

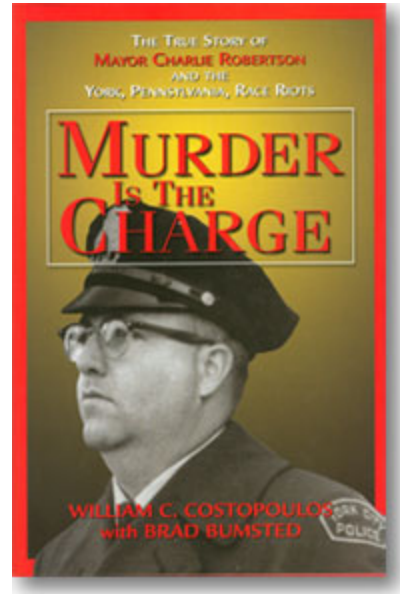
# Murder Is the Charge

## The True Story of Mayor Charlie Robertson and the York, Pennsylvania, Race Riots

William C. Costopoulos  
with Brad Bumsted

### Preface

Thirty-two years after bloody race riots left portions of the city of York, Pennsylvania, ablaze, former police officer Charles Robertson was charged with murder.



Robertson was the mayor of York in 2001 when he was charged with the murder of Lillie Belle Allen for his actions as an officer in 1969.

The case from the outset was media-driven.

The prosecution was not only media-driven; it was also, in part, politically motivated.

Charles Robertson became a defendant because he was mayor.

His arrest became grist for the local and national media for almost two years, while his life hung in the balance by a thread.

In many criminal cases, especially high-profile ones, the truth often gets twisted and lost. Twisted by prosecutors, defense lawyers, witnesses, and the media; lost on the courtroom floor, where the search for truth is sacred. One purpose of this book is to lay out the truth—about Charles Robertson, his city, the events of 1969, the media, and the American criminal justice system.

In writing this book, I intend to address these issues and tell it the way I see it, without regard for political correctness or the consequences.