

COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS
WORK SHEET

CASE

NO. 67-61

OPEN (date) _____

CLOSED _____

CLASSIFICATION: **Police (CD)**

DESCRIPTION: **Alleged Police Harassment of
Inferno Group**

INITIAL INFORMATION BY:

SOURCE OF INFORMATION:

ASSIGNMENT: **Les Williams**

DETAILS, WORK PLAN, PROGRESS, ETC.:

Received telephone call from Lt. Shanks of the Youth Bureau in answer to our earlier inquiry. He stated that Chuck Wilson, Eric Garrett, and Morris Waugh had come to the Youth Bureau voluntarily on 1-5-68 for what he termed "elimination" of suspicion. He stated that the pair had been named by a witness in a rape investigation. He stated that after a short discussion, the three were released with no charges having been filed. Lt. Shanks seemed to be making certain that I got the point that:

- 1) the boys had been named by a witness, and
- 2) that they had come in "voluntarily".

Later in the afternoon, Jim Herman and I went to the Inferno Clubhouse, a converted vacant hamburger stand on the corner of Puritan and Cherrylawn. There were several teenage males present, some of whom were playing table tennis. I asked the Inferno President, Owen Warren, **if it were true that her group had been having trouble with the Police Department. She replied that there had been several instances of definite "harassment" in the past few weeks. She pointed out several of the boys present and stated that the police had been making a regular habit of picking the boys up on their way home from school, holding them for a couple of hours and releasing them without filing charges. I asked for specific instances, dates, and/or police badge numbers. She replied that all the information was now on file with Ernest Mazy of the American Civil Liberties Union who was serving as their attorney.**

After a short discussion of group progress, I told Miss Warren that we would contact the ACLU, and terminated the conversation.

- 2 -

I intend to contact Mr. Mazey today in order to determine what our proper involvement should be.

NOTE: It should be pointed out that our previous attempts to bring the Infernos in contact with the recreational possibilities available at Gmeiner Center met with failure. Gmeiner Center currently has what may be the best director in the City. (I recently witnessed several activities which demonstrate the positive attitudes necessary in more centers.) The ~~training~~ *DRAMA* program previously mentioned was set up by Parks & Recreation, but no one from the Infernos attended for four consecutive weeks, at which point, it was terminated. The facilities are currently open to them, however, they have evidently begun holding dances at St. Gregory's Church, which along with their new clubhouse seems to occupy most of their time.

LW:vt