

CAMPAIGN PACK 03

THE AVENUE

A Central Avenue territory pack for L.A. Dick

Edition 01 · Set in 1947–1953

L.A. DICK // CAMPAIGN PACK // A5

Central Avenue is Black Los Angeles. The Dunbar Hotel, the Lincoln Theater, the Last Word, Brother's, the Club Alabam. Charlotta Bass at the California Eagle. The 77th Street Division at the other end of every conversation. Restrictive covenants on every other block. Charlie Parker passing through.

Local pressure rule. Crossing Lines. D66 contacts. The Eagle's File as the Long Investigation. The Last File seed. Everything you need to run a Central Avenue campaign in the L.A. Dick engine, from a Black or white investigator's perspective.

Local pressure // Crossing Lines // The Eagle's File
For L.A. Dick: A Solo Investigation Engine

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START HERE

*Campaign procedures for L.A. Dick. The case is still L.A. Dick.
The Avenue is what changes.*

The Avenue is a campaign pack for L.A. Dick. It gives Central Avenue and Black Los Angeles enough local pressure, contacts, faction memory, and arc material to carry a solo investigator through a full campaign on the Avenue.

Use the core L.A. Dick rules for the case engine. This book tells you what those rules look like in a neighborhood the city of Los Angeles polices like an occupation, where the Black professional class lives within four square miles because restrictive covenants mean it cannot live anywhere else, and where the Avenue between 12th and 41st Streets carries the entire weight of a community's economic, cultural, and political life.

WHAT YOU NEED AT THE DESK

- The L.A. Dick core rules.
- One investigator and their Code.
- One Case Index Card for the active case.
- One Campaign Record for everything that carries forward.
- This book open to whichever chapter has the table you need.

WHAT THIS BOOK ADDS

The Avenue adds local consequences to normal L.A. Dick play. Three actions per session. Clock ticks up. Heat rises. Sit-Down resolves in three beats.

Use local rules when the case needs a face, a cost, a location, or a consequence:

- Roll local sources when you need someone to LEAN.
- Roll contact complications when a source should cost more than a single roll.
- Use Crossing Lines when an action moves between Central and a white neighborhood, or when a white investigator works the Avenue.
- Use faction clocks when LAPD 77th Street Division, the California Eagle, the NAACP attorneys, or the Avenue's own community institutions begin remembering the investigator.
- Use the Eagle's File when a case touches an unsolved Black-victim case the city closed without working it.

BUILDING YOUR INVESTIGATOR FOR THE AVENUE

The Avenue plays differently for a Black investigator and for a white one. Both are supported. Decide before the first case.

Black investigator. Likely a veteran of a segregated Army or Navy unit (the 92nd, the 93rd, the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion at Omaha Beach, the Tuskegee Airmen, Steward's Mate ratings). Office almost certainly on or near the Avenue. Clients walk in: a wife whose husband works the Pacific Electric and didn't come home; an NAACP attorney who needs a witness located; a doctor whose office was burglarized and who will not call the LAPD; the California Eagle paying a retainer.

White investigator. Office downtown or in Hollywood. Clients sometimes ask you to work the Avenue because they don't have a Black investigator on retainer or because the case starts elsewhere and points here. You are visible the moment you cross 12th Street.

The mechanics adjust automatically through the Crossing Lines rule below.

STARTING AN AVENUE CAMPAIGN

1. Build or choose an L.A. Dick investigator.
2. Decide whether the investigator is Black or white. Mark it on the Campaign Record.
3. Write a Code that can be tested by a 77th Street captain or a community institution. The Avenue's Code tests are different in flavor than Hollywood's.
4. Set Territory to Central Avenue instead of rolling Step 5.
5. Roll the rest of the Case Generator normally.
6. Start Familiarity at 0 unless the investigator has a reason to know the Avenue. A Black investigator with a Central Avenue office may begin Familiarity at 1.
7. Write three faction clocks: LAPD 77th Street Division, the California Eagle, and one Avenue institution (the Dunbar, the NAACP LA branch, the Lincoln Theater management). Add a fourth when the case touches the policy banks, Cohen's Sunset operation, or the LAPD Intelligence Division.
8. Set Long Investigation stage to None unless the case shows one of the signs listed under When to Use the Long Investigation.
9. If the Eagle's File is in play, Charlotta Bass has either given the investigator the file or has not. Either is a campaign decision. The file is a real artifact — describe it, name it, write the first three entries on the Campaign Record.

READING THE AVENUE

The territory has four operating zones, all within a fifteen-block stretch and all parts of the same community.

The Avenue itself is South Central Avenue, the spine, running from 12th Street south through 41st and beyond. Black-owned businesses, restaurants, churches, the Eagle, the Dunbar Hotel, the Lincoln Theater, the Club Alabam, after-hours places not on any directory.

The Side Streets are the residential blocks east and west of the Avenue: bungalows, four-flats, the small Black professional class's homes. Restrictive covenants legally banned Black ownership of property in most of LA until the Supreme Court's Shelley v. Kraemer ruling of 1948. The covenants survived informally afterward through real-estate practice, lender redlining, and white violence.

Watts is south. Originally a separate town with its own Black population since the 1910s, annexed by Los Angeles in 1926. Different texture: industrial, more working-class, the Watts Towers under construction by Sabato Rodia through this entire period.

The Stations are the two LAPD divisions whose territory touches the Avenue: 77th Street Division (south, the Avenue's main occupier) and Newton Street Division (north, the Avenue's downtown end). Both are known to the community as institutions of harassment and arrest. Reform-era Chief William Parker (from August 1950) is more disciplined than his predecessors but no less openly racist.

When an action crosses these zones, or when an action crosses out of Central Avenue into a white neighborhood, the case should feel more exposed. That is what Crossing Lines is for.

WHEN TO USE THE LONG INVESTIGATION

Do not start every Avenue case with the Eagle's File. Let ordinary cases exist: a runaway daughter, a contested estate, a gambler who's late on what he owes, a white client looking for a Black husband she didn't know existed, a witness needed for a covenant case Loren Miller is trying.

