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MAYOR'S OFFICE

July 3, 1968

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Please don't veto Stop and Frisk.

The people of Detroit desperately need the psychological reassurance. We've had very, very little.

Obviously this act is not going to stop crime in the streets. But to use an old cliché: "If it only saves one life ..."

I share your concern about possible abuse.

However, I honestly believe things have changed to the point where the police are a lot less likely to risk intimidating Negroes. They are painfully aware of the possible explosive results of such intimidation.

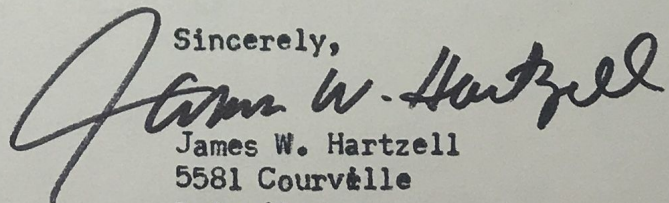
Still, Commissioner-elect Spreen must make it very clear to his officers that innocent citizens, white or black, must not be shoved around -- physically or verbally -- under the guise of Stop and Frisk.

I would suggest that you and/or Commissioner-elect Spreen go on TV with a strong general statement about crime, pointing to Stop and Frisk as Exhibit A in a stiffened stance against lawlessness in Detroit. Stiff, but fair. Go on TV and reassure all of us that the citizens are going to be protected from this day forward. Protected against abuse by criminals and police.

There is fear bordering on despair in Detroit.

Stop and Frisk is tangible evidence that something is going to be done.

Sincerely,



James W. Hartzell
5581 Courville
Detroit

ps. You are to be complimented on your choice of Mr. Spreen for Commissioner. He appears to be a very big man. He inspires confidence.