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|  | Archived | |
| **Vendor Status:** | Sent 8/8/2021 | |
| **Site:** | Richmond | |
| **Site Code:** | RIC | |
| **Headline:** | **Detective retires after misplaced evidence located Petersburg detective named in 2015 evidence room scandal retires after evidence found in ceiling, dumpster** | |
| **Subhead:** | **Petersburg found items in a ceiling and a dumpster** | |
| **Reporter:** | By **MARK** **BOWES** Richmond Times-Dispatch | |
| **Desk:** |  | |
| **Source:** |  | |
| **Day:** | Sunday | |
| **Dateline:** |  | |
| **Print Run Date:** | 8/8/2021 | |
| **Digital Run Date:** |  | |
| **Corrections:** |  | |
| **Text:** | A Petersburg police **detective** who was banished from the department's evidence and property room six years ago amid a scandal involving missing evidence that included $13,000 has **retired** **after** he was linked to "hidden" evidence found in the ceiling of the office where he worked, in a dumpster outside police headquarters and elsewhere.  The disclosure that evidence involving multiple criminal cases was discovered concealed in various locations of the Petersburg Police Department's criminal investigations unit has raised concerns that an unknown number of cases assigned to former Senior **Detective** Roosevelt Harris may be tainted. A review of his cases is underway.  Harris, who had been with the department for 23 years, **retired** June 30, about eight weeks **after** he was placed on administrative leave for misconduct. Police officials on May 8 notified the Petersburg Commonwealth's Attorney's Office about the hidden evidence and documents with Harris' name on them.  Petersburg Police Chief Travis Christian confirmed that evidence he described as being "improperly stored" was found in the department's investigations office, but he declined to name the officer involved - citing it as a personnel matter protected from disclosure. The chief did confirm that the officer is no longer with the department.  Harris is named in several court documents filed by prosecutors and defense attorneys and in emails that have been obtained by the Richmond Times-Dispatch.  "Who knows what happened to those items that were strewn about and not properly stored?" Petersburg Chief Public Defender Shaun Huband said about the evidence discovered in May.  "There's a great deal of potential concern, because the problem we're facing is that we are somewhat in the dark," Huband added. "Our dilemma is that we don't have a master list, so to speak, of all the potential cases affected - [that would allow us] to go back and look at the files and try to see if there is a remedy we should seek for those clients. Or if the case is still open and has not been resolved, how do we proceed from here."  Harris returned a call to a reporter on Friday and indicated he would provide a comment shortly, but he did not.  At least one attorney, Travis Williams, sought unsuccessfully to have DNA evidence against his client, accused of murder, thrown out on grounds that Harris mishandled it, and that Harris was compromised by a history of "negligence ... incompetence and corruption," according to court papers.  Williams is representing Jaquan Moultrie, who recently was convicted of fatally stabbing a woman in a 2019 Petersburg slaying. Less than two months before trial, Williams learned from the commonwealth's attorney's office that the murder victim's clothing, nail clippings, DNA card and personal effects were located in the ceiling above Harris' office at police headquarters.  "I don't think it was properly stored in the ceiling because that is where it should not have been," Williams said.  Williams said that when he was informed about the concealed evidence, his initial thouight was that it would take "a lot of effort to remove a ceiling panel and place it in the ceiling."  The attorney said he could have understood if the **detective** had left it in the back seat of his car by mistake. "But it seems to me a lot of extra effort was involved to place it in the ceiling. You've got [the evidence] inside a building already, so it would have been easier to put it in its proper place. In my imagination, I can't come up with what the purpose was of putting it in the ceiling."  Evidence that had been collected in an unrelated case was found outside the police station in a dumpster, but authorities so far have not disclosed what was found or identified the defendant to whom the recovered items are linked.  Defense attorneys are still looking for answers.  Three months **after** attorney Susan Allen learned that Harris was suspended for misconduct, "I am not aware of any accounting of evidence that was recovered, what cases are affected, which defendants are affected, what the evidence was that was mishandled or the nature of the mishandling," she said in an email. "Cross contamination of evidence, degradation of evidence, lost evidence all are obvious concerns to me."  "If this 'hidden' evidence was exculpatory, that creates questions relating to the soundness of the prosecutions of cases," said Allen, who is representing a juvenile defendant charged with a serious offense for which Harris collected evidence. "Prosecutors have an ethical duty to disclose evidence that is favorable to a defense. This goes straight to the heart of an accused's right to a fair trial."  