

STATE OF MICHIGAN



GEORGE ROMNEY, Governor

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

1000 CADILLAC SQUARE BUILDING, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

TELEPHONE: 222-1810

BURTON I. GORDIN, Executive Director

November 29, 1968

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Commissioner Johannes F. Spreen  
Detroit Police Department  
1300 Beaubien  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Commissioner Spreen:

This letter is to keep you personally informed of the status of citizens complaints against the Detroit Police Department filed with this Commission.

Since January, 1964 there have been 330 complaints filed by individuals who believe that they have been discriminated against because they are Negroes; of this number, 87 have been dismissed for lack of evidence; 7 have been withdrawn by the claimant; 5 have been dismissed for other reasons - such as an improper respondent; 53 have been closed as adjusted after a finding of probable cause to credit the claimants' allegations.

Of the remaining 177, charges have been issued in three complaints and public hearings conducted. There are 120 in the investigation process and there are 54 in conciliation which means that a finding of probable cause has been made and efforts undertaken to resolve the issues prior to a public hearing. Due to the fact that there has not been a satisfactory response from the Department in any of these cases, the Commission is being asked to authorize, on December 16, 1968, that charges be issued and public hearings scheduled in 10 of these 54 cases. Notice of staff's intent to make these recommendations has already been routinely transmitted to your department.

As you know, I have several times, since your appointment as Commissioner, suggested that it would be helpful to meet to discuss methods of expediting complaints before this Commission as well as to review the agreement between the Detroit Police Department and this Commission. Please know that that invitation stands. I would like also to arrange for you to meet with the members of our Commission.

Sincerely yours

Burton I. Gordin  
Executive Director



BIG:bf  
cc: Commission