

COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Subcommittee on Police-Community Relations

MINUTES

TIME: Friday, January 13, 1967, 2:30 P.M.

PLACE: Commissioner Girardin's Office, 1300 Beaubien

ATTENDANCE: Rev. Roy A. Allen, Chairman
Judge Henry Szymanski
Jimmy R. McGowan, CCR Staff

PROGRESS REPORT ON HUMAN RELATIONS TRAINING

Commissioner Girardin informed the Subcommittee that the proposal is currently under consideration by the office of Law Enforcement Assistance for funding. The Commissioner said that all indications are that the program will be funded, but he had not been notified when the funds would be appropriated. The Commissioner further informed the Subcommittee that some concern had been expressed about the CCR staff role in the new program. He assured them that the proposal allowed for maximum participation of CCR staff. The Commissioner requested that Mr. Marks or someone he designates sit down with the project director and plan CCR staff involvement as soon as possible rather than waiting to see if the program will be funded.

Judge Szymanski raised the question of whether the new program would be a continuation of the academy curriculum. The Commissioner responded that the academy program is geared towards human relations and the in-service training program should reflect on the training received in the academy, with more emphasis on human relations. Commissioner Girardin said that one of the difficulties with the first program was that some of the officers did not take the program too seriously, so the new program has been restructured to deal more with the specific human relations problems encountered in police work. In keeping with this, the Subcommittee requested that the highly theoretical speakers from the old program be eliminated in the new one. The Commissioner said that the talents of the theoretical speakers were, for the most part, lost on the men; so he hopes that they can avoid this in the new program. The Commissioner reiterated his desire that the CCR play a crucial role in the new program and the importance of having the CCR sit down with the Police Department to plan this role. The Commissioner does not feel the budget deficit will affect the program.

HOWARD KING CASE

Commissioner Girardin informed the Subcommittee that in the King case, Officer Parker received six months suspension in addition to the time he had already lost while awaiting a trial board hearing. He said the department hoped that Parker does not return to the department because of the difficulty they will have in placing him. There is a shortage of non-public contact positions and Parker cannot be placed in any other kind. The department had dealt with some of the other officers in the case: 1 officer lost 5 leave days, 2 officers lost 10 leave days and they have 5 more officers to deal with. (Staff learned subsequent to the meeting that Officer Johnson, the Negro officer involved, lost 15 leave days for giving conflicting stories to the Citizens Complaint Bureau.)

Commissioner Girardin said that Officer Johnson posed a special problem in the disposition of the case because of the change in his testimony and the subsequent difficulty in assigning him in the department after the incident. He also said that the department hoped that the in-service training program will reduce incidents, such as the King case. This can be anticipated, he said, in view of the department of officers who took part in the previous program.

CITIZEN COMPLAINT BUREAU

Commissioner Girardin stated that the department had so much difficulty with the personnel and image of the old Community Relations Bureau that when they finally got a working operation with no personnel problems and one that was creating a more favorable image in the community, they paid little attention to the efficiency of the Bureau. Late last year, the Commissioner created an "Inspection Team" to look over the entire department and make recommendations for more efficient operation. The report on the CCB is complete and the Commissioner said that he agreed with part of it and rejected part of it. In light of the report, new procedures have been set up in the Bureau for the speedy, efficient investigation and disposition of citizen complaints. As a result, the Commissioner said that the CCB will be able to devote more time to community relations activities. The CCB has little or no role in precinct level community relations programs because the Commissioner feels that it is important that the residents of an area get to know the police personnel in their precinct. Some complaints are handled at the precinct level, and the precincts make monthly reports on the complaints handled and the disposition of those complaints to the CCB. The CCB reviews the report and can initiate investigation into any complaint that it feels was not justly handled. Also, any person who is not satisfied with the disposition of his complaint at the precinct level can file a complaint with the CCB. The work load of the CCB is down; there are approximately 30 cases open and no critical cases among them that the Commissioner could think of.

Rev. Allen asked the Commissioner if someone from the CCB could be assigned specifically to community relations activities. This person would attend the precinct level meetings, community and block club meetings, civil rights meetings and others where he might be able to promote better police-community relations. The Commissioner informed the Subcommittee that this would be done immediately.

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