

March 10, 1964
1316 West Hancock
Detroit, Michigan (1)

Mayor Jerome Cavanagh
Police Commissioner Ray Girardin (ORIGINAL COPY)
Councilman Mel Ravitz

Your honors:

About 9 PM on the night of March 2 while walking my dog as usual on Hancock West near the Expressway three Negro late teenagers on the opposite side of the street threw beer bottles at and after me. I assure you I had done nothing to cause their special attention.

Before, and while they were still some distance from the--still on the opposite side of the street--I had noticed them splashing beer bottles into the street and at the curb. Again I had expressed no reaction to this and would have turned to walk elsewhere if there had been anywhere to turn.

A week before this, while playing with my dog in the yard a group^{threw} of some Negro teenagers came down the street, running on yards, yelling various profanities, and again without any special attention on my part through heavy ice balls at the house and me and my dog. I am not of the impression that the groups are the same. Further evidence in the accompanying petitions will make it copiously clear that such activity is in no way directed at me personally or resulting from any occasion for personal animosity towards me.

A large number of such throwing episodes have occurred again property and persons in the area, with bricks, rocks, bottles, and other potentially lethal objects. Some such attacks would seem to fall clearly under the category of assault with intent to do great bodily injury.

So far I personally have been lucky.

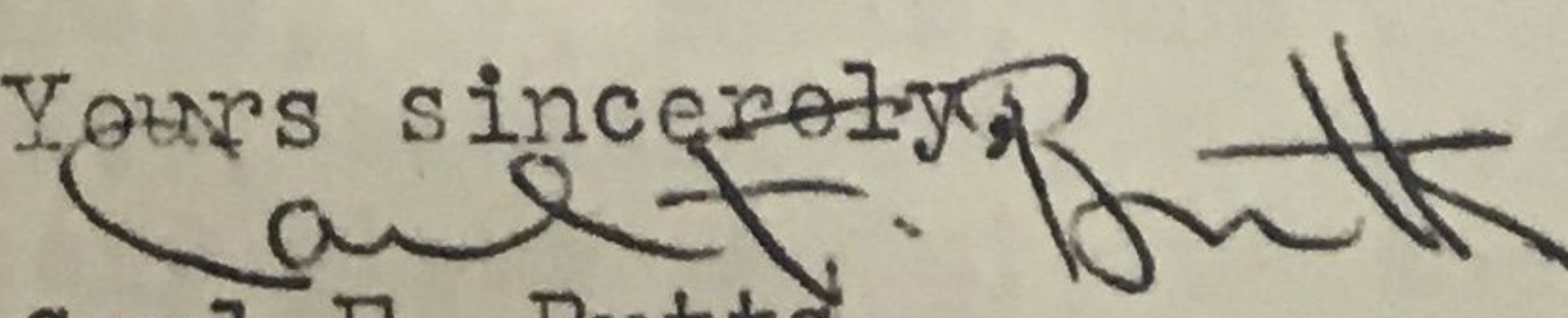
If any more throwing or attack is directed my way and I live through it I shall expend systematic further measures to further publicity, petitioning, and related activities to assure my own safety and that of my neighbors.

As a sociologist and teacher at Wayne State University I realize that the problems are not confined to this area.

The accompanying letters, petitions, and statements will indicate however that the residents and citizens of the Trumbull-Expressway-Warren-Forest area DEMAND IMMEDIATE AND EXTENSIVE PROTECTION BEFORE FURTHER INCIDENTS OCCUR.

There should be no mistaking that the signers and participants in these petitions are in a most serious and determined frame of mind.

Yours sincerely,


Carl F. Butts

P.S. I have also had a house robbery. One of a great many in the area.

NOTES ON PUBLIC PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE PROTECTION OF CITIZENS AND PROPERTY IN THE TRUMBULL-EXPRESSWAY-WARREN-FOREST AREA

1) Practically every signer of the accompanying petitions has had at least one, usually many more, instances of robbery, personal attack, theft of cars or contents, threats by groups of late teenagers, verbal threats, and or potentially lethal objects being thrown at them. All such offences are wildly on a daily increase.

2) Several signers have been hospitalized for long periods of time and sometimes close to death from such attacks (see signature of storeowner at Forest and Lincoln, members of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, as examples.)

through → 3) Attacks on persons in broad day-light (particularly middle and late afternoons) and throughout the after sunset period have been frighteningly on the daily increase. These include assault with probable intent of doing great body injury (a criminal charge) with knives, guns, and the increasingly frequent throwing of bottles, bricks, rocks and other potentially lethal objects at pedestrians, at persons in their yards, on their porches, and threw windows of occupied property and at persons walking during daylight and night hours on the streets.

