

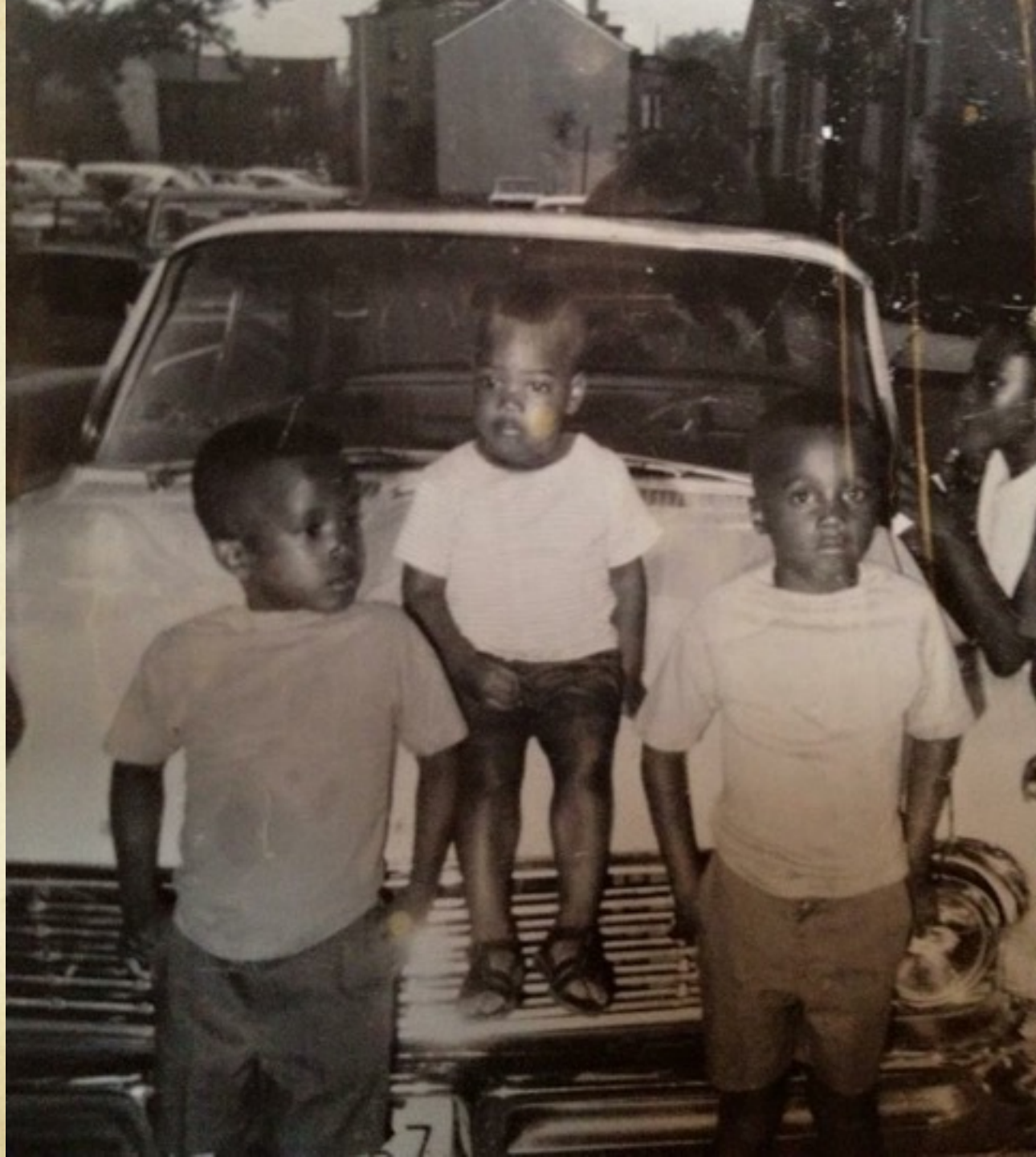


