

ST. JOSEPH CHARTER TOWNSHIP

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ross E. Bates, Chief of Police



3000 Washington
P.O. Box-147
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085-0147
Tele (616) 429-6890
Fax (616) 429-7303

July 24, 1996

Per your request under the Freedom of Information Act a search was conducted of St. Joseph Charter Township Police Department records and reports regarding the robbery/homicide of Richard Tetzlaff.

To our knowledge all handwritten notes by officers of this department remain in the possession of the officers, and do not become a part of the complaint. In questioning officers regarding this case, all such notes have been destroyed. All audio tapes made by the officers were transcribed and became a part of the original report. There are no audio or video tapes of the interviews conducted in this case.

Regarding notes, audio, or video tapes of conversations with Steve Miller - the same applies. All notes or audio tapes made by officers concerning their interviews with Steve Miller were also transcribed and became a part of the complaint report. No written statement was made by Steve Miller.

As to your question of appeal, this department has contacted the Berrien County Prosecutor's Office, APA Michael Sepic, regarding any notes/tapes/statements that may be in their possession and as to release of that information. They too have advised they do not have any of the requested materials in their possession.

Sincerely,

Ross E. Bates
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Chief of Police

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September 18, 2001

A review of the St. Joseph Charter Township Police Department evidence held in connection with complaint 89-0272 regarding the robbery of Vineland Foods/murder of Richard Tetzlaff has been conducted per your Freedom of Information Act Request.

The St. Joseph Charter Township Police Department has no audiotapes or videotapes of interviews held in evidence at this department.

Any taped interviews were transcribed during the course of the investigation, and those tapes would have been erased or recycled following transcription.

Sincerely,


Ross E. Bates
Chief of Police