Bring in the Eagle's File when the case produces one of these signs:

- A body found in the Avenue's blocks that the LAPD ruled accidental, suicide, or natural causes.
- A missing-persons file from before 1950 that the LAPD has marked closed without explanation.
- A pattern that connects a current case to a 1944 or 1946 case the LAPD never worked.
- A Black witness who says, "they did this before."
- A reference to "Mrs. Bass's file" by anyone older than thirty.

The Long Investigation should make the campaign feel deeper, not replace the case in front of the investigator.

FIRST CASE ADVICE

Let the first Avenue case be local. A clean opener for a Black investigator: the wife of a Pacific Electric conductor whose husband was found beaten in an alley off 41st and the LAPD ruled it a robbery without taking a statement; a Lincoln Theater manager whose receipts have been short three Tuesdays in a row; an NAACP attorney looking for a witness to a covenant violation in Leimert Park.

A clean opener for a white investigator: a client downtown asks you to find a Black domestic servant who quit and disappeared; an insurance company asks you to verify a death at the Dunbar that the LAPD wrote up as an overdose; a defense lawyer asks you to find an alibi witness who lives somewhere on the Avenue. The Avenue will see you.

WHAT TO TRACK

At the end of every case, update the Campaign Record: close type, Heat reset, Strain, Code Crossed, faction clocks, contact statuses, Familiarity, Eagle's File entries opened, Long Investigation stage. Then write one field note. Something specific.

If you only track one thing carefully, track names. The Avenue remembers through who's been there a long time and who hasn't been there since.

01/

THE AVENUE

Central Avenue. The Dunbar at one end. The 77th Street station at the other. A community held together with everything the city won't give it.

This chapter turns Central Avenue into local procedures for L.A. Dick cases. Use it when the active case happens on the Avenue, on the Side Streets, in Watts, or at one of the Stations.

Canon stance: Central Avenue is the spine of Black Los Angeles in this period. The Dunbar Hotel is the only first-class hotel in the city that admits Black guests. The California Eagle is the city's most influential Black newspaper, edited and owned by Charlotta Bass; in 1952, Bass runs for Vice President on the Progressive Party ticket, the first Black woman ever to do so. The Black professional class — doctors, NAACP attorneys including Loren Miller and Thomas Griffith Jr., Golden State Mutual Life Insurance executives — lives in a four-square-mile area because legally enforced restrictive covenants bar Black ownership elsewhere until *Shelley v. Kraemer* in 1948 and de facto enforcement continues afterward through realtor practice and white violence. The LAPD 77th Street Division is the local face of municipal occupation. Reform-era Chief Parker (from August 1950) is more disciplined than his predecessors and no less openly racist.

HOW TO USE THIS CHAPTER

Use this chapter when Step 5 Territory is Central Avenue. It replaces the single territory texture line with local Heat variants, sources, contacts, faction clocks, sit-down rooms, and aftermath.

TERRITORY PREMISE

The Avenue is one of the most concentrated stretches of Black culture, music, journalism, and economic self-reliance in the United States in this period. It is also a place the city of Los Angeles has decided not to police as a city — it polices it as an occupied territory. Sources here have lived under that math their entire lives.

The work here is reading whose authority matters when. The LAPD's authority matters when an arrest is happening; the NAACP's matters in court; the Eagle's matters in print; the policy operators' matters on the corner; the church's matters at home. The investigator who walks in expecting one of these to win in any given week does badly. The investigator who walks in expecting all of them to be in the room closes cases.

LOCAL PRESSURE RULE: CROSSING LINES

The Avenue's pressure rule depends on who the investigator is.

For a Black investigator. Working the Avenue itself: standard procedures. LEAN at the published threshold; sources who know you may be one tier easier (track separately). Working white-only territories — downtown business districts after dusk, Hollywood, Pasadena, the Side Street homes you don't have the right address for — mark +1 Heat per session for the simple fact of being there, plus any failed-action consequence. PULLS at city offices in white-administered departments are at +1 tier (the clerk does not look up).

For a white investigator. Working the Avenue: every action is one tier harder unless you already have a Loyal Avenue contact accompanying you in the fiction. Sources LEAN with the assumption that you are connected to LAPD, an insurance company, or a process server. The first failed action at any Avenue location each case marks +2 Heat instead of +1. The first contact you make is a marker for the rest of the case — whoever introduces you is responsible for you, and they are noticed.

Either investigator. Crossing zones — Avenue to Side Streets, Side Streets to Watts, anywhere to a Station — in a single action: lose 1 Lead or mark +1 Heat. Pick which one before rolling.

TERRITORY FAMILIARITY

FAMILI- ARITY	EFFECT
1	Once per case, identify whether a source is Avenue, Side Streets, Watts, or Station-adjacent before LEAN. If the source is Avenue-based and you are a Black investigator, LEAN is one tier easier.
3	You know one Eagle reporter and one church deacon by name. Once per case, ignore Crossing Lines on a single zone-crossing action.
5	Avenue Memory. Heat 3 triggers at Heat 4 here. Once per case, turn a failed WALK at any Avenue scene into a mixed result: no Hard Fact, but gain a Lead and mark +1 Heat.

LOCAL HEAT VARIANTS

HEAT VARIANT

- 3 The Avenue knows.** Word reaches the Eagle, the Dunbar bartender, and three church deacons in a morning. First LEAN at any Avenue establishment +1 tier harder.
- 5 77th Street has a card.** The Division has your name on a teletype. If you cross into the Side Streets, lose 1 Lead at session start. White investigators gain +1 to all 77th Street faction-clock effects from this point.
- 7 Direct attention.** A 77th Street detail visits an Avenue establishment to ask about you, by name. The proprietor's source becomes silent. The Clock ticks once now and worsens one contact's status. At later session starts, the Avenue stays watching but the Clock does not tick again from this row.
- 9 Public confrontation.** A 77th Street car parks outside your last known location. All LEAN thresholds increase one tier. Cross-zone actions cost a Lead or +1 Suspicion.
-