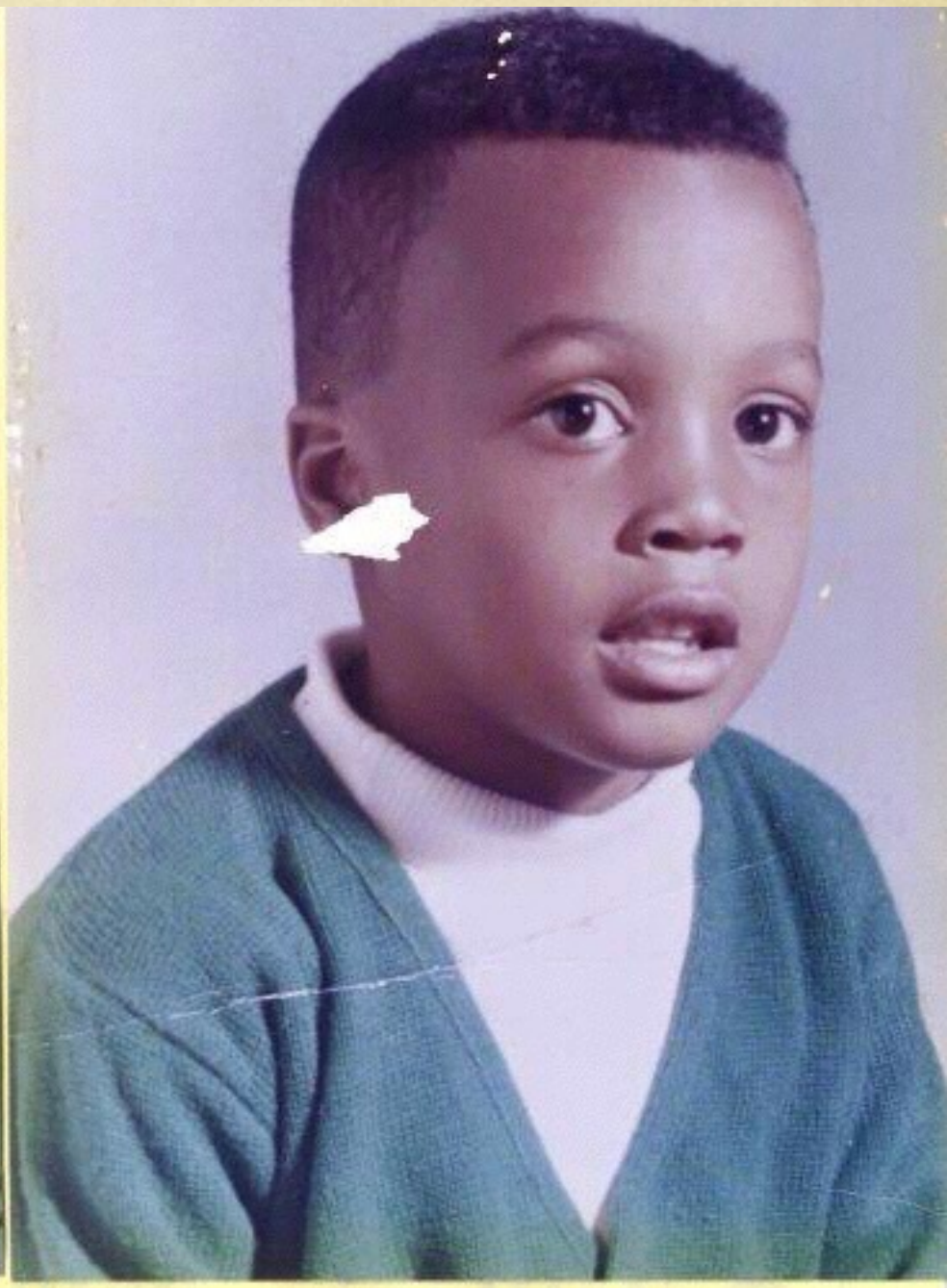
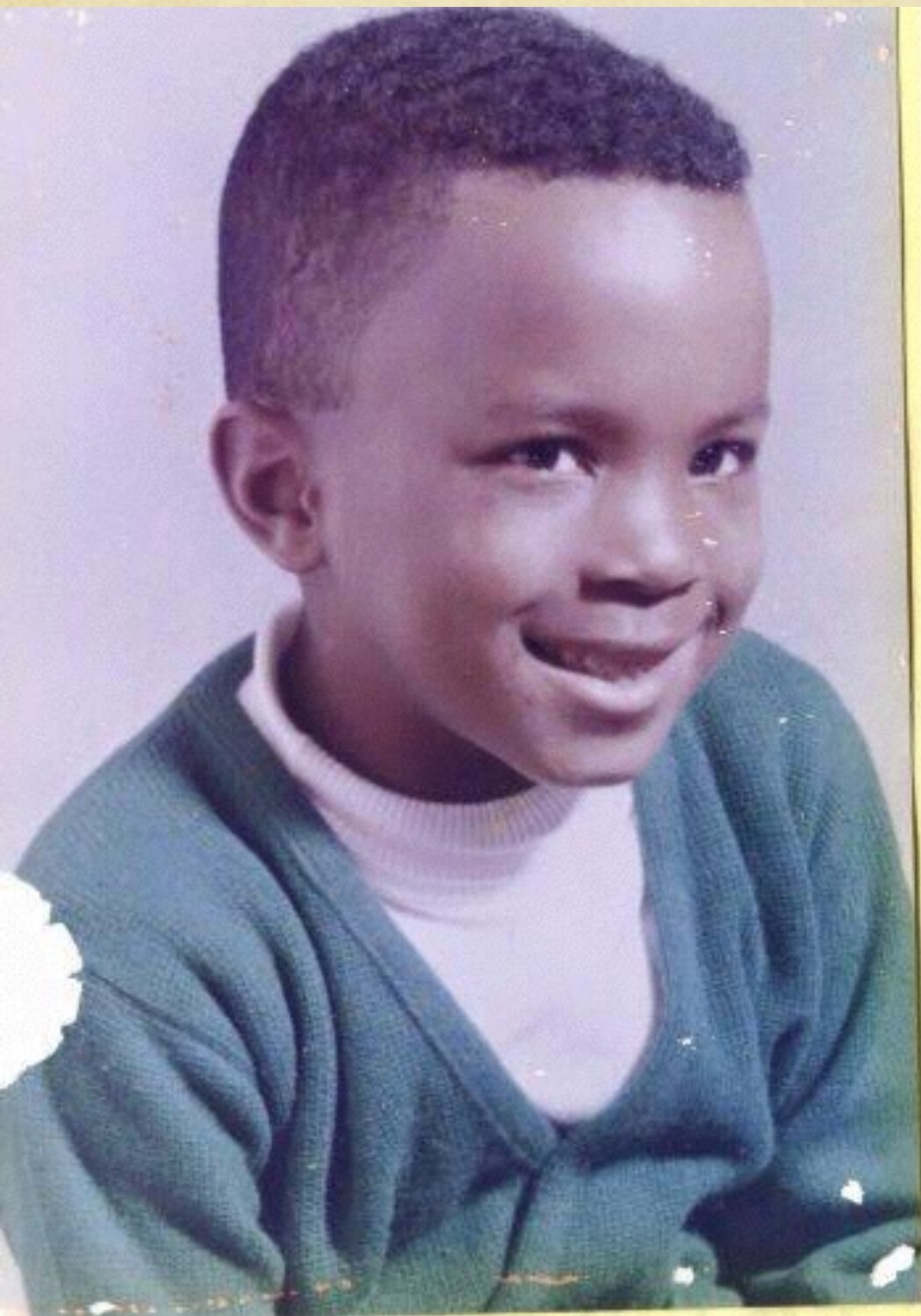
***From the Block,  
To the Boardroom***

