

**-E. SIDE CAR-THEFT SUSPECT KILLED IN STRUGGLE WITH COP (METRO, SPORTS EXTRA)**  
**-CAR-BURGLAR SUSPECT KILLED IN STRUGGLE WITH COP (LATE CITY FINAL)**

The New York Post

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## **Body**

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A suspected car thief with a crack habit and 21 convictions was shot dead yesterday in a struggle with a **cop** on the Upper East Side, police said.

The 3:45 a.m. shooting - the third involving **cops** and civilians since Sunday - appears to be justified, **cops** said. They think Larry Cobb, 30, was **killed** when Officer Douglas Grant's gun accidentally discharged.

"It appears as if the police officers were justified in what they did," Mayor Giuliani said.

But Cobb's mother said that while her son was known to break into cars and smoke crack, he was unlikely to resort to violence.

"They did not have to **kill** my son," said Carolyn Cobb, who rushed to the scene after hearing what had happened. "He was not violent."

Grant, an 18-year veteran, and his partner, Lisa Moran, a five-year veteran, got out of their patrol car on East 95th Street when they noticed the interior light of a parked black Mitsubishi Montero was on, police said.

One of the vehicle's windows had been busted, but Cobb was not in the car. Instead, the **cops** found him lying underneath another parked car, police said.

At that point, Grant pulled out his Glock 9mm as Moran told Cobb to get out from under the car.

When he did, Grant, who is about 6 feet tall with a medium build, tried to arrest Cobb, but the 6-foot 1-inch, 190-pound suspect put up a struggle, the two of them bouncing off parked cars until the shot was fired, police said.

The "slide" that ejects the shell casing jammed because Grant never had full control of his gun, confirming the existence of a struggle, a source said.

"The gun was interfered with," the source added. "The shooting was an accident."

A single hollow-point bullet from Grant's gun struck Cobb in the chest, though he managed to flee around the corner onto 2nd Avenue, where he collapsed and died, police said.

Cobb had a boxcutter, a pocketknife and a crack pipe on him, sources said.

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He also was carrying a nylon bag with a cell phone and other property belonging to the Montero's owner - plus a white bag of compact discs, sources said.

**Cops** said neither officer had been involved in a prior shooting.

Cobb had 22 arrests, all but one resulting in guilty pleas. He had numerous arrests for auto-related crimes, and fought with **cops** on at least two occasions, police said.

But his brother, Kevin, 29, said Cobb "was the nicest, most respectful person when he was clean - but Larry on crack was a different person."

Still, he said, two **cops** should have been able to subdue Cobb without shooting him.

"They can't convince me that they could not restrain him," Kevin Cobb said. "They took advantage of the fact that they had a gun."

Police earlier this week shot two men, one fatally, in separate confrontations.

On Sunday, Angel Reyes, 47, was fatally wounded after he threatened a **cop** with a 34-inch machete in East Harlem.

On Monday, Raymond Bereford, 56, was shot and critically wounded during a buy-and-bust operation in Brooklyn.

Police said both those shootings appear to be justified. Both suspects have extensive arrest records.

Despite three shootings in four days, police said **cops** have fired their weapons less frequently this year than last.

For instance, 99 **cops** fired their weapons in 84 separate shooting incidents in the first six months of this year - compared with 168 **cops** in 129 incidents for the same time period last year.

Police also said that for the same time frame, **cops killed** five civilians and injured 14 others - compared with 10 **killed** and 21 wounded for 1998.

## Graphic

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DEATH SCENE: **Cops** check the body of Larry Cobb, who was **killed** after a suspected car break-in. N.Y. Post: G.N. Miller (metro, sports **extra**)

## Classification

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Language: ENGLISH

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**Industry:** MOTOR VEHICLES (78%); EMERGENCY VEHICLES (78%); PLASTIC FILM SHEETS & BAGS (60%); MOBILE & CELLULAR TELEPHONES (50%)

**Person:** RUDY GIULIANI (55%)

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