D6 LOCAL SOURCE ARCHETYPES

D6 SOURCE

- 1** An Eagle reporter who has been writing about an unsolved Avenue death for two years. Knows what the LAPD wouldn't take down. Wants the file run on the front page.
 - 2** A Pullman porter on the Sunset Limited. Knows who's been traveling and why. Wants his union local intact and his daughter in nursing school.
 - 3** A Lincoln Theater stagehand. Knows who came in the side door and who left at 3 a.m. Wants the management to keep paying union scale.
 - 4** A Dunbar Hotel desk clerk on the night shift. Knows every musician's room and every musician's visitor. Wants out of an arrangement with a 77th Street vice cop.
 - 5** A church deacon at Second Baptist. Knows whose family is asking for help and whose isn't. Wants a missing daughter found before her mother dies.
 - 6** A policy bank runner working for one of the Avenue's Black operators. Knows who's been pressured by Cohen's people to sell. Wants his own bank protected.
-

D6 LOCAL CONTACT COMPLICATIONS

D6 COMPLICATION

- 1** The contact arrives with a 77th Street patrolman shadow they did not call. LEAN normally; any failure marks +2 Heat.
 - 2** The contact will only talk while working: changing reels at the Lincoln, setting tables at the Dunbar, running a Lincoln Heights local. Lose one action or take the information at +1 tier harder.
 - 3** The contact has an NAACP sponsor. Accepting their help marks +1 NAACP Leverage. Refusing makes the next NAACP-tied source unavailable.
 - 4** The contact wants Charlotta Bass to know what they told you. If you don't relay it before next session, worsen their status.
 - 5** The contact is testing whether you are LAPD, FBI, insurance, or actually working for who you say. Spend 1 Lead to answer convincingly or LEAN at Hard minimum.
 - 6** The contact is right but compromised. Gain the clue; mark +1 Suspicion with the faction that can burn them.
-

D6 POSTURE MANIFESTATIONS

D6 MANIFESTATION

- 1 **Buried.** The subject's records cross into the 77th Street basement. Next PULL +1 tier; the Crossing Lines penalty applies twice on this PULL.
 - 2 **Lawyered.** A white attorney downtown calls. Mark +1 LAPD Leverage. Your next sit-down location must be in white territory unless you can prove cause.
 - 3 **Fled.** The subject takes the Sunset Limited east. Person anatomy resets; track them through the Pullman porter's network for it to flip again.
 - 4 **Threatened.** A 77th Street patrolman pays a visit to your most recent source. That source's next LEAN +2 tiers; if their status was Useful or below, drop one step.
 - 5 **Watched.** A car parks across the street from your office or your hotel. For two sessions, the Tail fails automatically. Skipping the Tail in either session marks +1 Heat instead.
 - 6 **Burned.** A fire on the Avenue convenient to the case. Remove 1 Hard Fact from the pool; for the rest of the case, Natural 6 generates only 1 Hard Fact (no Lead).
-

D6 LOCAL CODE TESTS

D6 TEST

- 1 The witness will only sign her statement if you sign first, in your name, with your license number. Standard procedure says she signs alone. The 77th Street Division is more likely to lose the affidavit if her name is the only one on it.
 - 2 The fastest sit-down route runs through a 77th Street substation. Calling on a contact there gives +2 to one roll. Refusing costs the approach advantage.
 - 3 An Eagle reporter offers to break a column on your case before the Sit-Down. Accepting gives +2 to one roll and burns one source after the case (the column will name them).
 - 4 A Black bookmaker is also a witness. Saving his policy bank from Cohen's takeover costs one Leverage equivalent. Letting Cohen's people take the bank keeps the case clean.
 - 5 A Side Street family is in the next room and would talk if you asked. Their daughter is part of the case. You did not ask. You could.
 - 6 Your client wants a Partial Close because the Open Record matters less than the leverage they already extracted. Closing tight against their wishes ends the retainer and reduces Strain by 1.
-

D6 LOCAL SIT-DOWN ROOMS

D6 ROOM

- 1 The Dunbar Hotel restaurant at 11 a.m., before the lunch rush. The piano is uncovered. The waiter knows your investigator's name.
- 2 The California Eagle office on the Avenue. Charlotta Bass is at her desk and has been there since before sunrise. The smell of newsprint and stale coffee.
- 3 The Last Word jazz club, after closing, the chairs upside down on the tables, somebody at the piano sounding out a chord that won't resolve.
- 4 An NAACP attorney's office on Spring Street downtown. Loren Miller's bookshelves. A view of the Hall of Justice through the window.
- 5 A Second Baptist Church meeting room on a Wednesday night, the choir practicing two doors down.
- 6 The 77th Street Division captain's office, on his terms. The chairs face away from the window. The clock on the wall is fifteen minutes fast.

FACTION PRESENCE

LAPD 77TH STREET DIVISION

Suspicion 3: 77th Street has your name on a teletype. First WALK on the Avenue or Side Streets +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: A detective is assigned to follow your work. Failed PULLs in city records mark +1 additional Heat.

Suspicion 6: A grand jury subpoena issues from the LAPD-friendly DA's office. Mark +1 Strain. Reset Suspicion to 3.

Leverage 3: A 77th Street detective who isn't a problem offers parallel intel. Mark +1 LAPD Leverage to accept.

Leverage 5: A captain wants you to drop a case in exchange for closing one of your own files faster.

Leverage 6: An officer who owes you collects. Mark Code Crossed if you accept.

THE CALIFORNIA EAGLE (CHARLOTTA BASS)

Suspicion 3: Bass has questions about your client. PRESS at any Eagle source is +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: A column runs about an Avenue case in a way that closes you out of one source.

Suspicion 6: Bass writes that the investigator should be watched. Reset Suspicion to 3 and mark +1 Strain.

Leverage 3: An Eagle reporter offers parallel investigation on your case.

Leverage 5: Bass wants the case file when you're done. Refusing burns the Avenue press contacts.

Leverage 6: Bass calls in a favor before the Sit-Down. Mark Code Crossed if you accept.

THE NAACP LA BRANCH (LOREN MILLER, THOMAS GRIFFITH JR.)

Suspicion 3: An attorney has questions about your work. First PULL on city housing records +1 tier.

Suspicion 5: A formal letter goes to the State Department of Professional Standards about your license.

