

# DID POLICE KNOCK TRUTH UPSIDE DOWN?



WAS STEVE MCNAIR'S GRAND JURY RIGGED?

# DID CHIEF SERPAS LIE TO NASHVILLE AND THE WORLD?

## Cops: Unraveling life led Kazemi to kill McNair, self

SUSPICION OF SECOND GIRLFRIEND, GROWING DEBT SPARKED SHOOTINGS



Chief Ronald Serpas tells reporters and a television audience on Wednesday that a sleeping Steve McNair was shot four times by Sahel Kazemi before she turned the gun on herself. (CNN PHOTO / THE TENNESSEAN)



Steve McNair was shot four times by Sahel Kazemi, police said, before she killed herself.

### Former Titan slain as he slept on condo couch

By Kate Henard  
THE TENNESSEAN

Sahel Kazemi ended a life that was coming undone, as she got in trouble with the law, faced mounting bills and saw a new relationship with former Titans quarterback Steve McNair unraveling.

Police believe that's why she killed McNair with a 9mm semi-automatic pistol while he slept, then turned the gun on herself in the early morning hours of July 4.

Investigators have ruled out the possibility that anyone else fired the fatal shots.

"We can't put ourselves in the minds of people who do these horrible, irrational acts, but there is evidence she was spinning out of control," Metro Police Chief Ronald Serpas said.

Kazemi, a Dave & Buster's waitress at Opry Mills, wasn't sure how to pay the bills for her upscale Hermitage apartment and new SUV. She was arrested for DUI on July 2 with her former boyfriend in the passenger seat. And, she suspected McNair, who was married, was involved in a second affair. Kazemi had told friends and relatives that she and McNair were going to be together because he was divorcing his wife.

#### INSIDE

911 call was frantic

A transcript of the 911 call. On 4A

Kazemi's ex not suspect

Keith Norfleet was never a suspect, police said. On 4A

Competitors admired QB

McNair's dependability was legend. On 1C

### Thousands expected at McNair service

By Jonell Ross  
THE TENNESSEAN

A Nashville megachurch is planning for up to 5,500 mourners at former NFL quarterback Steve McNair's funeral service tonight, an event that will end days of remembrances around Nashville.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, which operates from three sites in the Nashville area,

will host the 7 p.m. service at its Whites Creek facility just off Old Hickory Blvd. There, the sanctuary can hold 4,500 people, with space for 1,000 mourners in overflow seating.

It will be the funeral the McNair family wants, said Bishop Joseph Walker III, Mt. Zion's pastor — one focusing on the whole of McNair's life rather than the circumstances of his death. Relatives and fel-

low athletes will speak, but the list hasn't been finalized.

"Steve's life was given to the world, so they wanted all of this community to have the opportunity to grieve as well," he said. "To not have something for this community is just not the McNair way."

But crafting the eulogy has been a "mammoth" task, Walker said.

"He wasn't just a parish-

ioner, but a friend, a dear, dear friend," he said. "It's incredibly difficult, because obviously you have to work through your own grief and offer aid and comfort to others."

#### Viewing undecided

Relatives haven't decided whether the casket will be

MEMORIAL, 4A

MCNAIR, 5A



MNPD Chief  
Steve Anderson



HILLENBRAND

## WHO IS RICHARD HILLENBRAND?

**DID THE 3-PERSON GRAND JURY PANEL BLOCK THE STEVE MCNAIR CASE FROM BEING RE-OPENED?**



**ARE ALL NASHVILLE GRAND JURIES RIGGED?**

**IF IT REALLY WAS AN "OPEN AND SHUT" MURDER-SUICIDE CASE, WOULD YOU NEED A RIGGED GRAND JURY?**



**CASE CLOSED IN 100 HOURS?**



***"I can't speak about this. But I am a retired police officer, so I know the system."*** Richard Hillenbrand – The Tennessean – On or about June 10, 2010

I know the "rigged" system?

# Grand jury team v

## » MCNAIR FROM 1A

us with any information about the Steve McNair homicide."

Still, the grand jury foreman and two members will review the complaint and decide whether the entire group should take it up. Typically, the 13-member grand jury decides whether to issue indictments based on evidence presented by police and prosecutors. Their deliberations and documents filed with them are shielded from public view.

Foreman Richard Hillenbrand said the fact McNair was a famous athlete won't change the way he handles the complaint.

"I can't speak about this," Hillenbrand said. "But I'm a retired police officer, so I know the system."

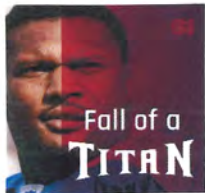
A spokesperson for McNair's estate — Lou Taylor of Tri Star Sports and Entertainment Group — did not return calls seeking comment Wednesday.

