

13698 Stoepel
Detroit, Michigan 48238
February 9, 1973

Mr. Francis Kornegay

Dear Sir:

I am certain something constructive must be done about this act of harassment being conducted by the WHITE POLICEMEN toward the colored people of Detroit. A colored citizen does not know just when or where he will be intimidated and embarrassed just because he may resemble someone they are searching for.

This past Sunday, February 4, 1973 at about 12:30 noon, my grandson, David Clark of 18616 Hartwell was a victim of such action.

David and his dog were in their yard when my grandson heard the police sirens and like a curious boy, he ran to the front of his home to see what was causing the commotion.

A police car was parked across the street from his home, just as if they had come to a deadend.

The officer seeing David coming out of his yard should have used his brain if he had any knowledge that if the child had been up to no-good he would not be making his appearance at such time. One of the officers beckoned him to come over--the child thinking he was going to be asked if he saw anything, not thinking he was going to be a victim of their harassment, walked over. Is this how the police turn in so many black cases and then the JUDGES RELEASE THEM-- but the harm has been done to the person's spirit and the respect for the police department is lost.

After frisking him down and only finding keys on the child, house keys, they immediately jumped to the conclusion that these keys were car keys, immediately accusing him of stealing a car and pointed out a car at the corner which had been there several days--could have even belonged to a resident of the street.

When this child's brother saw his brother in the police car he ran into the home got his mother and told her what was occurring, she hurried from the house and questioned the officers about detaining her son and informed them that they were mistaken as she happened to know of her son's whereabouts that morning, in fact up to five minutes before the incident. They still did not release him not until her white neighbor demanded his release.

What is embarrassing is, they did this in front of the home but when he, the officer, was ready to release him they went around the corner to do so and then picked up another boy who was walking down the street. Do the police have to Trump-Up-Charges to make a certain quota to make the public believe they are combating crime?

During this time four more police cars arrived to arrest two teen-age boys -- how ridiculous -- anything could be taking place somewhere else in the vicinity of importance instead of them trying their best to throw their authority around. Trumping-Up-Charges on innocent citizens.

They told my daughter before the white neighbors appeared that her son jumped out of a speeding car which he was driving -- the child can not drive. When the neighbor appeared the charge he was a car thief.

Why must we have such trashy, stupid men patrol decent colored neighborhoods, surely you have some intelligent black ones who are far more intelligent -- for it is a known fact that they must qualify above the white to even be considered. Something must be done and an improvement toward the police force must be made or this city will be a sorry place to live. I was born here sixty-five years ago and have seen many changes -- but this last year it has change for the worse.

Instead of teaching young people to respect an officer they are learning to hate them especially the W H I T E F A C E D ones.

Very truly yours,

Mrs Meneco Hitt

(Mrs) Meneco Hitt

- Copies to: N.A.A.C.P.
- Detroit Urban League
- Mayor
- Erma Henderson, Common Council
- Jack Faxon, State Representative
- John Conyer
- Samuel Simpson