Suspicion 6: A civil suit is filed. Reset Suspicion to 3 and mark +1 Strain.

Leverage 3: An NAACP attorney offers a witness for your case in exchange for a favor.

Leverage 5: The branch wants you to testify in a covenant case.

Leverage 6: The branch demands the case file for use in a civil action. Refusing burns the legal community.

THE AVENUE'S POLICY OPERATORS (CRAWFORD, MCGEE, OTHERS)

The Black-owned policy banks of the Avenue. Long-standing operators with community ties. Targets of Cohen's takeover attempts in 1948-1950.

Suspicion 3: The operators know who's been asking about them. First LEAN at any policy operation +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: A bank closes for a session, citing maintenance. Lose access to one Avenue location.

Suspicion 6: An operator's enforcer asks you to leave the Avenue for a week.

Leverage 3: An operator offers a name from inside Cohen's operation in exchange for a name from your case.

Leverage 5: The operators want you to identify Cohen's lieutenant inside their bank.

Leverage 6: The operators demand a favor before the next Sit-Down.

THE HAYS OFFICE EQUIVALENT: THE LOCAL PROPERTY BOARDS

Real-estate boards enforcing restrictive covenants and redlining. After 1948, informal but operational.

Suspicion 3: A local realtor's office has a file. First PULL on real-estate records +1 tier.

Suspicion 5: A covenant-enforcement letter goes to the Side Street home you've been visiting.

Suspicion 6: A realtor moves on a Side Street family, citing your visits as cause.

Leverage 3: A realtor offers parallel information on a property dispute.

Leverage 5: The board wants a covenant signature confirmed before they help.

Leverage 6: The board demands a finding that supports a covenant action.

THE LAST FILE SEED: WHEN THE EAGLE'S FILE CLOSSES

Use this when the Long Investigation reaches Stage 5 (Proof) and the player declares the campaign's last case.

Title: The Names in the Drawer.

Case Type: Cold Case (originally a chain of Homicides, Disappearances, and Vice deaths the LAPD ruled accidental between 1944 and the campaign year; Charlotta Bass's file connects them).

Crime: Premeditated, Cluster or Network, Wrinkle 5 (a prior PI was paid by an LAPD captain to bury his finding).

Subject: Protected (Very Hard 5+) at minimum. Could be a serial killer working with cover, an LAPD captain who ran a protection racket, or a real-estate combine that murdered Black homeowners after Shelley v. Kraemer. Pick the one that fits the campaign's surfaced pattern.

Anatomy seeds: the Person is whoever the Eagle's File names; the Place is the location the LAPD never investigated; the Record is the original Eagle archive that names everyone.

Sit-Down room: The Eagle's office, with Charlotta Bass present, or the 77th Street captain's office, with the file in your hand.

Code test: Closing the case clean requires giving the Eagle the file before the LAPD demands it. Refusing protects your license but loses the Open Record. Accepting publishes everything but burns LAPD contacts permanently.

Closed Tight: The file runs in the Eagle. The 77th Street captain who buried the cases is named. Reduce one Suspicion clock by 2.

Closed Clean: The file is given to the NAACP for civil action. The captain survives but the cases reopen. Mark +1 Strain.

Open File: The case is on record but unfinished. The Eagle's File tracker resets to Stage 3 and the next investigator inherits it.

Blown / Blown Bad: The LAPD seizes the file. The Eagle prints a redacted version. The Open Record now contains a lie.

CLOSE-TYPE AFTERMATH

CLOSE	AVENUE CHANGES
Closed Tight	An Avenue route or contact becomes reliable. Improve one local contact one status step. The Eagle prints a sympathetic paragraph.
Closed Clean	The Avenue handles your finding internally. Mark +1 Leverage with the relevant institution.
Open File	A column leaks. Next case starts at Heat 4 and one Avenue contact becomes Useful.
Blown	The 77th Street Division writes the official version. Heat resets to 6 next case. Choose 77th Street, Eagle, or NAACP to mark Suspicion +2.
Blown Bad	A Black source is harmed because of your work. Burn one contact or drop Familiarity by 1. Add +1 Strain.

NAMED CANON CONTACTS FOR IMMEDIATE USE

CONTACT	WHAT THEY KNOW	WHAT THEY FEAR	WHAT THEY WANT	WHO C BURN THEM
Charlotta Bass, California Eagle	Every unsolved Black-victim case since 1944 and who buried it.	The Eagle being shuttered.	The Open Record corrected.	The eral ernme (after runs 1952, surveil lance increa
Loren Miller, NAACP attorney	Restrictive covenant law, the Shelley brief, the cases coming next.	Federal civil-rights enforcement col-lapsing.	The covenants legally and practically dismantled.	The S Bar.
Thomas Griffith Jr., NAACP LA branch president	Every covenant violation in LA County since 1944.	The branch losing its standing.	A federal complaint against the LAPD.	The nation NAACP

CONTACT	WHAT THEY KNOW	WHAT THEY FEAR	WHAT THEY WANT	WHO CAN BURN THEM
The Dunbar Hotel night manager	Every musician who's stayed there and which sidemen passed envelopes to whom.	The Dunbar losing its lease.	The Avenue protected from Cohen's Sunset operation.	The Dunbar's owners.
The Lincoln Theater stage manager	What goes on after the curtain comes down.	A Vice raid on a Saturday show.	His union scale.	LB Vice on 77th Street.
A 77th Street Division captain (no name on the file)	Every Avenue case the Division has buried since 1944.	Charlotta Bass naming him.	Three more years to retirement.	Bass.

02/

THE EAGLE'S FILE

Charlotta Bass kept a file. She gives it to you the day you walk into the Eagle's office. It is bigger than any case.

This chapter gives the Avenue a five-stage Long Investigation tied to a real-history institution: Charlotta Bass's California Eagle, in operation since 1879 (under different ownership) and edited and owned by Bass since 1912. By 1947 the Eagle has the longest continuous record of unsolved Black-victim cases, ignored LAPD reports, covenant violations, lynchings prevented and unprevented, and economic squeezes against the Avenue's institutions of any document in the county.

