



# UPLIFT INC.

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## NEEDED SYSTEMATIC CHANGES

SIXTEEN MONTHS OF FRUITLESS POLITICAL & SOCIAL AGITATION AIMED AT GETTING THE SIXTH PRECINCT TO PICK UP & QUESTION THE PROBABLE MURDERERS OF MY ROOMMATE, MARSHA P. JOHNSON, (MALCOLM MICHAELS) HAS LEFT ME WITH A CONTINUING RAGE AT THIS INJUSTICE.

HOWEVER, PART OF THE PROBLEM LIES IN THE SYSTEM ITSELF & I WOULD EMPHASIZE MAKING THE FOLLOWING CHANGES

- (1) ON SUNDAY, JULY 5, 1992, WHEN I TRIED TO FILE A "MISSING PERSON" REPORT AT THE 6th PCT, I WAS TURNED AWAY & INFORMED " YOU CAN'T FILE A MISSING PERSON REPORT ON AN ADULT OVER FORTY YEARS OF AGE." MARSHA WAS FOUND DEAD THE NEXT DAY.. HAD THE BODY BEEN FOUND ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY, IT MAY NEVER HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IF FINGERPRINTS HAD NOT HAPPENED TO BE ON FILE. THIS POLICY SHOULD BE CHANGED .
- (2) LEAVING THE DETERMINATION THAT A CRIME WAS A "BIAS" CRIME UP TO THE LOCAL PRECINCT ALONE INVITES COVER-UPS & INJUSTICE. THE LOCAL PRECINCT IN BENSONHURST DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT INDIVIDUALS ARE ATTACKED FOR BEING BLACK THERE ANY MORE THAN THE 6th PRECINCT WANTS TO ADMIT PEOPLE WALKING ITS STREETS ARE ATTACKED FOR SIMPLY BEING GAY. SUCH INCIDENTS INDICATE THAT THE LOCAL POLICE FORCE IS SIMPLY NOT DOING ITS JOB. THERE SHOULD BE PROCEDURES OUTSIDE THE LOCAL PRECINCT - AN OMBUDSMAN (INDEPENDENT) WITHIN THE BIAS UNIT ITSELF WOULD BE A GOOD START- WHO COULD CHALLENGE A DENIAL OF A "BIAS" DESIGNATION & CHANGE IT.
- (3) WHEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES REGARDING CAUSE OF DEATH ARE UNKNOWN, POLICE THEORIES SHOULD NOT RESULT IN DESIGNATIONS SUCH AS "SUICIDE" OR "ACCIDENTAL DROWNING" BEING PLACED ON DEATH CERTIFICATES--AS IN THE CASE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON & A JAPANESE GIRL FOUND IN THE RIVER NEARBY A FEW MONTHS LATER. INSTEAD, ACCURATE DESIGNATIONS SUCH AS "DROWNING OF UNKNOWN CAUSE" SHOULD BE LISTED. LABELS DO NOT SOLVE CRIMES, THEY COVER THEM UP. OUR DEATHS HAVE THE RIGHT TO NOT BE DISMISSED THROUGH MISLABELING .

RANDY WICKER 11/14/93

*Randy Wicker*