Defense attorney Catherine Lawler also raised concerns about Harris' credibility **after** she was notified one day before her client, Rickey Young, was to stand trial in May on nine violent offenses, including murder, that Harris had been suspended for mishandling evidence, according to her court filing.  "**Detective** Harris' veracity is a crucial issue upon which the defendant is entitled to sufficient information," Lawler wrote in her motion seeking additional time to evaluate the revelations about Harris. Young's trial was continued to May 2022.  Petersburg Commonwealth's Attorney Tiffany Buckner, whose office was informed May 8 of the hidden evidence, has been advising attorneys of potential evidentiary problems as her office reviews cases that Harris handled. She and her staff have sent them emails and provided supplemental discovery documents that include a history of Harris' negligence in handling evidence.  "When my office learned of the situation, we immediately began to identify pending cases the reported actions concerned and disclose every piece of potentially favorable evidence to their attorneys," Buckner said in an email.  Later in a phone interview, she said, "I'm working on this pretty much on a daily basis to get a grasp of what exactly is going on."  Buckner said she is reviewing information provided by the police department but has also developed a process of her own to identify potential problem cases. That includes a review of cases that have already been adjudicated.  "I want to make sure every case that I'm responsible for has integrity," she said. "Generally any case that is flagged as being involved, the attorney will receive notification."  Buckner said she's not aware of any cases thus far that have resulted in charges being withdrawn or dismissed due to mishandled evidence.  Harris had been reprimanded or suspended three times between 2004 and 2017 for improperly handling or losing evidence, and was removed as supervisor of the department's evidence and property room **after** an internal audit in 2015 revealed that at least $13,356 in cash from three criminal cases had gone missing, Petersburg police said at the time. His suspension in 2012 involved losing or **misplacing** $960 seized in two separate cases, for which he was required to make restitution, according to court documents filed by prosecutors in May.  He was transferred from the evidence room **after** the 2015 scandal but was not demoted or reprimanded, according to court documents. Then-Petersburg Commonwealth's Attorney Cassandra Conover requested state police to investigate in early 2016, but **after** a three-year probe, no one was charged.  A special prosecutor appointed in the case "exhausted all leads with regards to the disposition of those funds, and there is no evidence linking any one suspect to the missing funds," former Petersburg Commonwealth's Attorney Cheryl Wilson, who succeeded Conover, said in 2019 **after** consulting the special prosecutor.  Attorneys have questioned why Harris was allowed to continue handling criminal evidence **after** repeated policy violations.  "My thought is that in any profession that any of us are in, if there has been a history of misconduct, we usually aren't allowed to continue," Williams said.  **After** the 2015 evidence room scandal, Harris was reassigned to patrol operations later that year but was transferred back to investigations in the fall of 2017 **after** Kenneth Miller was hired as chief. Christian succeeded Miller last year.  Christian said that **after** he learned that some evidence had been improperly stored in the investigations unit, "we did an internal audit of all of our evidence, to include the evidence that had been found. And we determined there was no evidence missing from the Petersburg Bureau of Police related to any cases."  "Multiple pieces of evidence were found, associated with different cases," Christian said in response to a question about the scope of the problem. An internal investigation was begun **after** "a couple of our employees discovered something that seemed out of place," he said.  Attorneys said the chief's description of the hidden evidence as being "improperly stored," rather than missing, appears to be a matter of semantics.  "When things are not stored properly, they are missing - at least from their proper storage location. Because it calls into question, 'What happened to it?'" Huband said.  "The whole point of the property room is having items that are secured and can't be tampered with," Huband said. "So when you go to court you can say, for example, here's the stuff we took off the defendant - and we're sure this is the same stuff because we locked it away and only certain people have access to it."  Christian said issues involving evidence collected by officers or "anything that would appear to be dishonest by way of policing" is taken very seriously by the department. "However, I am at peace with this situation because I know there's no evidence missing."  "If we had evidence that was missing, then I would definitely be alarmed," the chief said. "But here I have an employee who did not take the steps according to policy to properly process evidence and store that evidence. If we found that evidence was missing, I would have contacted outside authorities such as state police and have them come here to do an investigation."  Asked why an officer would be allowed to continue handling evidence **after** repeated policy violations over numerous years, Christian, who was appointed chief in November, said he couldn't speak to "previous behaviors from anybody associated with the department" before he assumed command.  "I've put measures in place to make sure that this doesn't happen with our agency again," said Christian, who declined to elaborate because it involved internal personnel policies. "[And] appropriate action was taken as it relates to the improper storage and processing of evidence."  mbowes@timesdispatch.com  (804) 649-6450 | |