Bass keeps the file in a wooden cabinet in the back room of the Eagle's office. She hands it to the investigator the day she decides to. After that, the file is the campaign.

Canon stance: the file is real. It contains over one hundred named cases. The earliest go back to 1928. The most recent are from last week. The 77th Street Division knows the file exists. The Division has, at various points since the war, tried to obtain it through subpoena, threat, and fire. Bass still has the file because the file is in three places.

HOW TO USE THIS CHAPTER

Start the Eagle's File arc after any Hardened-or-higher case in Central Avenue that involves an unsolved Black-victim death the LAPD ruled accidental, a missing-persons file the Department closed without working, a covenant-related death, or a pattern that connects a current case to anything earlier than 1947.

The arc does not replace normal cases. It tags certain sources, clues, and aftermath results as Eagle-facing.

THE ARC

Title: The Names in the Drawer.

Core question: Who buried the cases the LAPD did not work, and what does Charlotta Bass want done with the file?

What the player first sees: an Avenue source mentions a death the family asked LAPD to investigate in 1946 and the LAPD declined. A current case touches a name from that year. An Eagle reporter comes by the office with a question that does not belong to your case. Charlotta Bass invites the investigator to the Eagle for coffee.

STAGE 1: INCIDENT

Pressure. A current case produces a thread that points at a closed file: a cause of death that doesn't match the body, a missing-persons report from before 1948 that the LAPD never worked, a name a witness says without realizing it is also a name in someone's old grief.

Source. An Eagle reporter who's been working a case nobody assigned them, a Pullman porter who carried a coffin and a story east, a Lincoln Theater stage-hand who remembers the night a man stopped showing up to work, a Dunbar Hotel waiter who remembers what was on the table when a guest didn't come back to it.

Clue. The current case and a 1946 case share a location, a witness, or a method. The 1946 case's family was told by LAPD that the death was accidental. The death was not accidental.

Complication. The 1946 family is still grieving. Asking them to revisit the death costs them sleep, and they will tell you so.

STAGE 2: PATTERN

Pressure. Other cases surface. A second 1946 case. A 1948 case. A 1944 case. The file Bass keeps in the back room of the Eagle has more entries than any single investigator can work. The pattern is not a single killer. The pattern is institutional.

Source. Charlotta Bass herself, an NAACP attorney with prior knowledge of the file, an ex-LAPD detective who quit in 1947 because he refused to sign off on a closure, a coroner's clerk who has been keeping his own copies of autopsies the official versions don't match.

Clue. The cases share supervising LAPD signatures. Three captains in particular appear on closure files for unrelated victims.

Complication. One of those captains is still a captain. One has been promoted. The third is now in the chief's office.

STAGE 3: ACTOR

Pressure. A name surfaces inside the LAPD. The man who signed the most closures, the man who decided in case after case that an Avenue death was accidental, suicide, natural causes, or cause unknown.

Source. The captain's former secretary, an LAPD officer who was reassigned after refusing to sign, a Dunbar Hotel guest who was an LAPD officer in another city and recognizes the procedure, an ex-Hat Squad detective who saw the captain at a Robbery scene where he should not have been.

Clue. The captain ran a parallel system: cases at his desk closed without investigation in exchange for cooperation by the family in subsequent matters. The system was not money. The system was protection: silence in exchange for not being targeted.

Complication. The captain's protection extends beyond him. PRESSing him exposes the LAPD officers who participated in the cooperation system. Those officers have families.

STAGE 4: MOTIVE

Pressure. The captain did this because the LAPD as an institution was indifferent to Black victims and the captain found a way to monetize the indifference. Not in cash — in compliance. The system kept the Avenue quiet during a period when the LAPD was visibly violent in the Side Streets. The cases that got closed were the cases that would have inflamed the community most. The captain was, in his telling, keeping a war from breaking out.

Source. A retired LAPD inspector who knew the system and refused to sign off on it. A former federal investigator who looked at LAPD between 1948 and 1950 for the Civil Rights Section of the DOJ and was reassigned. The captain's adult son, who has not spoken to his father since 1949.

Clue. The captain's appointment book from 1947-1949 names the families. Each case is listed by surname and the date of the cooperation that followed.

Complication. Charlotta Bass already has copies of pages from the appointment book. She has not published. She is waiting for someone to bring her the proof that the captain himself wrote the book.

STAGE 5: PROOF

Pressure. You can document the captain's responsibility. You cannot document the indifferent institution behind him without the cooperation of someone still inside the LAPD. The captain will not confess. The institution will not break.

Source. A current LAPD officer who has been waiting for someone to ask. An NAACP attorney with a pending civil-rights complaint against the city. The retired inspector who can authenticate the appointment book at trial.

Clue. The Final Operation must decide what closes: the captain, the LAPD's institutional pattern, or the file itself. Each choice has a different cost.

Complication. Closing the captain leaves the institution intact. Closing the institution requires Bass running the file in full, which exposes every cooperating family to renewed LAPD attention.

D6 EAGLE-TAGGED SOURCES

D6 SOURCE

- 1 An Eagle reporter who has been keeping the captain's appointment-book pages in a hatbox in her closet.
- 2 A Pullman porter whose route includes the captain's hometown in Ohio, where a witness from 1944 still lives.
- 3 A coroner's clerk who has been keeping his own autopsy copies since 1946.
- 4 A Side Street family member from a 1948 case who never accepted the LAPD's finding.
- 5 A current LAPD officer who has been waiting for someone to ask. He is Black.
- 6 A retired LAPD inspector who can authenticate the appointment book at trial.

D6 FALSE EAGLE LEADS

D6 FALSE LEAD

- 1 The single-killer theory. A man working a route. Real coincidence; the pattern is institutional, not individual.
- 2 The Combination angle. Real pressure on Avenue institutions, not connected to the captain.
- 3 The Bureau theory. The FBI was watching, but for civil-rights organizers, not for the captain.
- 4 The Klan theory. There is no Klan in LA in 1947 in the way the Pink press writes there is. The institution at fault is the LAPD, not the white South imported.
- 5 The Cohen lead. Cohen's people are pressuring policy operators. Different harm; not the captain.
- 6 An old killer's confession from a man who is taking credit for cases he didn't do because his execution date is set.

