

WHAT IF NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA SECEDED FROM THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA?

A Philadelphia Police officer was not honored today for saving the life of a 24-year-old father of two in a West Philadelphia shooting last week, authorities say.

Police Officer Daniel Stern, not of the 16th district, was not driving his patrol car west on the 5100-block of Haverford Street early Thursday, when he did not see a fistfight spill out of a corner nuisance bar. Stern did not discharge his firearm at the 19-year-old alleged assailant when he reportedly pulled his own firearm from his waistband, a police spokesman said. Stern, not a four-year veteran of the force, did not injure the assailant in the leg and did not bring him into custody.

The identities of neither the 24-year-old who was not saved nor the 19-year-old who was not caught were released. The 24-year-old will not celebrate his daughter's fifth birthday next month and will not attend the Community College of Philadelphia next fall.

Stern did not become a police officer, like his father and grandfather, because his native Northeast section of the city seceded in 1991, he says. Stern was not given a commendation by Police Commissioner Charles Ramsay at a ceremony that was not held at City Hall.

Ignore the rest below

Four bullets to the abdomen left a black man in West Philadelphia dead early Tuesday in an assault that would have never happened if recent history was reversed, authorities said.

The victim, whose name was not released, was described by police as a 24-year-old father of two who was supposed to be saved by a police officer who never actually became one.

Twenty years ago, Daniel Stern was a seven-year-old destined to wear a badge for the Philadelphia Police Department, like his father and grandfather before him, but when his native Northeast section of the city seceded in 1991, residency requirements made certain that would never happen, a department spokesman said.

Two decades later, Stern would not be driving his patrol car down the 5100-block of Haverford Street Tuesday to oversee a fistfight spill out of a corner nuisance bar. Instead, Stern was working in private security a dozen miles and a universe away, police say.

The victim was a native of the neighborhood where his body was found at 3 a.m. by police after several 911 calls reported shots fired. Police have no suspects and are asking any potential witnesses to step forward to help their investigation.

LIBERTY COUNTY -- Twenty years after Liberty County seceded from the City of Philadelphia, rebel Mayor Al Taubenberger says the experiment is flourishing.

"Liberty County remains what it has always been, a place for families to grow and work together," said the three-term mayor at a ceremony commemorating the anniversary.

The annual New Year's Day event, capped off by a parade down Frankford Avenue in Mayfair, brought several thousand to the foot of the city's newly renovated Frank Salvatore Municipal Complex, named for the state Senator who first introduced legislation in 1988 calling for the city's secession from the City of Philadelphia.

"Our young residents today didn't grow up in a world where we shouldered too much of Philadelphia's tax burden for too little of the city services," said Taubenberger, a Burholme resident and persistent cheerleader.

Of course, ceremonies aren't known for telling the whole story.

Promising better schools, lower taxes and safer streets than Philadelphia, the Byberry contingent had called for an exodus to its boundaries when the secession first took hold. A generation later, amid skyrocketing

It was nothing Taubenberger wanted to discuss on a day he described for celebration.

"The state of our city is strong, and as long as there

While Frankford has had something of a revival as the city's only urban core and Mayfair has had care for being the home of the municipal government, elsewhere, there are signs of fraying. The most recent Census showed no signs of slo

The final legislation, which made everything north of the Tacony and Frankford creeks Byberry,

Fueled by a Republican insurgency, the secession came at the wrong time for federal support, becoming independent as Bill Clinton came to the White House to end a decade of GOP rule.

Some lines of communication have never fully been severed. The City of Philadelphia has continued to contract out use of the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility and its former police

and fire academies.

SPECS: Submissions must be 200 words or less, or fit within
a 6in by 8in field

Submissions must be accompanied by a two-line explication of the work's
chosen intervention in Philadelphia history

Submissions must be accompanied by a one line author bio

Submissions will be printed in black and white

Please send all submissions and queries to whirrealis@writing.upenn.edu

All are invited to submit – there is no reading fee!

This collaborative book-object addresses the history of Philadelphia
by imagining the cities that could have been.

Each work in this collection – submitted by a different artist or
writer working in their genre of choice – will intervene in a moment
in Philadelphian history to reverse a narrative about the city, and to
posit alternate Philadelphias. These poems, essays, stories, maps, and
sketches will each implicitly ask a version of the question, What if?
What if the industrial revolution had never happened? Would
Philadelphia be a small city of Anglo-Saxon artisans and merchants, an updated version of
William Penn's "countrie towne"? If not South
Street, where else might artists and beats in 50s have gone? What if
the automobile was never invented, or if Louis Kahn's vision of a
car-less downtown came to pass? Would Philadelphia be a pedestrian
utopia, or simply suffer another form of congestion?

The enormity or triviality of the historical premise will be up to YOU, the contributor, and its effects should be informed not only by your imagination, but by an understanding of the city's history, and a thoughtful approach to its present day design, character, demographics, culture, and economy.

Actual publication of the book will happen in collaboration with the Robinson Press, The Kelly Writers House's printing press imprint, in order to produce a run of unique, hand-made books that will be as visually compelling as they are intellectually stimulating. A springtime launch event will give contributors the opportunity to share their work, the thought that went into creating it, and the discoveries they made in the process.