Tracey D. Syphax

**A Child is Born**









**DEMONSTRATION** — Police Chief John A. Lanahan, center, left photo, and Capt. John McKeever discuss demands of 400 demonstrators with Walter (Pinky) Brown, right, on Lincoln Ave. yesterday. In the other picture, a demonstrator restrains the mother of eight-year-old Troy Syphax as she displays a newspaper containing the story of her son's death.

Trentonian Photo By Steve Mervish



Staff Photo By Calvin Solliday

Police Chief John A. Lanahan (center) and other police officials talk to angry residents at Lincoln and Seward Avenues.

**Finding My Way, Making Bad  
Decisions**











## City cops seek 3 in liquor store shooting

Trenton police yesterday were seeking three suspects in the failed robbery attempt of an Oakland Avenue liquor store that left two people wounded Saturday night.

"These three are particularly dangerous," said acting Deputy Chief Joseph Constance. "We'd like to see them off the street."

The first suspect entered Carter's Liquor Store shortly before 9 p.m. Saturday wearing a mask and carrying a gun, Constance said.

The store's owner tried to run and set off the alarm, but the suspect opened fire, hitting store clerk Margaret Syphax, 27, and customer, Russell Rowe, 26, both of Trenton.

The suspect then fled without any money. As he ran out the door, an accomplice who was waiting outside and carrying a shotgun also fired a shot, but didn't hit anyone.

The two linked up with a third man and fled down nearby railroad

tracks and disappeared into the Hoffman Avenue area, Constance said.

Syphax was treated for a leg wound and released that night, and Rowe was in stable condition with wounds to the hand, upper arm and shoulder, hospital officials said.

Witnesses described the shooter as about 25, 5-foot-9 with a medium build and wearing blue jeans, a red sweater and a wool knit cap.

— MATT FAGAN

## Man charged with weapons possession

TRENTON — A city man was arrested on weapons charges after a disturbance at a Princeton Avenue home early yesterday, police said.

Tracey D. Syphax, 26, of the 100 block of Hoffman Avenue, was charged with the unlawful possession of a .22-caliber automatic pistol, possession of hollow-point bullets and resisting arrest, police said.

The incident began when police were called to a home in the 100 block of Princeton Avenue at 2:25 a.m. after an anonymous woman caller said a man there had a gun, said police spokesman Sgt. Robert Orłowski.

When patrolmen arrived and entered the residence, they heard several people run upstairs, Orłowski said.

INVESTIGATING, police saw Syphax and a woman, whose name was not released, entering the third floor attic area of the home through the ceiling of a bedroom closet, police said.

A fully loaded, .22-caliber automatic pistol was found in the corner of the closet, police said.

## Woman Held in Boyfriend's Shooting

By PAUL MICKLE

Staff Writer

A Trenton woman allegedly fired a bullet that lodged in her boyfriend's spine yesterday while ping-pong at another woman with whom she had just sleeping on Southard Street, police said. Kristin Whitmore, 21, of Colonial Avenue, was held without bail in the city lockup last night after her boyfriend, 25-year-old Tracy Syphax of Hoffman Avenue, was reported in critical condition in the operating room at Mercer Medical Center.

Acting Chief of Police Frank M. Brady said Whitmore was charged with aggravated assault and weapons offenses even though, as investigators learned, she allegedly had been ping-pong to shoot another woman during the

shooting at 11:45 a.m. on the sidewalk of the 800 block of Southard.

Sgt. Joseph Salvatore said detectives Mike Salvatore and Jim Taylor learned after talking with witnesses that victim Syphax was trying to break up a fight between Whitmore and the other woman, identified only as "Cindy," when he was hit.

The sergeant alleged that the suspect pulled a chrome-plated, .25-caliber revolver and started waving it back and forth. He said she was trying to take aim, after Syphax separated her and "Cindy" and the intended target of the bullet started fighting the man.

