

Forwarded by David P.

\* Friends: The page-one headline of today's *Chicago Sun-Times* states:

**BLACK PANTHER  
STREET NAME  
OUTRAGES COPS**

Nowhere within either of the two accompanying articles printed on page 6 is the simple fact reported honestly and in a straightforward manner that the two Chicago-area Black Panthers in question, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, were assassinated while they slept in their beds by authorities of the state in December, 1969. Thus it ought not be possible for an honest reporter to ask, as Andrew Herrmann does in the second article below, "Was it murder?" So if, some 37 years later, the *Chicago Sun-Times* can't bring itself to report something as straightforward as this, what's up?

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<http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-panther28.html>

Chicago Sun-Times

February 28, 2006

Street name outrages cops

By Fran Spielman

Fred Hampton -- slain state chairman of the Black Panthers party that urged followers to "off the pigs" -- would join the parade of Chicagoans afforded honorary street designations, under an ordinance advanced Monday that outraged the police union.

Hampton and fellow Panther leader Mark Clark were gunned down by Chicago Police officers working under Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan in an infamous December 1969 raid at Hampton's apartment that ultimately cost Hanrahan his job.

But it was the violence that Hampton and the Panthers advocated against police officers that stuck in the craw of Fraternal Order of Police President Mark Donahue.

Donahue was incredulous when informed that the City Council's Transportation Committee had voted without debate to rename Monroe Street -- from Western to Oakley -- as "Chairman Fred Hampton Way." The ordinance was sponsored by Ald. Madeline Haithcock

(2nd).

### **Requested by Hampton's son**

"You've got to be kidding me. I can't believe they would do that," Donahue said in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C.

"It's a dark day when we honor someone who would advocate killing policemen and who took great advantage of the communities he claimed to have been serving. We have real, everyday heroes within the department who would be better honored than someone of the stature of Fred Hampton."

Haithcock said she proposed the honorary designation for the street that runs in front of Hampton's former South Side home at the request of Fred Hampton Jr., son of the Panther leader.

"I'm not going on the negative. I'm only going on the good things they did for the community. The Black Panthers were the first ones to start breakfast programs in the schools," she said.

"I don't think their purpose was to go out and destroy police officers. Their purpose was housing, education, clothing and justice. They fought racism and discrimination. That's the part I was going on. Only the good things."

Told that the police group was furious about the designation, Haithcock initially defended it. "There's a lot of negative things that a lot of people have done. We're doing negative things right now in Iraq."

### **Popular perk**

Pressed further, Haithcock said she would gauge reaction to the designation before putting up the sign proclaiming "Chairman Fred Hampton Way."

"It's only one block -- and it's not even a long block. But I don't want to cause dissension among our police officers. If that's going to cause dissension with all of the negative things the Black Panthers did, then I won't put up the sign," she said.

Honorary street designations are a Chicago tradition and a way for aldermen to curry favor with clout-heavy constituents. But it's a perk that's been mired in controversy over the years.

In April, 2000, female aldermen and women's groups managed to defeat in committee an honorary street sign for Playboy founder Hugh Hefner, whom they called the "world's

biggest pornographer," only to have Ald. Burton F. Natarus (42nd) use a parliamentary maneuver to ram it through the next day.

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-pbox28.html>

Chicago Sun-Times

February 28, 2006

Fatal raid led to indictments, but all acquitted

By Andrew Herrmann

"You can murder a liberator but you can't murder liberation," a fiery Fred Hampton said in a speech in the spring of 1969.

By winter, Hampton was dead at age 21.

Was it murder? Hampton's supporters say that police, on Dec. 4, 1969, executed Hampton and another man in a pre-dawn raid at 2337 W. Monroe, an apartment that served as the local headquarters of the Black Panthers.

A federal grand jury later concluded that police, led by then-Cook County State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan, fired between 83 and 99 shots while the occupants had fired once.

An activist as a Maywood teen in the 1960s -- at 19, he led a protest over the lack of swimming pools in that western suburb's black neighborhoods -- Hampton, along with now-U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Ill.) and two others founded the Illinois branch of the Black Panthers.

In his April 1969 speech, Hampton boasted that the Panthers were well-armed and not afraid to use those weapons. The group's free breakfast program was being undermined by whispers the Panthers were Communists. "You put your hands on that program mother----- and I'll blow your mother----- brains out," Hampton warned authorities in the speech.

"I'm not afraid to say I'm at war with the pigs," Hampton told the Chicago Sun-Times shortly before the raid.

Hanrahan told reporters that the raid had been a gun battle, but Sun-Times writer Brian Boyer reported a version that contradicted the state's attorney's account. As criticism mounted, Hanrahan re-enacted the raid for a WBBM-Channel 2 newscast and gave the Chicago Tribune photographs of doors in the apartment supposedly riddled by Panther gunfire. The Sun-Times countered with a story showing that the "bullet holes" were really nail heads.

Hanrahan and several police officers who either participated in the raid or investigated it were later indicted for obstructing justice. They all were acquitted.