| **us:** | Archived | |
| **Vendor Status:** | Sent 7/29/2021 | |
| **Site:** | Richmond | |
| **Site Code:** | RIC | |
| **Headline:** | **Riverside inmate died after briefing on 'security risk' Riverside inmate died of fentanyl overdose a month after concerns were raised over security breach** | |
| **Subhead:** | **Superintendent alerted jail board about breach a month before overdose<!--s:14.7-->** | |
| **Reporter:** | By **MARK** **BOWES** Richmond Times-Dispatch | |
| **Desk:** |  | |
| **Source:** |  | |
| **Day:** | Wednesday | |
| **Dateline:** |  | |
| **Print Run Date:** | 7/28/2021 | |
| **Digital Run Date:** |  | |
| **Corrections:** |  | |
| **Text:** | An **inmate** at **Riverside** Regional Jail **died** of a fentanyl overdose just over a month after liability concerns were raised at a meeting of the jail's governing body about a major security breach that allowed outside smugglers to break exterior windows of the jail and throw contraband inside.  The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of Virginia recently disclosed that **inmate** Anthony Gholson **died** in custody March 26 of fentanyl toxicity. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine. Fentanyl often is added to heroin to increase its potency and has become one of the deadliest illicit opioids in the state.  How the fentanyl got to Gholson apparently has not been determined. He **died** two days after being transferred to **Riverside** from the Chesterfield Jail, where he had been incarcerated since Dec. 12, 2020.  A month before Gholson's death, members of the **Riverside** Regional Jail Authority were briefed by Superintendent Larry Leabough about a serious "security risk" at the facility that involved people knocking out windows of jail buildings at night that were unprotected by a barrier fence.  "When they built this jail, they put substandard glass in these windows - a rock will knock the glass out," Leabough told the jail board, according to a recording of its Feb. 25 meeting. "We have people coming in at night, knocking windows out and passing contraband through. You can see them on camera running across the yard. It's a real security problem, a security risk."  The smugglers were using a public access road to a nearby park that runs right by the jail, said Leabough, who at the time was seeking estimates to have a new section of barrier fence installed topped with razor wire to shore up the exposure. The board set aside $260,000 for the project, which apparently wasn't completed until June.  Board members received notice June 7 that metal panels were placed over the windows and the fence was being installed.  **Riverside** is one of the largest jails in central Virginia and houses roughly 1,300 **inmates** for Petersburg, Colonial Heights, Hopewell and the counties of Chesterfield, Charles City, Surry and Prince George. The facility is governed by a regional authority consisting of representatives from each locality.  The possibility of an **inmate** **dying** of a drug overdose because of the security breach was raised at the February meeting by Chesterfield Sheriff Karl Leonard, who represents Chesterfield on the **Riverside** board.  "If we've identified this as a problem and that drugs are getting in through this deficiency in our barriers - and if we don't immediately fix it and drugs get in there and somebody overdoses and **dies** - do we have a liability?" Leonard asked Attorney Jeff Gore, who represents the board.  Gore replied, "No, I don't think it automatically creates liability on the authority's part if someone breaks the law and crosses property, and breaks into the jail, or breaks a window."  "But I do think ... that now that it's been identified, I think it is, at the very least, a policy obligation, a moral obligation, for the board to look at ways to shore that up," Gore added. "It doesn't look good if we've identified this problem and do nothing to address it."  At the time, Leabough told board members that his staff had put out contracting bids for a new section of fence, but only one company responded and its bid was too high. The staff then contacted Chesterfield Jail officials for the contractor they used to erect a similar fence; that company assessed **Riverside**'s needs and was to provide a cost estimate. In the meantime, "We're putting mesh over all the windows outside," Leabough told board members at the meeting.  Leabough has not returned multiple phone and email messages since Friday about what jail investigators may have learned about Gholson's death. He also has declined to respond to questions about the new section of barrier fence and whether it's been fully installed.  