D6 EAGLE ESCALATION

D6 ESCALATION

- 1 The Eagle runs a paragraph. Heat starts +1 next case. The 77th Street Division knows the investigator is past Stage 2.
- 2 The captain's son visits the Eagle and asks Bass not to publish. Mark +1 Strain.
- 3 A retired LAPD officer dies of "natural causes." His widow has his notes.
- 4 The LAPD opens a formal investigation of the Eagle. Bass laughs.
- 5 A new closure file is signed by the captain. A new Avenue death joins the file.
- 6 An anonymous envelope arrives at the investigator's office with a single page from the appointment book.

D6 EAGLE AFTERMATH

D6 AFTERMATH

- 1 An NAACP attorney offers the file as exhibit in a pending civil-rights complaint. Gain +1 Eagle Intel; the suit reduces one Suspicion clock by 2.
- 2 A surviving 1948 family member contacts you with a detail that contradicts the captain's closure file.
- 3 The captain offers the investigator's client a city contract on a different matter in exchange for withdrawal.
- 4 Charlotta Bass invites the investigator to coffee.
- 5 A column in the LB Press names the investigator as "interfering." Heat +1 next case but a journalist becomes Useful.
- 6 The captain's lawyer drops a defamation suit on the Eagle. Bass laughs again.

THE LAST FILE: THE NAMES IN THE DRAWER

Run as a Cold Case at the Final Operation step (see CH.01 Last File Seed for full statistics). Capability: Protected (Very Hard 5+); Unreachable (Extreme 6+) if institutional Suspicion clocks have stayed past 5.

Code test: Closing tight requires giving the Eagle the file before the LAPD demands it. Refusing protects your license but loses the Open Record. Accepting publishes everything but burns LAPD contacts permanently.

Closed Tight: The file runs in the Eagle. The 77th Street captain who buried the cases is named. Reduce one Suspicion clock by 2. The Civil Rights Section reopens its investigation.

Closed Clean: The file is given to the NAACP for civil action. The captain survives but the cases reopen one by one over the next eighteen months. Mark +1 Strain.

Open File: The case is on record but unfinished. The Eagle's File tracker resets to Stage 3. The next investigator inherits the work, the surviving families, and the institutional Suspicion clocks at 5.

Blown / Blown Bad: The LAPD seizes the file. The Eagle prints a redacted version. The Open Record now contains a lie. Mark +2 Strain. End the campaign.

CONTINUING WITH A NEW INVESTIGATOR

A replacement investigator inherits the open Eagle stage, one burned or missing contact, one institutional Suspicion clock at 3, and one physical artifact: a page from the appointment book, a coroner's clerk's carbon, a survivor's letter. They do not inherit the prior investigator's Familiarity unless a surviving Avenue contact briefs them; if so, start Familiarity 1 and mark that contact Afraid.

Charlotta Bass is still at her desk. The file is still in three places.

03/

AVENUE CONTACTS

Sixty-six names. Some on stage. Some at the Eagle. Some in the file.

Reusable contact material for Central Avenue and Black Los Angeles. Roll D66 when you need a named contact, a contact replacement, or a source with local obligations.