It's unlikely, given the fact Hill has no connection to the crime, the grand jury will take up his case, said Glenn Funk, a former Davidson County prosecutor.

"A person can't go in front of a grand jury and ask for an indictment or investigation if they don't have knowledge of a crime," he said. "The grand jury needs to hear from witnesses, specifics of when a crime occurred. That is their function. The grand jury in a state court system is not an investigatory agency."

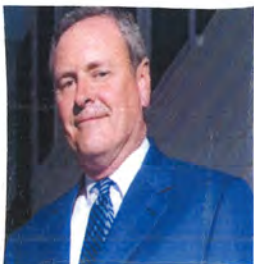
Metro police found that McNair's girlfriend, Sahel Kazemi, shot him as he slept

**RIGGED?**



Fall of a TITAN

***"It's unlikely, given the fact Hill has no connection to the crime, the grand jury will take up his case, said Glenn Funk, a former Davidson County prosecutor."*** The Tennessean – On or about June 10, 2010



DA Glenn Funk



# SHOULD RICHARD HILLENBRAND BE ALLOWED TO SERVE ON ANY GRAND JURY?



Police Chief Steve Anderson

## Police sex claims renewed in cocaine firing

**JERRY McCASKILL**

*Staff Writer*

A female police officer fired yesterday for cocaine use has told department investigators that three high-ranking officers made sexual advances toward her while she was a recruit at the Metro Police Training Academy.

The officers, who are the target of a four-month internal affairs investigation, have been identified by ex-South Patrol Officer [redacted].

[redacted] is Capt. [redacted] a 19-year-veteran who supervises academics and physical training at the academy. He has been at the academy since 1978 and is a member of the department's SWAT unit.

Lt. [redacted] a 17-year veteran who supervises firearms training. He joined the academy in 1971 and is also a member of the SWAT unit.



Testified against superiors

Sgt. Richard A. Hillenbrand, a 14-year veteran who oversees defensive tactics training. He joined the academy in 1983 and is a SWAT unit member.

None of the three men could be



reached for comment last night. The internal affairs probe began several months ago after Stojanowski, 23, was questioned about her use of drugs following graduation from the academy in 1986.



A written statement she gave investigators at that time is expected to lead to department charges against the three instructors within several days.

[redacted] one of three officers



HILLENBRAND

fired for drug use yesterday, renewed charges that she had sex with the three instructors during a brief hearing yesterday morning before a police disciplinary board which later found her guilty of using cocaine on at least two off-duty occasions.

Others fired yesterday for drug use were Officers [redacted] and [redacted]. Detective [redacted] was suspended for 30 days without pay for observing drug use but not reporting it to authorities.

The allegations against all three men involve charges of marijuana use during hunting trips between 1979-84.

Following the decisions, Chief Joe

Turn to PAGE 6A, Column 1

ON 14A: Police scandals now a job for the district attorney.

*"The interest and appearance of justice, however, demand that every reasonable effort be made to insure that grand jurors are reasonably free from prejudice. For example, active or career police officers tend to have inherent prejudice that should preclude their service." Rippy vs. State (Tenn. 1977)*

# **GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

**APRIL-JUNE TERM 2010**

**Submitted to  
Honorable Judge Mark Fishburn  
Criminal Court Division VI**

**Davidson County, Tennessee**

**REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY  
APRIL 2010 TERM**

# RIGGED?



## GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

WE, the Davidson County Grand Jurors for the April 2010 term, submit the following report in a summary of the last three months we have served. It has been an honor to serve under the auspices of the Honorable Mark Fishburn. We, as a Grand Jury, believe that through the process, we have gained insight into the structure of our judicial system, and have gained an increased respect for all those who work hard to make it flow smoothly.

In accordance with Tennessee Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Grand Jury deliberated upon 978 cases over the past three months. We presented the court with 885 True Bills, 3 No True Bills, 90 Sealed True Bills, and 0 Sealed No True Bills. We also had the opportunity to create panels that heard two closed cases concerning John J. Hooker and Steve McNair.

**John J. Hooker:** Mr. John J. Hooker requested an opportunity to present his case concerning his belief in the criminal intent of the state Supreme Court judges. The committee discussed the issues raised and did not find enough evidence of criminal activity to present the case to the entire Grand Jury. The panel appreciated Mr. Hooker's concerns about the impact of actions on the Tennessee Constitution, but decided that that was not a matter for the Grand Jury to consider.

**Steve McNair:** The Grand Jury was asked to hear information to reopen the Steve McNair case. Mr. Hill wanted to present this information, though he declined to ask for an indictment. He shared with the committee his views of the case but lacked evidence to support his views. Questions raised by Mr. Hill were cleared by evidence gathered by the Metro Police Department. The panel felt that this was a case that should not be heard by the other members of the Grand Jury.