Petersburg Sheriff Vanessa Crawford, who serves as chair of the **Riverside** board, deferred questions to Leabough.  Prince George County police investigators, who assisted with Gholson's death investigation because the jail is in Prince George, were not able to determine how Gholson obtained the drugs, a department spokeswoman said.  The **inmate**'s drug overdose death comes as Leabough and the **Riverside** board are working to improve operations and address serious allegations raised by a state jail review committee, which in April recommended that **Riverside** be decertified and closed. An investigation found that jail staff may have directly or indirectly been responsible for three prisoner deaths in 2019 and 2020 by failing to comply with minimum state correctional standards.  The jail review committee, which is the investigative arm of the Virginia Board of Local and Regional Jails, said conditions in the jail "represent a clear and present danger to the health and safety of the **inmates**," according to a letter sent to Leabough.  The **Riverside** Jail Authority immediately took issue with the committee's findings, calling them unwarranted and "particularly shocking, given that over the past year the jail passed its unannounced Department of Corrections audits related to health care and mental health screening and services, as well as three comprehensive federal agency audits."  The authority also noted that since it hired Leabough, a retired DOC administrator, as superintendent in June 2020, "great strides have been made to improve all facets of the facility, from **inmate** health care and mental health services to **inmate** safety and programming."  The jail review committee findings came as **Riverside** remains on state probation, which was imposed in July 2019 after the same committee found staff failings that may have directly or indirectly contributed to the deaths of two other **inmates** who killed themselves in 2017.  Since hiring Leabough, the jail has taken several significant steps to improve its operations and recruit and retain new jail officers to fill more than 80 vacancies.  The measures include increasing jail officer starting salaries from $36,000 to $40,000 annually and boosting the pay of existing employees by 5% as of July 1. That is on top of 4% increases that went into effect on Jan. 1.  The board also approved funding in May to fill 40 jail officer positions out of a total of 82 vacancies, and it is developing a plan to reach full staffing.  In addition, the board awarded a contract to the consulting firm CGL Inc. to perform a comprehensive study and needs assessment of **Riverside** Regional Jail's operations and organization, which will include **inmate** health care and mental health services, staffing, **inmate** classification and the facility's physical plant.  A hearing before the Board of Local and Regional Jails is scheduled for later this summer on **Riverside**'s objections to the state jail review committee's findings and decertification recommendation. **Riverside** officials are in the process of negotiating with BLRJ in hopes of reaching an agreement that would avoid a formal hearing and decertification.  mbowes@timesdispatch.com  (804) 649-6450 | |
| **Status:** | | Archived |
| **Vendor Status:** | | Sent 6/6/2021 |
| **Site:** | | Richmond |
| **Site Code:** | | RIC |
| **Headline:** | | **Parole case has former police officer, victims' families on edge Former Richmond officer leads effort to block parole of man who shot her and killed 3 in 1984 rampage** |
| **Subhead:** | | **Appeal set for man guilty in '84 Richmond-area rampage<!--s:14.7-->** |
| **Reporter:** | | By **MARK** **BOWES** Richmond Times-Dispatch |
| **Desk:** | |  |
| **Source:** | |  |
| **Day:** | | Saturday |
| **Dateline:** | |  |
| **Print Run Date:** | | 6/5/2021 |
| **Digital Run Date:** | |  |
| **Corrections:** | |  |
| **Text:** | | In October 1984, Cheryl Nici was a 24-year-old Richmond police officer working off duty outside the downtown Richmond Marriott hotel when a gunman, without warning, fired a pistol at her head from several feet away.  "I vividly recall looking out at East Broad Street. Everything was blurry and looked like somebody was dumping a gallon of red paint - and it was dripping down over this picture of Broad Street," Nici, now 61, said recently. "My vision went totally red. I never lost consciousness, ironically. But I remember getting down on my knees and I heard people screaming and yelling."  Nici was shot in the head. She was in uniform, so there was no mistake that she was an officer.  "The bullet went in by my left ear, shot out of my TMJ joint, and went down through my mouth and lodged an eighth of inch from my carotid artery," she said.  The shooter was Kenneth Wayne Woodfin, then 36, who had been on the run after committing a bizarre string of murders and woundings that kept the Richmond-Petersburg area on edge from Oct. 24 to 26, 1984.  Although he maintains his innocence to this day, Woodfin was convicted of killing his wife, Jean Whittaker Woodfin, 31; her sister, Susan Whittaker Hall, 35; and Hall's boyfriend, Frank Gabbin, 32, before shooting and wounding Hanover County sheriff's deputy Willard "Bubba" Worsham. Nici was his last victim.  He was sentenced to three life terms plus 116 years, nearly a decade before Virginia abolished **parole** in 1995.  