

Field Division Report to August 21, 1968
Meeting of the Commission on Community Relations

I Introduction

The Police community-relations subcommittee met in CCR offices on 8/19/68. Rev. Roy Allen, the chairman, had asked that a meeting be called for discussion of the role of the committee and the current status of actions taken during the past month. Actions have focused principally in four areas:

1. Progress and final resolution of the Cobo Hall investigation involving suspensions of Lt. Sikora and Sergeant Wright.
2. A review of the adequacy of existing orders creating the Citizens Complaint Bureau (CCB) and the Precinct Community Relations program (see attached).
3. The absolute necessity for insuring the issuance and publication of an adequate set of guidelines (attached) intended to effect adequate controls of day-to-day enforcement procedures relating to the Crime Control Ordinance (Stop and Frisk).
4. An assessment of progress in police recruitment, hiring, and promotions of black officers, with a concern for determining whether new procedures and policies point significantly to continuing progress in these areas.

II Informational Details Within Areas Considered

We have initiated meetings of the Police Community Relations Subcommittee membership with Mayor Cavanagh and Police Commissioner Spreen successively-- on July 24 and July 29--to determine current policy positions and planning in the above areas, with results as follows:

A. Investigation of Cobo Hall Incident

The Mayor frankly acknowledged to the committee that "some extremely bad judgment, to put it mildly, both of omission and commission including some of the ranking officers, was used." Also, the absence of orders was the principal trouble, rather than those actually issued, he felt. The CCB summary and conclusions in the case have been forwarded to Mr. Spreen. Acquittal of the accused appears to close this case.

B. Citizens Complaint Bureau

The Mayor conceded the existence of appreciable concern over the efficiency of this bureau since July, 1967 - to some degree resulting from the extremely active role of the DPOA. He rejects the Citizens Review Board as "an abysmal failure by anybody's standard" and indicates that strengthening and broadening the powers of the existing bureau provides the best currently available solution. Further, he views CCR's police-community relations subcommittee as the logical Task Force operation within this area.

C. Crime Control Ordinance (Stop and Frisk) Guidelines

The Mayor has communicated to Mr. Spreen, on July 25, to this effect: "There is no place on the Detroit Police Department for an officer who evidences racial intolerance, or who, in his contacts with citizens physically abuses individual rights of any citizen." Mr. Spreen added a similar statement to his public announcement of the guidelines. The PCR subcommittee has noted that the guidelines make crystal clear that the ordinance has not

enlarged police powers in the slightest, but in creating this symbol in response to a fear-charged community it has initiated, quite regrettably, the loss of rapport with the black community.

D. Recruitment, Hiring, and Promotions

The Mayor discovered in early August that the agreement to hire Negroes in accordance with a plan specifying exact quotas of blacks and whites for the July 8, July 22, and August 5 training classes had been subverted by the police department of personnel. He issued an order requiring Mayoral approval 3 days in advance of the start of each class and recruitment for the remaining 202 vacancies at the rate of 4 Negroes for each white candidate.

Promotions to precinct inspector and from sergeant to lieutenant have occurred and the status of the eligible roster and each training class will be determined by the Field division.

III Conclusions and Recommendations

In addition to those included within the discussion of each area:

A. The Field division staff has been directed by the PCR subcommittee to communicate with Mr. Spreen re: failure of CCB to initiate investigations where they are indicated (Hamblin photos of police brutality in 8/3 Michigan Chronicle) and to request routine sharing of CCB reports.

B. This division should cooperate fully in the implementation of the human relations recommendations of the Police Task Force Report. Also, we should indicate clearly, as a guide to projected police management and community relations studies, the crucial need for a re-definition of the citizen complaint processing function.

Handwritten notes and diagrams:
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