D66 CONTACTS

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
11	Charlotta Bass, California Eagle	Every unsolved Black-victim case since 1944 and who buried it.	The Eagle being shuttered.	The Open Record corrected.	The federal government (after 1952, the FBI watches her).
12	Loren Miller, NAACP attorney	Restrictive covenant law and the cases coming next.	Federal civil-rights enforcement collapsing.	The covenants legally and practically dismantled.	The State Bar.
13	Thomas Griffith Jr., NAACP LA branch president	Every covenant violation in LA County since 1944.	The branch losing standing.	A federal complaint against the LAPD.	The national NAACP.
14	Reverend H.H. Brookins, Second Baptist	Every Avenue family asking for help.	His congregation losing faith.	The community held together.	The denomination.
15	Norman O. Houston, Golden State Mutual Life Insurance	Every Black-owned business's books.	White lenders shutting his company out of the market.	His company surviving the next decade.	The state insurance commission.
16	Dr. H. Claude Hudson, dentist and NAACP organizer	The Black professional class's cooperation patterns.	His practice being targeted.	The next generation able to live where they want.	The county medical association.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
21	The Dunbar Hotel night manager	Every musician who's stayed there.	The Dunbar losing its lease.	The Avenue protected from Cohen's Sunset operation.	The Dunbar's owners.
22	The Lincoln Theater stage manager	What goes on after the curtain comes down.	A Vice raid on a Saturday show.	His union scale.	LB Vice or 77th Street.
23	The Club Alabam maître d'	Which booth holds which conversation on a given Saturday night.	A noise complaint from a white resident.	The Alabam to outlast the season.	The Alabam's owner.
24	The Last Word bartender	What musicians say between sets and after closing.	A 77th Street raid that takes the after-hours license.	His after-hours license.	77th Street.
25	Brother's after-hours hostess	Who came in with whom at 4 a.m. and what they were carrying.	A boyfriend who's a cop.	Out of the after-hours business.	The boyfriend.
26	Memo's pianist (an actual musician most nights)	The musical politics of the Avenue.	Being asked to identify a buyer.	A studio session that doesn't ask his color.	The musicians' union.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
31	"Stuff" Crawford, Avenue policy operator	Where the policy money is and what Cohen's people have offered.	Cohen's people taking the bank.	The bank in his hands.	Cohen.
32	"Black Dot" McGee, policy operator	Operations west of the Avenue, lottery numbers, the daily tally.	A 77th Street raid that takes the office.	His operation autonomous.	77th Street or Cohen.
33	An Avenue policy bank runner	Whose number paid this week and whose didn't.	The runner who replaced him last month getting hurt.	His own job back.	Whichever operator he runs for.
34	A Pullman porter on the Sunset Limited	Who's traveling east and why.	His union local being broken.	His daughter in nursing school.	The Pullman company.
35	A Pacific Electric conductor	What happens at midnight at the 41st Street stop.	The Red Cars being shut down.	His route assignment.	Pacific Electric management.
36	A Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company shop steward	Industrial accidents at the South LA plant.	His brother's name being attached.	The plant's safety record corrected.	The plant.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
41	An Eagle reporter (general assignment)	The Avenue's news the white press won't cover.	Bass losing the paper.	A byline.	Bass.
42	An Eagle reporter (court beat)	Every covenant case Loren Miller is trying.	Being asked to testify in one.	The next column.	Bass or the State Bar.
43	Almena Lomax, Los Angeles Tribune	What the Eagle's competitor doesn't print and why.	The Tribune folding.	The Tribune outlasting the Eagle.	Her own publisher.
44	Walter L. Gordon Jr., NAACP attorney	Every covenant violation between Adams and Slauson.	The branch politics turning against him.	The Side Streets protected.	The branch.
45	An NAACP investigator (volunteer)	Side Street incidents nobody filed.	His own job being threatened.	The branch staffed.	His employer.
46	A Side Street family elder (community memory)	Every family on her block since 1928.	Outliving her grandchildren.	One specific 1946 case reopened.	Time.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
51	A 77th Street Division detective (not yet a problem)	What the captains are signing off on.	His captain finding out he talked.	A transfer to West Valley.	His captain.
52	A 77th Street Division patrolman (Black)	What the white officers say in the locker room.	His own department.	A pension that lasts.	Any of his colleagues.
53	A retired LAPD officer (quit '47)	The 1947 closure he refused to sign.	His pension.	The captain named before he dies.	The Department.
54	A coroner's clerk (Black)	Autopsy contradictions since 1944.	The coroner finding his copies.	His copies surviving.	The coroner's office.
55	A Civil Rights Section attorney (DOJ, by phone from DC)	The federal interest in LA's racial cases.	The Section being defunded.	A pattern complaint.	Hoover.
56	A Sleeping Car Porters union organizer	National Black labor politics.	The union breaking.	Local recognition.	The Pullman company.
61	A Side Street domestic worker	What the white family she works for talks about.	Her pay being cut.	Her daughter at Jefferson High.	The white family.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
62	A Jefferson High School teacher	Who's gone home with what kind of bruise.	Her contract not being renewed.	The students protected.	The school district.
63	A Watts Towers neighbor	Who comes to watch Sabato Rodia work and what they ask.	The Towers being torn down.	Rodia's work to continue.	City Hall.
64	A Hattie McDaniel social secretary (Hattie's circle)	The Black Hollywood crowd's politics and pain.	Hattie's contract not being renewed.	An invitation list controlled.	Hattie herself.
65	An Eddie "Rochester" Anderson driver	Eddie's schedule and who's been visiting.	Eddie firing him.	A career as something other than a driver.	Eddie.
66	A Charlie Parker side musician (briefly through the Avenue)	Where the heroin is coming from this week.	His own habit.	A clean shot before the next set.	His supplier.

STATUS CHANGES

Loyal. LEAN one tier easier once per case; if burned, gain +1 Strain.

Useful. Standard contact state.

Afraid. Will help only if you first lower Heat, spend a Lead, or accept Leverage.

Compromised. Information accurate; using it marks +1 Heat or +1 Suspicion.

Missing. Unavailable until a case action finds them.

Burned. Triggers a Burned Contact consequence.

D6 FAVORS CONTACTS ASK

D6 FAVOR

- 1 Get a name off a 77th Street watch list.
- 2 Walk a Side Street family through a covenant question without LAPD seeing.
- 3 Recover a piece of evidence from a 77th Street locker.
- 4 Delay a Vice raid long enough for an after-hours license to clear.
- 5 Prove a Side Street fire was arson.
- 6 Carry a message to Charlotta Bass without 77th Street learning.

D6 WAYS CONTACTS BETRAY THE INVESTIGATOR

D6 BETRAYAL

- 1 They sell the meeting location to 77th Street. Mark +1 Heat.
- 2 They give true intel with one missing zone-crossing detail. Next zone-cross is Hard minimum.
- 3 They route you through an LAPD-friendly church. Mark +1 LAPD Leverage.
- 4 They identify your client to the LAPD. The retainer is at risk at Heat 7.
- 5 They warn the subject to preserve their own family. Posture activates one stage early.
- 6 They hand over your source network after the case. Worsen two contacts one step.

D6 WAYS CONTACTS SAVE THE CASE

D6 SAVE

- 1 They identify the right zone of the sit-down room. Gain 1 Leverage Token.
- 2 They hide you during a 77th Street sweep. Reduce Heat by 1, minimum 0.
- 3 They confirm a false anatomy target before you spend an action. Gain 1 Lead.
- 4 They open a route between the Avenue and a Side Street home. Ignore one Crossing Lines trigger.
- 5 They produce a witness who knows the 1946 detail. Generate 1 Hard Fact.
- 6 They arrive at the sit-down with a name, a phone, or a car. Add +1 to Beat 1.

D6 MISSING CONTACT RETURNS

D6 RETURN

- 1 With a 77th Street escort and a rehearsed story. Treat as Compromised.
- 2 Injured, carrying one true clue. Gain a clue; mark +1 Strain.
- 3 Upwardly mobile now, with a Side Street home and a Realtor's threat letter.
- 4 Changed by a hospital stay, repeating a phrase that is also an Eagle's File clue.
- 5 Afraid of you, not 77th Street. LEAN starts Hard minimum.
- 6 With another missing contact. Choose which one can still be saved.

D6 BURNED CONTACT CONSEQUENCES

D6 CONSEQUENCE

- 1 The contact disappears permanently; mark +1 Strain.
 - 2 77th Street uses the relationship to identify your route. Heat +2.
 - 3 Their family asks for help during the next session. Refusal marks Code Crossed.
 - 4 They provide one last clue, then become evidence against you. Suspicion +2 with the Eagle.
 - 5 The Eagle preserved their data. Gain +1 Eagle Intel and worsen one contact.
 - 6 They survive hostile. Next time they appear, they are tied to the captain's anatomy.
-

GLOSSARY

Fast language for returning investigators.

