

*city wide
ghetto wide -*

2. ✓ The board would have to be elected and have independent power rather than be the creature of some politician.
3. In order for the people to be aware of the board's existence it would be best if the board were made up of people whom the people in the ghetto knew of. That means people from the neighborhood.
4. In order for the board to be effective in preventing brutality in the ghetto, it would have to have independent power in the ghetto. That is, it would have to be set up on a precinct-by-precinct basis, for example, rather than on a city-wide basis. Otherwise whites would control it and Negroes, who constitute the largest group of victims of police brutality, would not receive fair consideration.
5. Ideally, the process of getting a board would involve the largest number of people possible in the ghetto, so that they would be aware of its existence if and when it got legally constituted power.

complaint committee
police referral -
district - with
to gene. Bd.
of what.
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 #3

The Proposal

On the basis of the above, a proposal for joint action by all civil rights groups and all liberal groups in the city is set forth. It is that a mock election of a police review board be held in selected key precincts in the city, and that the election be combined with a campaign to get signatures on a petition to put a proposal for a review board on the ballot, with the provisions outlined above included, at the appropriate election.

(This latter part of the proposal needs to be debated seriously, since it is clear that when given the opportunity to do so the American public will invariably vote in the most racist manner possible.)

A mock election for a review board would have the following advantages:

1. It would unite the civil rights organizations around a real and meaningful issue, and into a real and meaningful coalition.
2. It would involve massive numbers of people in the ghetto in the process of doing something to change their own lives.
3. It would be an important first step in providing people in the ghetto with a practical political education involving an issue which is meaningful to them.
4. It would provide a base for a real mass organization which could be used on other issues.
5. It would provide the opportunity to involve every level of the Negro community in a meaningful coalition.
6. It would demonstrate to the establishment of this city the ability of the Movement, when combining all its resources, to mobilize a significant political force in the city.
7. It would provide the opportunity to dramatize the issue of police brutality through public hearings and other events.

3 police review board

8. It would provide a good opportunity to get Negro citizens registered to vote through exhaustive canvassing which would be necessary.
9. It would put a great deal of pressure on the power structure to change whether the idea failed or succeeded--the idea alone or the threat of pulling it off should be enough to scare a lot of people like the mayor and the police commissioner and maybe even some cops.