On Thursday, Woodfin will come before the Virginia **Parole** Board in his latest bid to be released on **parole**. Nici and surviving family members of his victims are fighting to keep him behind bars.  Unlike in previous years, Nici and others worry that the board, which is the subject of an ongoing scandal related to how it **has** released other convicted killers, may grant Woodfin his freedom this time around.  He first became eligible for **parole** in 1999.  "Based on the history of the **parole** board and the releases of seriously violent offenders that should not have been released starting last year, I've lost my faith in the system," Nici said. "The integrity and credibility of what is supposed to be an impartial and unbiased branch of the criminal justice system **has** been tainted."  The Office of the State Inspector General in 2020 found violations of policy and law in how the board and its former chair, Adrianne Bennett, handled the release of at least eight convicted killers.  Reporting by the Richmond Times-Dispatch this year showed that Bennett also released more than 100 parolees from supervision without any recommendation from local **parole** officers.  "I can only hope that the **parole** board does the right thing," Nici said. "What the **parole** board doesn't realize is that if Kenneth Wayne Woodfin is released, he not only will be a threat to the victims' families and the community, but I also would perceive him to be a threat to law enforcement. He **has** taken no responsibility, shown no remorse, offered no apology and continues to say he is innocent."  "And all I can tell you is his face was the last face I saw before I thought I was going to die," Nici said. "There's no doubt in my mind that he is the man who held a .357-Magnum 3 to 5 feet from my head, aiming for my temple. But thank God I moved my head."  Contacted in late April through prison officials, Woodfin initially agreed to talk with a Times-Dispatch reporter about his **case**. But on the day of the scheduled telephone interview, Woodfin canceled, telling prison authorities he felt ill.  Woodfin declined to reschedule the interview the following day, relaying this message through a prison official to a reporter: "He stated that he thought he knew you, but he didn't."  In 2014, Woodfin told NBC12 in a prison interview that he didn't shoot or kill anyone, and deserves to be **paroled** because he's innocent.  He claimed that at the time of the killings and woundings, he had been abducted and tortured by three men and woke up in a wooded area. "I'm not a threat to anybody," he told the TV station.  Tonya Chapman, the chair of the **parole** board, declined to talk about Woodfin's hearing; she said she cannot speak about specific **cases**.  When The Times-Dispatch first contacted Chapman on April 9, Woodfin's **parole** hearing was set for April 15. It subsequently was moved to June 10 without explanation.  Nici and family members of the slain Whittaker sisters were allowed to provide their input before the board on April 28. Woodfin's advocates, including family members, delivered their remarks on May 13.  One of those advocates was Woodfin's sister, Joan Robinson, who said family members believe Woodfin **has** served enough time and deserves his freedom after nearly 37 years behind bars. She also noted that her brother continues to profess his innocence.  "We, as family members, have already met with one of the **parole** members," said Robinson.  "I said what I needed to say to the **parole** board and I just pray that what we said as a family would be considered," she said. "But whatever happens, I know within myself, and I trust and believe that God will do what he will do. It's out of our hands."  Speaking generally about the process, Chapman said after an inmate receives his or her **parole** interview, it could take two to three months before the **case** gets the requisite number of board votes on whether to grant or deny **parole**.  Woodfin's **parole** hearing on Thursday will be his first since 2018. After he was denied **parole** that year, the board deferred another review for three years, which is allowed under Virginia law for offenders who have 10 years or more or life imprisonment remaining on their sentence.  Woodfin filed suit in federal court last year against Bennett, Gov. Ralph Northam and Public Safety Secretary Brian Moran, claiming his civil rights were violated because the three-year deferral process wasn't signed into law until 1993, well after his convictions. His complaint remains active.  "I am innocent of the crimes I have been convicted of. I have been eligible for **parole** since 1999, " Woodfin wrote in the complaint. "I am 72 years old, forgive me for my writings, I have cataracts on both eyes." He also wrote that he suffers from heart disease, high cholesterol, hypertension "and other ailments."  Nici **has** led a letter-writing campaign to the **parole** board through Google and Facebook that seeks to keep Woodfin behind bars.  The motive for Woodfin's crime rampage is obscure. But evidence suggested that he sought retribution on family, friends and even police whom he believed interfered with his marriage.  