



*Fitzgerald
Community
Council, Inc.*

*Fale
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Case*

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Fitzgerald Community Council, Inc., a grass root organization with a long history of working to improve the quality of life of residents, businesses and institutions located within the boundaries of Fenkell-McNichols, Livernois-Wyoming-James Couzens Service Drive, urge Wayne County Prosecutor, John D. O'Hair to proceed swiftly in bringing charges against the defendants who have been accused of brutally beating a citizen to death upon the streets of Detroit.

We believe further delay creates a very ominous climate throughout the Detroit and metro area. Delays creates tensions, anxieties and unnecessary pressures on the Criminal Justice System. Specifically, police officers. We believe the majority of Detroit's police officers, both Black and White are dedicated to providing the Community with professional and quality service. Much progress has been made in building trust and better community-police relations.

The Community needs police officers whom they can trust. If Detroit citizens can not trust and respect their police officers, who can they trust to enforce the law? Although this happening is possibly isolated, it is historically symbolic to African-Americans.

The killing of a Detroit resident on the streets of Detroit by police officers demand swift and reasonable action by the Criminal Justice System. Justice delayed is often justice denied. A man who many law enforcement officers respect made a statement regarding expediency in bringing law enforcement officers accused of certain crimes to a speedy trial. He stated, "One of the quickest ways for any law enforcement officer to bring public disrepute upon himself, his organization and the entire profession is to be found guilty of a violation of Civil Rights. Our people may tolerate many mistakes of both intent and performance, but with unerring instinct, they know that when any person is intentionally deprived of his constitutional rights those responsible have committed no ordinary offense. A crime of this nature, if subtly encouraged by failure to condemn and punish, certainly leads down the road to totalitarianism."...J. EDGAR HOOVER, SOURCE: FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN 1-2, 1952.

The Fitzgerald Community Council, as a member of the Alliance Committee, people working for a safer, greater Detroit, again urges expediency in bringing this matter into the Criminal Justice System.

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