Use this glossary when a term appears in the campaign pack and you want the table-facing meaning without reopening the core book.

CORE L.A. DICK TERMS

TERM	MEANING
Action	One of three things per session: WALK, LEAN, PULL, STAKE.
Anatomy	Three hidden case targets: Person, Place, Record.
Code	One sentence the war taught the investigator not to do.
Code Cross	Violating the Code for +2 to one Sit-Down roll.
Contact	Named source. Statuses: Loyal, Useful, Afraid, Compromised, Missing, Burned.
Familiarity	0–5 territory score.
The File	Five stages: Incident, Pattern, Actor, Motive, Proof.
Hard Fact	Two in pool advance the file one stage.
Heat	Exposure. Failed actions raise it. Thresholds 3, 5, 7, 9.
Lead	+1 to one investigation roll.
Leverage Token	Sit-Down currency from anatomy hits. Cap 4.
Sit-Down	The case climax. Three beats.
Strain	Campaign pressure on the investigator.
Suspicion / Leverage	Faction clocks (0–6 each).

ACTION VERBS

VERB	MEANING
WALK	Scene work, on-site evidence. LEGS or EYE.
LEAN	Question, pressure, negotiate a source. NERVE.
PULL	Records pulled off-site. EYE.

AVENUE TERMS

TERM	MEANING
The Avenue	South Central Avenue from 12th Street south. Spine of Black Los Angeles.
The Side Streets	Residential blocks east and west of the Avenue. Restricted to Black ownership by covenant until 1948 and by practice afterward.
Watts	South of Central, separate town until 1926. Industrial, working-class, the Watts Towers under construction by Sabato Rodia.
The Stations	LAPD 77th Street Division (south end of the Avenue) and Newton Street Division (north end).
Crossing Lines	Local pressure rule. Black investigators take +1 Heat per session for time spent in white territories; white investigators take +2 Heat on first failed Avenue action and one tier harder LEAN at any Avenue source.
The Eagle	The California Eagle. The Black Los Angeles newspaper of record. Owned and edited by Charlotta Bass since 1912.
The Eagle's File	Charlotta Bass's archive of unsolved Black-victim cases. The Long Investigation underneath the Avenue campaign.
The Dunbar	The Dunbar Hotel. The only first-class hotel in LA that admits Black guests.
Shelley v. Kraemer	1948 Supreme Court ruling that ended legal enforcement of restrictive covenants. De facto enforcement continued through realtor practice, redlining, and white violence.
The Captain	The Eagle's File arc's named subject. The 77th Street captain who buried Avenue cases between 1944 and the campaign year.
The 77th Street Division	The LAPD division covering most of the Avenue and Watts. The community knows it as a hostile occupier.
The Civil Rights Section	The DOJ unit that intermittently looked at LAPD between 1948 and 1950. The federal angle on the Eagle's File.

TERM	MEANING
The Policy Banks	Black-owned numbers and lottery operations on the Avenue. Stuff Crawford, Black Dot McGee. Targets of Cohen's takeover beginning in 1948.

CAMPAIGN RECORD

What survives the case goes here.

Use one Campaign Record per investigator's career.

INVESTIGATOR HEADER

Name: _____

Office address: _____

License number: _____

Black or white investigator (mechanically meaningful for the Avenue): Black
 White

Specialization: _____

War Detail: _____

Vice: _____

Code: _____ "I _____ don't
" _____

Reputation tier: Walk-In Referred By Name

Current Heat: ___ Current Strain: ___ Active wounds: _____

Cases closed: ___ Closed Tight: ___ Closed Clean: ___ Open File: ___
Blown: ___ Blown Bad: ___

Code Crossed entries: ___

LONG INVESTIGATION TRACKER (THE EAGLE'S FILE)

Current Stage: None Incident Pattern Actor Motive Proof

Eagle Intel: ___

Last File available: Yes No

Last File outcome: _____

Pages of the Captain's appointment book recovered: ___

Surviving family in active contact (if any):

FACTION CLOCKS

FACTION	ROLE	SUSPICION 0-6	LEVERAGE 0-6	CURRENT DEMAND OR THREAT	KEY CONTACT ROUTE
-----	LAPD 77th Street Division	---	---	-----	-----
-----	The California Eagle	---	---	-----	-----
-----	NAACP LA branch	---	---	-----	-----
-----	Optional fourth (Policy banks / Cohen / Real- estate boards / Bureau)	---	---	-----	-----

REPUTATION AND EVOLUTIONS

Current reputation: -----

Next reputation requirement: -----

Evolutions earned: -----

TERRITORY FAMILIARITY

TERRITORY	FAMILI- ARITY 0-5	RELIABLE ROUTE	KNOWN SOURCE	LOCAL HEAT NOTES
The Avenue	----	-----	-----	-----
-----	----	-----	-----	-----
-----	----	-----	-----	-----
-----	----	-----	-----	-----

CONTACTS

CONTACT	TERRITORY / FAC- TION	STATUS	KNOWS	WANTS
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----

CASE LOG

CASE	TER- RITORY	TYPE	SUB- JECT PRO- TEC- TION	CLOSE TYPE	ANA- TOMY HITS	HEAT RESET	STRAIN Δ	CODE X	EAGLE INTEL
1	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
2	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
3	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
4	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
5	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
6	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
7	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
8	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
9	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
10	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
11	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
12	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

CURRENT CASE CARRY-IN

Heat starts at: ____ Leads carried: ____ Tactical carry-in:

Contacts unavailable: -----

Active wounds / penalties: -----

Faction clock effects active: -----

Territory effects active: -----

Eagle's File stage pressures active: _____

Requisition chosen: _____

Client notes: _____

AFTER-CASE CHECKLIST

1. Record close type and casualties of attention.
2. Reset Heat by close type.
3. Add Code Crossed entries and Strain.
4. Update reputation progress and evolutions.
5. Update faction Suspicion and Leverage.
6. Update contact statuses.
7. Update Territory Familiarity.
8. Apply Strain changes and relief.
9. Add Eagle Intel and check Eagle's File stage.
10. Choose requisition or note why it is unavailable.
11. Write one field note. Not a summary.