Less than two weeks before the killings, Woodfin and his wife were charged by Ashland police with possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute it after raiding the couple's apartment and finding drugs.  While released on bail, Jean Woodfin told her lawyer she was afraid of her husband and wanted a divorce, and she moved out of the apartment with her sister's help while Woodfin was still in jail, according to news accounts and evidence.  After Woodfin was finally released, he tried to reconcile with his wife. But reconciliation efforts failed on the afternoon of Oct. 24 at Woodfin's mother's house in Petersburg, where he met his wife and her sister. That was the last time either was seen alive.  Jean Whittaker's body was found with bullet wounds in the chest and back the next day in Petersburg's Blandford Cemetery.  Woodfin then returned to his mother's house, where authorities believe he abducted his sister-in-law, Susan Whittaker Hall, and drove her to 111 N. Strawberry St. in Richmond, where she lived with Gabbin, a former close friend of Woodfin who also was the son of a Goochland County sheriff's deputy. Both were killed by gunshot wounds to their heads.  About 90 minutes after they were fatally shot, Worsham, the Hanover deputy, was sitting in his patrol car at an Ashland traffic light. When he turned to his left, he saw a car passing slowly in the opposite direction before hearing four shots. Two rounds hit him in the shoulder, but he was able to radio for help.  Police swarmed the area. Officers found Woodfin's abandoned vehicle but he managed to escape through the woods.  Then on the evening of Oct. 26, Woodfin shot Nici as she was standing outside the Marriott providing security for an Episcopalian ministers convention and the University of Richmond homecoming. She had a folded wanted poster with Woodfin's photo in her pocket.  Although she didn't know it was Woodfin at the time, he and another man approached her outside the hotel that evening. She thought it was odd because Woodfin was wearing a royal blue jogging suit and looked tired and ungroomed, while his friend was nicely dressed in a corduroy jacket, designer jeans and expensive shoes.  The well-dressed man chatted with Nici briefly before both men left. Woodfin came back alone around 11:20 p.m. and gave Nici a note that Woodfin said his friend wanted her to read. She stuck it in her pocket and Woodfin walked away.  About five minutes later she pulled out the note and the first line read, "A marriage is social and holy."  She didn't read the entire letter, but scanned down to the signature. It was signed with the name "Nat Turner," who was the leader of a slave revolt that killed 55 white people in Southampton County in 1831.  The note blamed a Richmond police officer, a relative of Woodfin's wife, of interfering in his marriage. Family and friends later said that Woodfin believed the officer was trying to break up his marriage.  A similar note that authorities believe Woodfin wrote was sent to the The Times-Dispatch. The note, also signed "Nat Turner," claimed that Woodfin's wife had been "tortured" by the sheriff's office in Hanover. "Her only crime was Marrying a Black Man," it said, which included a photo of Jean Woodfin.  Nici is alive today because of her actions when reading the note. She bent her head down to give the note a second look, and in the split second that she raised her head back up, Woodfin fired. He apparently was aiming for her temple, and the shot missed its **mark**.  Nici also attributes her survival to a mystery man who came to her aid soon after she was shot. He used first aid to control the bleeding to her head and neck, and picked up her police radio to alert authorities that an officer was down.  But after police and paramedics arrived, the "gentleman did a magic trick - he disappeared," Nici said. "To this day, we don't know who he is."  Sherry Whittaker Parke, who lost two of her sisters in the 1984 rampage, said her family lived in fear before Woodfin eventually gave himself up. Police advised the family to go into hiding because they couldn't guarantee their safety, so they packed up and traveled to Pennsylvania to stay with her husband's relatives.  "We couldn't have the funerals of my sisters because of fear that he could show up," Parke recalled.  Parke, now 66, said she still lives in fear that Woodfin may eventually be released.  "We're still concerned that he could just show up," she said. "If you really hadn't been in fear of your life before, I don't think people would understand."  Parke's daughter, Kim Parke, who was a small child at the time of the killings, said Woodfin shouldn't be released because he's never taken responsibility for his actions or demonstrated that he's been rehabilitated.  "He showed no remorse, he hasn't shown any character development, [and] he hasn't shown anything that would demonstrate to me that he's changed at all," said Kim Parke, an attorney with the National Veterans Legal Services Program in Washington.  "So that obviously concerns me a lot. He **has** never come forward and said, 'I know what I did was wrong, but I've learned from it.' Nothing of that sort. That's what the **parole** board is supposed to take into account when they make their decisions."  mbowes@timesdispatch.com  (804) 649-6450 |
| **Caption:** | | Kenneth Wayne Woodfin was convicted of the 1984 shooting of former Richmond police officer Cheryl Nici. |