

MINUTES

POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

TIME: Tuesday, December 29, 1964 3:00 to 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Commissioner Girardin's office, 1300 Beaubien

PRESENT: Commissioner Girardin Mr. Stanley Winkelman
Rev. Nicholas Hood Rev. James Wadsworth
Father James Sheehan Mr. Plowden
Mr. Henry Szymanski Richard Marks
Stanley Webb

Mr. Marks opened the meeting by making an assessment of the general relationship of the community and police department. Attention was focused on the positive steps that have been taken in the direction of improved relations by Commissioner Girardin.

The agenda was presented.

Girardin: New order brings about a change in the total complaint procedure.

Example - Many complaints that would have been stopped at the precinct desk will now come directly to the Citizens Complaint Bureau and Commissioner.

In the order "Relative" should read "relevant."

Under old method complaint could be lost in the paper work or from hand to hand. CCB can now re-investigate cases that other persons have investigated.

Szymanski: As related to NSM case, when will investigation be completed?

Girardin: All of these old cases will be cleared up by first of year except cases that have occurred in the last month.

In the case of NSM the question is once a case is in court, there is a question of whether or not our investigation prejudices witnesses.

Another delay was the CRC which requested simultaneous investigations which presented many scheduling problems. Now the police department has a clear understanding of each agency making investigation independent.

Winkelman: (Refocusing discussion) Reference was made to "Responsibility Clause" in the new order. The public is mainly concerned with how department deals with complaints and herein lies the key to restoring the public's confidence in the police department.

Hood: When can interested parties look at CCB's findings?

Girardin: I have no objections to interested (or responsible) parties viewing records. They can be seen with me or with one of CCB staff. "Responsible parties" being NAACP or CCR or persons involved.

Marks: In the process of building and rebuilding the confidence of responsible citizens the department has to look at itself objectively, and concern itself with the factual nature of cases and reports have to be discussed with interested parties.

You have to commit yourself to dispatch in handling cases. Permit CRC to see case investigations in which they are interested. Have confidence in the objectivity of the Bureau.

Girardin: Historically police have had an air of secrecy about their investigations which naturally cause distrust; but image should change because of the openness with which they will now be conducted.

Hood: It is necessary for police department to establish and maintain communication between interested groups such as NAACP, especially in matters that NAACP brought before police department.

Marks: In some form of speaking this body is now functioning as a citizens' review board.

Szymanski: (Refocusing) The concern is not with a review board but with a properly functioning police department.

Marks: (Directed to NAACP) We encourage your participation, feel free to comment.

Wadsworth: I am here seeking only information, I do have a problem that will be taken up later.

Hood: Asks Wadsworth for reactions to order.

- Wadsworth: Many complaints initiated by NAACP have been resolved and NAACP gets decisions second-handed.
- Girardin: New framework will have built in as part of procedure to notify all parties involved of final disposition.
- Hood: Will this include ACME etc? Will they also be considered?
- Girardin: ACME came in last week with a complaint; that was investigated, I (Girardin) was dissatisfied, sent report back to precinct and immediately started CCB on case.
- Hood: Will NAACP receive copy of new order officially? We do want to continue lines of communication.
- Winkelman: How about regular scheduled meetings with Girardin?
- Girardin: Sure, because things naturally come up.
- Hood: Could NAACP be included at the investigation level? (reference to CCB investigation)
- Girardin: Sure we share common concerns with the NAACP.
- Hood: Lets move on to the status of cases.
- Sheehan: How about us meeting with people in the bureau - Such as the inspector?
- Marks: Is the inspector clear in his duties related to the new order. The Commissioner's confidence in the inspector's abilities has to be absolute. (Marks makes reference to Section II of order "Authority of Inspector.")
- Hood: Will the Department of Reports & Information give a different version of this order to what you have presented.
- Girardin: No, I have approved the order and every precinct and bureau will receive a copy.
- Marks: Should there be any difference in the findings of CRC and CCB?
- Girardin: All facts should coincide.
- Example - Recently there was a case of this nature and I felt officers were at fault and I returned the case for re-investigation.

Marks: How about CRC access to Police personnel files?

Girardin: This would have been resolved if Olsen had not intervened.
There is some question that remains;

1. How much of the file is confidential and how much is related to the investigation? Things like a man's marital disharmony or credit standing would have nothing to do with investigations. Corporation Counsel will give us a rule on this point.
2. The officer's "public record and record with department could be seen. From this maybe some pattern of behavior could be ascertained. The same should be made available to the police department.

Szymanski: (Presented list of outstanding cases)

Marks: Refers to NSM - Other than the main issue, what about the question of the Lieutenant's refusal to accept a citizen's complaint?

Szymanski: Will things like this occur even in the face of the new order?

Marks: The department has to know that this order is business and "no nonsense." What about the Sergeant and Patrolman, they have to be properly instructed they have to understand the policy.

Girardin: Every Inspector will have the order and he will see to it that the balance of the command receives the order.

There is a check because people in the community know that they can go to more than one place to complain.

Szymanski: This counter-charge by the police has to be stopped.

Marks: How does the department plan to handle the situation?

Girardin: This tactic has been discontinued, it has not been used lately.

Marks: Since the CRC is taking Barbara Jackson case to hearing it should clear the air.

Girardin: I made final judgment in Barbara Jackson case.

- Hood: When can we have the final disposition on these cases?
- Girardin: By the first of the year, you can see complete files on all cases except those occurring in December.
- Hood: We are very serious in our intent and we have concerns with the haste and speed in the investigations and published results of cases.
- Girardin: Our concern with the time element cannot be minimized either.
- Winkelman: Why can't the police department use the facilities of the CCR to inform the citizenry of effects of investigations, etc.?
- Hood: After police have notified their command, and interested parties, then we could push the material.
- Marks: After you (Girardin) have communicated the "facts" then we will carry the ball. Does Rev. Wadsworth wish to comment?
- Wadsworth: I'll comment on Barbara Jackson case - Girardin saw the girl four days after the incident, he saw her physical condition, how could he be fair in judgment and say that this could have happened by chance? How could CRC and Girardin have come up with conflicting information?
- Girardin: My judgment was based on facts (Davis Testimony).
1. Wrong day of week
 2. Car 10 feet inside of building; but there is an office there
 3. Two civilians present - only one could be found.
- Marks: Keith's verbal report was much the same as Girardin's findings.
- Girardin: Davis isn't considered a liar but his testimony is just inaccurate. The case is closed as far as the department is concerned, unless new evidence is presented, then it will be re-opened, and if someone does have additional evidence, I would appreciate hearing it.

The meeting was adjourned by Rev. Hood and Mr. Marks.