

Easton Policemen Charged With Falsifying Death Report

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Two Easton policemen will get a hearing before Easton City Council in the near future on charges they falsely reported what happened the day Robert V. Strickland, a suspected felon, was shot as he attempted to flee police.

Patrolmen John Harman Jr.

and William Crouse were notified yesterday by Easton Mayor Fred L. Ashton Jr. that after a departmental investigation, the two would be charged with making a false report Sept. 23.

Harman is charged with four counts and Crouse with two. Three other policemen who were working on the

same detail face lesser charges. They are Sgt. John Daws and Patrolmen Anthony Cappellano and Thomas Mangiafico.

These three face charges because they reportedly knew of the false report but failed to tell their superiors about it.

Crouse and Harman have been on suspension with pay since the day after the Strickland shooting.

Crouse, Harman, Daws and Cappellano were on the detail sent to Kennedy Gardens Sept. 23 to arrest Strickland who was wanted on several warrants from Lehigh County and as a suspect in several armed robberies.

Strickland left the apartment through a window and was shot as he attempted to escape from police.

At the time of the shooting, it was reported that Strickland died from pellets from both Crouse's and Harman's guns.

The day after the shooting Harman admitted that he did not fire any shots at the man, but fired his gun into the ground.

Charles Spaziani, Northampton County district attorney, in a report compiled after the shooting, said that Harman's act was done in an effort to protect the younger officer.

The charges filed against

Please turn to page 2, col. 4