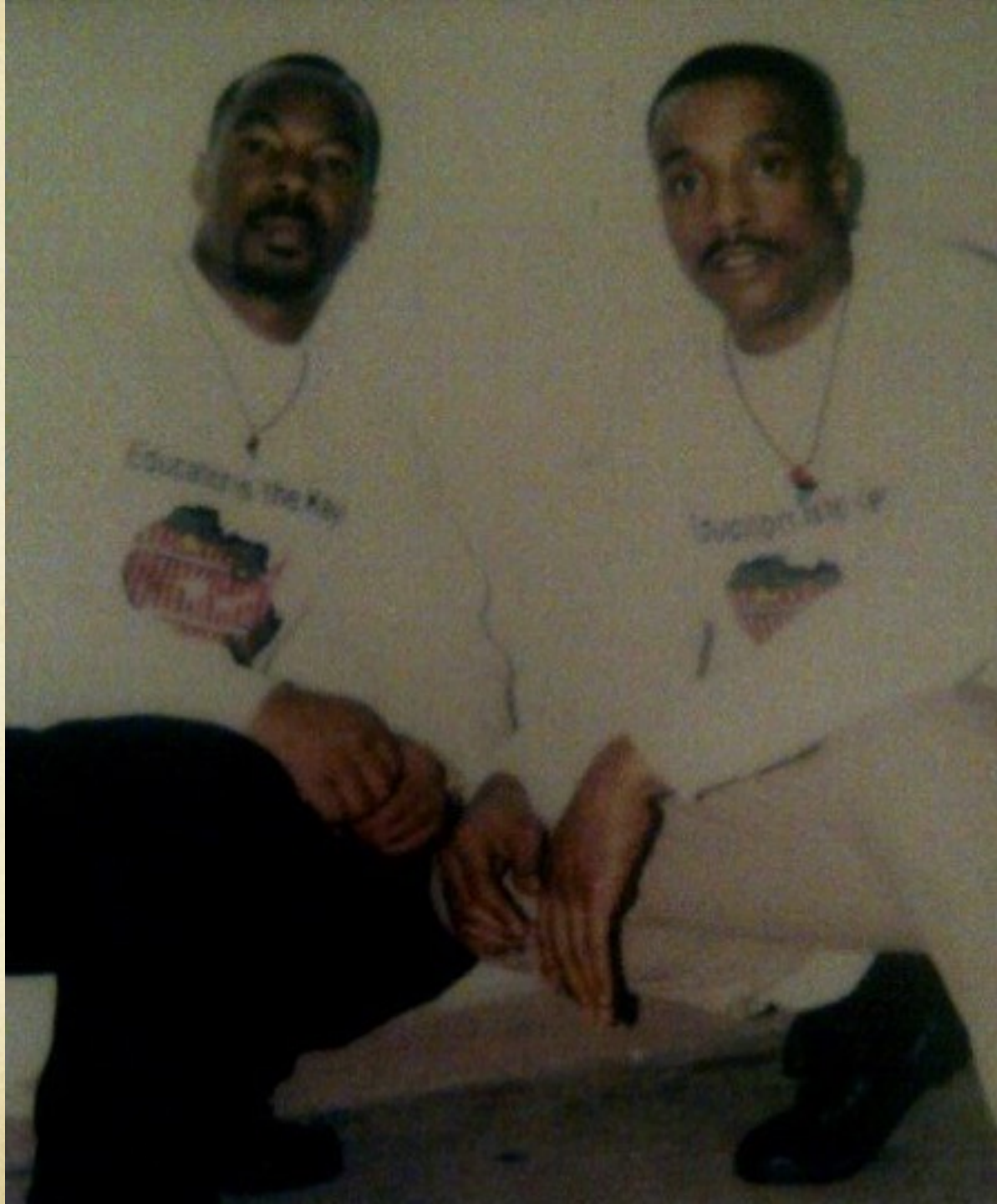
After the shooting, police alleged, Whitmore used a friend of Syphax, 29-year-old Dexter Smith of the 600 block of Princeton Avenue, put the victim in a car and rushed him to the West

Ward hospital.

Police said the suspected handgun was ditched along Southard at Willow Street, but added that Smith later allegedly retrieved it and took it to his home. By early afternoon, however, the detectives had learned what allegedly happened to the weapon and went to Smith's apartment, which his girlfriend permitted them to search. Smith was charged with weapons offenses as a result, police said.