4) Groups of late teenagers (and early 20's) loiter frequently in the corner areas of Trumbull and Forest, Brooklyn and Warren, Lincoln and Warren, along the John Lodge Expressway, and at the Expressway and Forest and on 3rd and Forest, proceeding from there through the area often on pursuits enumerated in 3 above. IT WOULD SEEM PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO BREAK UP THIS GROUP, GANG-TYPE LOITERING, MENACING, AND ACTUAL ATTACK.

5) A STATE OF SIEGE VIRTUALLY EXISTS IN THE AREA WITH MANY PEOPLE OLD AND YOUNG (see numerous names of fraternity and Wayne State University students) AFRAID TO BE ON THE STREETS, IN THEIR YARDS, OR ANSWER DOORBELLS EVEN IN THE HOURS OF AFTERNOON AND AFTER SUNSET (see statement of R B Kessell, apartment manager at 1172 West Hancock.)

6. Note the presence of signatures of organizations, businesses, and persons with wide memberships and or extensive public contacts:

- DETROIT CURLING CLUB
- CUMMINGHAM DRUG STORE
- CASTLE REALTY COMPANY
- TAU KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY
- KAPPA PSI FRATERNITY
- THETA TAU FRATERNITY
- DETROIT CURLING CLUB, BAZAN FUNERAL HOME, 4631 3rd RESTAURANT, and others
- SCHNEIDER MARKET
- TINA MARKET
- 3rd-FOREST MARKET
- TRUMBULL-FOREST DEPT STORE
- HENRY DRUG CO
- LAMARR'S RESTAURANT

7) Note large and representative numbers of homeowners and taxpayers.

8) Note the presence of all age groups and both sexes.

9) There exists a complete determination of all citizens concerned to employ fully more public channels (press, TV, radio, the vote, further agitation of petition) if immediate, satisfactory measures are not somehow or undertaken to completely alter the picture and provide at least reasonable measures of security and safety

offer

10) All signers are in agreement that IMMEDIATE MEASURES MUST BE PREVENTATIVE, IN ADVANCE OF GROSS PHYSICAL AND PROPERTY INJURY and not as now, if at all, ALWAYS AFTER THE OCCURENCES OF MAJOR TROUBLE.

11) IT WILL BE OBSERVED THAT THE REFERENCES TO THE NEGRO IN ALL OF THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS ARE SPECIFIC AND NOT GENERAL. THERE ARE NO INTENTIONS OF IMPLYING THAT ALL OR THE WORST OFFENCES INVOLVE NEGROES. THE CITIZENS ON THESE PETITIONS ARE INTERESTED IN LIVING-- NOT IN DISCRIMINATING. THREATS AND DANGERS ARE THE SAME WHETHER THE OFFENDERS ARE NEGRO OR WHITE. *involve*

12) There is complete awareness in the area that the problems outlined are not limited to the area.

13) There is no feeling of antagonism to any public official or to any member of the Police Department. The citizens here listed are quite thankful for such police activity and support as already exists. THEY ARE UNEQUIVOCAL AND COMPLETELY UNITED HOWEVER IN DEMANDING IMMEDIATELY A GREAT DEAL MORE.

14) West Hancock between Trumbull and the Expressway (a stretch of long blocks), the Expressway street walk between Warren and Forest, Brooklyn from Warren to Forest, Lincoln from Warren to Forest as well as alleys in the area would seem to demand special and urgent attention.

15) The citizens in the area feel compelled to accept the presence in the area of numerous marginal enterprises and dubious business so long as the latter mind their business. The citizens are an exemplary instance of going out of their ways to even assert their rights. Immediate neighbors, Negro and white, in the area seem by and large to get on tolerably well. *not*

16) THE RESIDENTS IN THE AREA ARE PERFECTLY AWARE THAT IT IS ULTIMATELY TO BE DEMOLISHED. THEY ARE DETERMINED MEANWHILE TO DEMAND FULL MAINTENANCE AND EVEN ADVANCE OF THEIR PROPERTY VALUES and TO INSIST ON REASONABLE AND PAID-FOR SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR THEMSELVES AND FAMILIES.