions about the case.

Warren and Lisa have since been promoted. Warren is a detective working in Brooklyn North Narcotics squad, while Lisa oversees a squad of detect-

ives at the 60th Precinct in Coney Island. Reached by phone, Lisa refused to comment and hung up when asked about the video. Messages left for Warren and Lacoste were not returned.

Charges of attempted assault, resisting arrest and weapons possession were eventually dropped against Brown, who has endured four surgeries since the shooting and walks with a permanent limp.

The man who filmed the video recalled providing a copy to police one day later, when canvassing detectives knocked on his door. The witness, who asked for anonymity, recalled filming "out of curiosity" and never realized the significance of the footage. But Brown's lawyers didn't see a copy from city attorneys until 2017, ten years after the lawsuit was filed.

And it wasn't until they studied it closely, they said, that they realized what it revealed.

Though Warren and Lisa had already given depositions, they were ordered to return for more questioning by Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Katherine A. Levine after Brown's lawyers argued the video showed the sergeant "apparently planting the firearm." Levine's ruling came on July 25, and the city settled on Aug. 9.

"Considering the portrayal in the press at the time of the incident of officer Warren as a hero cop and the portrayal of the victims as potential cop killers, I am hopeful that this video and the truth will bring some degree of peace to the Butler family," said Glenn Miller, a partner in the firm Sivin & Miller which represented Brown in the lawsuit.