Serving under the esteemed leadership of Grand Jury Foreman Mr. Richard Hillenbrand was a wonderful opportunity for us all. His detailed understanding of the law and the way he communicated or explained cases to the rest of the Jury was very helpful. We feel that his vast knowledge of the law and of law enforcement was very useful to us all. He did an excellent job of keeping us on task while still giving us ample time for questions and comments.

We, the Grand Jury, would like to thank the following individuals for taking the time out of their busy schedules to provide us with information that helped us better perform our judicial duties:

**Metro Police Department Liaison Gene Donegan:** Gene was wonderful at presenting cases to the Jury because he was clear and concise. The way he



# WHO WERE THE TWO UNKNOWN PEOPLE ON THE THREE-PERSON PANEL WITH GRAND JURY FOREMAN RICHARD HILLENBRAND?

Respectfully submitted,



## RIGGED?

**Richard Hillenbrand, Grand Jury Foreman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Cynthia Barnes**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Beverly Curfman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sherry Donaghey**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Donna Grimm**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Bonnie Moore**

**Why is Steve McNair's final grand jury report unsigned? All other reports going back to 1993 are signed except for possibly one? Do secret grand jurors break the law if they discuss their grand jury service?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Terri Rawls**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Lauren Roberts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Adam Seay**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jean Whitaker**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Judith McClung**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Greg Allison**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Katie Warlick**

WERE THE TWO UNKNOWN PEOPLE ACTUAL JURORS ON THE SECRET GRAND JURY?

# 10 YEARS LATER - THE PERFECT CRIME?

## McNair case won't be reopened

Jun 18, 2010



Elizabeth Merrill | ESPN Senior Writer

A former Nashville police officer's request to have the Steve McNair case reopened has been denied.

Vincent Hill told ESPN.com on Thursday night that he received word from a three-member Davidson County grand jury panel that there was insufficient proof to move forward and present his 32-page complaint to a full grand jury.

Hill, who spent 4½ years on the Nashville force and resigned in 2006, has disputed the police's ruling that McNair, the former Tennessee Titans quarterback was murdered by Sahel Kazemi, who then turned the gun on herself. Hill self-published a book called "Playbook to a Murder" and has spent the past 11 months conducting interviews and trying to debunk police findings that Kazemi murdered McNair in a downtown Nashville condo in the early morning hours of July 4, 2009.

On June 11, the panel heard a 30-minute presentation from Hill on what he described as "multiple errors" in the police investigation. The former Metro Nashville traffic police officer says he was informed of the grand jury's decision Thursday in a letter from foreman **Richard Hillenbrand.**

**Reached Thursday night, Hillenbrand said he couldn't comment on any decisions because the report is sealed.**

"Win, lose or draw, it's historic to just get it at that stage," Hill said. "Obviously, they thought there was something worth hearing just to even listen to the case.

"I would say that it's not over at this point."

**Davidson County District Attorney Torry Johnson said in a news release that theories relating to the McNair investigation are not backed up by facts.**

*Elizabeth Merrill writes for ESPN.com. The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

## WHO IS CITIZEN 3?

CHRIS SANDERS AND EDDIE GEORGE ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE MBA COMMUNITY.



EDDIE GEORGE -  
2017 MBA COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



CHRIS SANDERS -  
MBA FACULTY MEMBER -  
FOOTBALL AND TRACK COACH

**WILL TITANS NATION MAKE A PUBLIC CALL FOR THE STEVE MCNAIR  
MURDER INVESTIGATION TO BE RE-OPENED?**



**OR WILL STEVE BE ABANDONED?**

# WILL JEFF BEZOS MAKE A PUBLIC CALL FOR THE STEVE MCNAIR MURDER INVESTIGATION TO BE RE-OPENED?

JOHN INGRAM'S  
LONG-TIME  
PRINCETON FRIEND,  
JEFF BEZOS.



OUR TOWN.  
OUR CLUB.



WILL THE WASHINGTON  
POST INVESTIGATE?

AMAZON AND MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER ARE NOW IN NASHVILLE. THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTED ON THE BRENTWOOD ACADEMY ALLEGED GANG RAPE CASE. WILL WAPO REPORT THE FULL STORY ON MULTIPLE CASES COLLIDED?

## WILL STEVE MCNAIR'S FINAL MESSAGE EVER BE DELIVERED TO THE YOUNG?



Tennessee suicides on the rise among adults and youth, local and state mental health experts weigh in - BRANDON PAYKAMIAN • JAN 19, 2019 AT 5:31 PM – Johnson City Press

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities shelved the announcement after McNair's July 4 death and it never aired. "Each year, too many young people are taking their own lives. So if you're feeling really down and have even thought about suicide, call 1-800-273-TALK and live to see better days." The Star – Oct 3, 2009