

*f- Detroit Police
Dept.*

November 3, 1971

Mr. John Nichols, Commissioner
Detroit Police Department
1300 Beaubien
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Commissioner Nichols

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights still encounters great difficulty in the investigation and resolution of law enforcement complaints against the Detroit Police Department. As you are aware, in the past we have had a continuing problem in expediting a fair and equitable resolution of these citizens' complaints. Our investigators are still unable to interview any police officers regardless of whether they are the officers directly involved in a incident or merely witnesses. We still do not have access to officers' statements made in the course of investigation by the Detroit Police Department. We still encounter considerable resistance in attempting to obtain certain Department records. We have not had any indication that the Detroit Police Department has reached a decision relative to the refusal of officers to cooperate in investigations undertaken by us, the FBI, or the Michigan State Police.

We would like to call to your attention that the present commanding officer of the Citizen Complaint Division is making greater efforts than his immediate predecessor to obtain requested records and to expedite both investigations and the resolution of cases.

We believe, however, that at this point, it would be helpful for you and members of your staff to meet with me and members of my staff to consider ways in which the investigative relationship can be improved. Accordingly, I would like to suggest a meeting at the Commission's offices, in my office, on the 11th floor of the Cadillac Square Building as soon as possible. I would appreciate receiving a call from you as to a date and time agreeable for such a meeting.

Sincerely,

Milton J. Robinson
Executive Director

MJR:P sk

cc. Ruth Rasmussen, Director
Compliance Division

cc. Walter E. Greene