



SPECIAL ORDER

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CT INAPPROPRIATE OR EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE BY DEPARTMENT MEMBERS		FILE CODE		
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There has recently been an extraordinary amount of press and media coverage of the Detroit Police Department which has followed a tragic event. This is a time when the citizens of our community are understandably and justifiably concerned about this tragedy and its implications concerning their police department and its officers. In this flurry of media coverage, there is also the possibility that it has engendered false and unnecessary apprehensions on the part of some members of the department. Unfounded rumors and misinformed speculation serve no purpose. Therefore, I would like to make the following points clear to every member of the department.

Without prejudging or deciding anything concerning the events leading to the death of Malice Green, which must be evaluated and decided in due course, I have recommitted the Detroit Police Department to assuring our community in the strongest possible terms that the professionalism and integrity of the men and women of this fine agency can be relied upon.

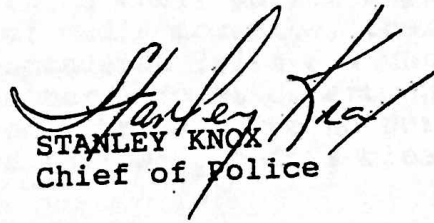
Toward this end, I have directed each deputy chief to take certain steps in his or her command to assure that everything is done that can be done to prevent and control excessive force. These steps are preliminary in nature and will be followed by further efforts still under consideration and development.

Contrary to some rumors that may be circulating, there is no plan to reopen closed files on injured prisoners or citizen complaints. This is not the aim. Rather, the aim is to begin a program that will serve as an early warning system for potential problems that should be addressed through supervisory instruction, informal or formal training, professional counselling, or other steps. Although I trust that my stand on discipline, particularly for excessive or inappropriate force is well understood by everyone - it will be dealt with as the extremely serious violation which it is - it should be recognized that the effort to identify members which may be in need of possible counselling or training is not intended to be punitive, but positive.

Every member of this department has the responsibility to refrain from using excessive force. However, the duty of each one of us goes much further than ourselves not abusing the rights of our citizens. That duty includes aggressively preventing and curtailing the use of excessive force by any other member as well as promptly and accurately reporting any use of force by another

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member according to established procedures. In addition, it includes bringing to the attention of his or her supervisor, problems in their partners or co-workers which should be addressed by training or professional counselling. In other words, we must do all that we can to reasonably assure that the force used by members of the Detroit Police Department is justified and in strict conformity with the regulations of the department and the requirements of the law.


STANLEY KNOX
Chief of Police