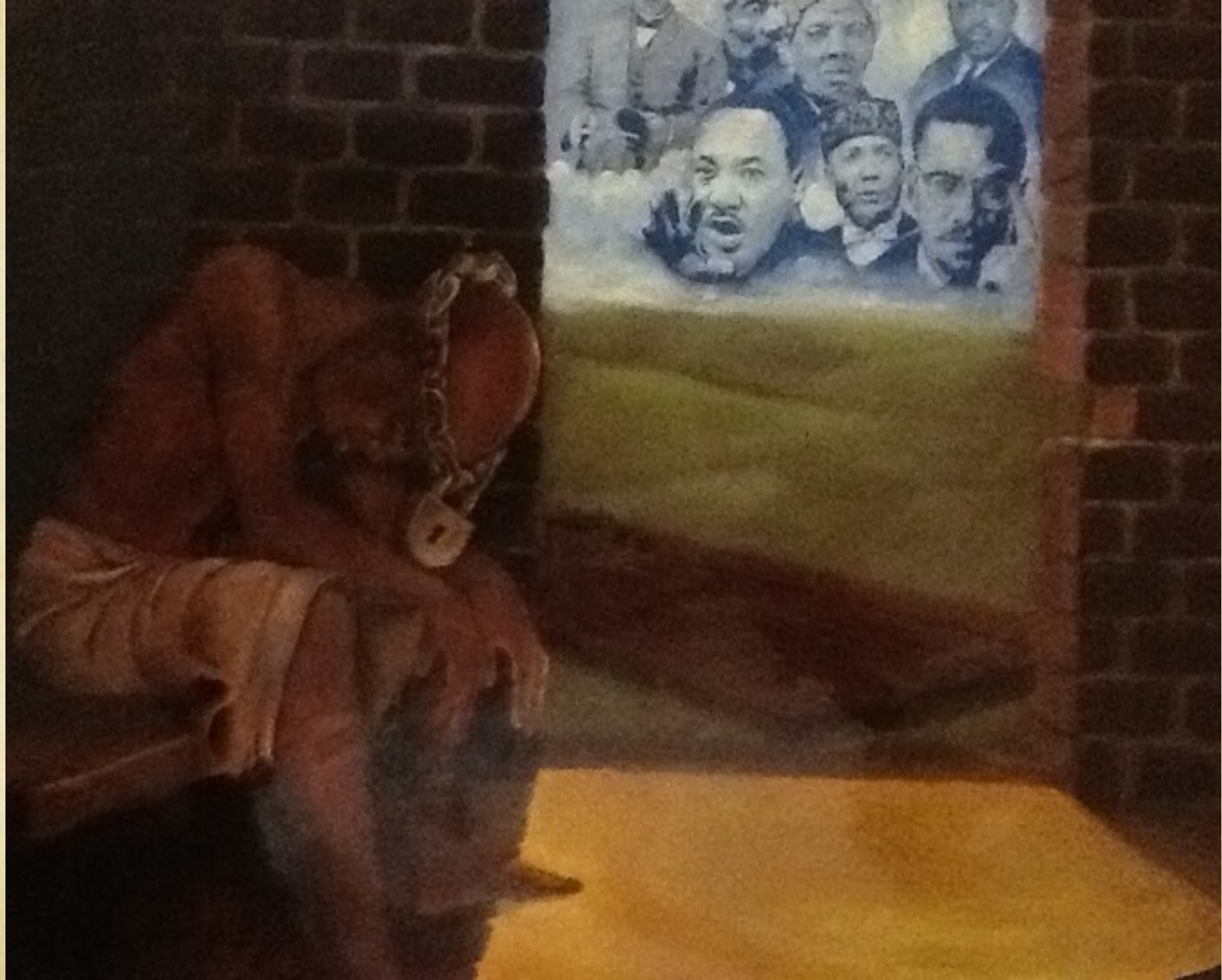
According to a report filed by officers Rick Girman and Edgar Rios, Syphax initially was hit in the right arm by the bullet, which then traveled off into his chest and traveled through his body to lodge in his spine. Girman and Rios were credited with taking Whitmore into custody at the hospital.

**Doing Time: I Didn't Change, I Woke  
Up**









A large, bright sun is the central focus, partially obscured by a large, dark, circular shadow on the left. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and a single bird is captured in flight against the sun's glow. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by oranges, yellows, and reds, with a dark silhouette of a landscape at the bottom.

**I didn't change**  
**I just woke up**

**From Jumpsuit, to Business Suit**

# From jumpsuit to business

Ex-con Syphax  
a role model  
for MOET grads

By L.A. PARKER  
Staff Writer

TRENTON — Tracey Syphax feels more comfortable in a suit than in a jumpsuit.

Syphax, one of the city's great rags-to-riches tales, yesterday accepted a role as co-chairman of a newly formed Mayor's Office of Employment Training (MOET) Advisory Board, joining Merrill Howe, assistant president of Commerce

Syphax did seven years in prison for possession and an arm's length of drug offenses that earned him a range jumpsuit.

Years after his release, he still has the "felon" tag, but his battles are waged as president and CEO of Capital City Con-

line. "I had a praying grandmother (Saunders) who promised I would not lose faith in me," Syphax said yesterday, dressed in a light-colored suit and beaming — a poster boy for city men who



Trentonian Photo/GREGG SLABODA

Tracey Syphax (right), co-chairman of the Mayor's Office of Employment Training Advisory Board, is introduced yesterday by Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer (not pictured). His rags-to-riches, prison-to-corporate story is an example of hope for MOET graduates.

rules are stacked against them when they get out," he said.

MOET was created to help former felons learn money-producing skills that can get them jobs to keep them from returning to prison.

Morris, Thomas Pierce and Huell Caldwell.

Green graduated from the Sherwin Williams and ISLES Inc. micro-business seminar, while

Morris is an ex-con who became a New Jersey state trooper.

Pierce is an ex-con who became a while Caldwell is a former Trenton Marriott.

"I got five offers from the court to go home, sat in jail for 10 days."

"Wow," Morris said. "I'm on a tie to go home, returning to success on my own."

"But what if I push this? It gave people a chance," he said. "I've seen my success. I see my success. Thanks for the chance."

Health Secretary Caldwell said each unit will have one opportunity for success.

Howe said the board will be a "Plus" program.

"Plus 40 employees is to start a base micro-business generate jobs for the community."



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# BLACK HISTORY

## Tracey Syphax's new bio book delivers message on re-entry

Tracey D. Syphax is the CEO of two successful organizations, Capitol City Contracting Inc. and Phax Group, LLC.

Syphax embarked on a new venture beginning early 2011. He began to pull a team together to put out his first book entitled "From The Block To The Boardroom."

In June of 2011, the book opened the door for him to focus more attention on reentry. Tracey has previously shared his unique story with inmates in state correctional facilities and other venues throughout the Tri-State area with the hope that his story would in-

spire at least one person.

Tracey served on the former Mayor of Trenton, Mayor's Office of Employment and Training (MOET), which was designed to reduce reentry by providing employment, vocational training and education opportunities. This is an important issue and Tracey is more that dedicated to establishing a solution as it relates to the problem.

Tracey knows all too well about re-entry, because he is an ex-offender. Re-entry remains one of the biggest issues plaguing states across America, as housing non-violent offenders is costing tax pay-



TRACEY D. SYPHAX

ers collectively the equivalent of sending a child to college. So the question is then raised, "Why are we not sending more children to college?"

With the release of "From The Block To The Boardroom" which is Tracey's biography/blueprint for the aspiring business professionals, the focus remains clear. Get to the root of the problem, focus on the solution, and change lives by providing individuals the essential tools necessary to begin to change

their own lives.

Through his efforts and connections with organizations who share his vision, Tracey is making a difference. Not just in the Trenton area where he resides, but by building connections through social media, and traveling throughout and outside the state of New Jersey to align with forces who wish to work towards a solution.

What he envisions for ex-offenders in Trenton is being realized in states, counties, cities and urban areas all around the United States.

Crime and ignorance remain no zip code, they are universally destroying our neighborhoods and we have the opportunity to change that.

Together we can change a mindset.

Together we can become the solution. T

ogether we can create more individuals who have no desire to reenter, because they have the necessary training and tools to become productive citizens.



Justin's Wholesale Carpets

Roy Summers



# **Changing the Face of Re-Entry**

## Trenton man to be honored at White House today for efforts helping ex-offenders

By Jenna Pizzi

TRENTON — Tracey Syphax knows what it's like to come out of prison and try to find a job and become part of society again.

Now, the city resident owns a local construction company and works to help other former offenders find jobs. For his efforts, Syphax is being honored today at the White House as a Champion of Change, which recognizes those people who are making a difference in their communities.

Syphax, who is one of 15 people being honored today, was featured in a 2014 documentary about the prison and criminal justice system, said he is elated to receive the acknowledgement of his actions to help formerly incarcerated individuals with re-entry into the workforce.

"It is a great honor," he said. "I am definitely very humbled about it."

Syphax spent several years in jail for drug and weapons possession. He said his personal story of success in starting his own business, Phax Group Construction and Design, has helped him to advocate for former offenders and for reforms to the justice system for nonviolent offenders. Syphax details his success story in his memoir, "From the Block to the Boardroom."

"To continue to lock folks up for ... best offenders doesn't make sense





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 5, 2014

Mr. Tracey Syphax  
Trenton, New Jersey

Dear Tracey:

Congratulations on being selected as a White House Champion of Change. Thank you for the work you do every day.

From the earliest days of our founding, our Nation has been shaped by ordinary people who have dared to dream and used their unique skills to do extraordinary things. Americans like you help carry this tradition forward by reaching for new ideas that will help our country win the future. You and your fellow Champions embody the change you want to see in the world. Together, we will out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world to keep our country strong.

Congratulations, again, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be Barack Obama's signature.















**SUCCESS** ▶

◀ **FAILURE**

**FROM THE BLOCK**

**TO THE**

**BOARDROOM**

THE TRACEY D. SYPHAX STORY