

POINT 1
DRUG TRAFFIC

"MORE INTENSIVE INVESTIGATIONS AIMED AT MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND BANKROLLERS OF THE DRUG TRAFFIC."

"TO ASSIGN INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS TO JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOLS TO DRIVE THE PUSHERS AWAY."

"IMMEDIATE FULL SCALE INVESTIGATIONS BY A SPECIAL TEAM OF EXPERIENCED OUTSIDE INVESTIGATORS OF THE NUMEROUS RUMORS OF POLICE CORRUPTION WITH DRUGS."

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Major drug traffickers and bankrollers could best be handled by a one man grand jury investigation with Judge George Crockett as Grand Juror.

B. A Youth Services Program should be set up to mitigate substance abuse among high school and junior high school students.

Rationale: Substance abuse in junior high schools and high schools as well as among youth in general is the symptom of a much more ingrained problem. Substance abuse is not localized to junior high schools or high schools; it is a community wide epidemic and our youth are particularly susceptible to the disease process.

C. A Detroit based unit is required to investigate reports of police complicity with drugs. We recommend an independent commission with subpoena power and immunity and adequate staff to investigate rumored corruption and report findings and recommendations to the Mayor.

PLAN FOR YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM
(See recommendation B)

Basic Causes:

The absence of cultural, economic, educational, and creative opportunities and outlets, especially for our youth, makes Detroit youth more susceptible to substance abuse, fratricide, peer assassination, real and social, mistrust, fear, etc. We feel the way to drive pushers away from our youth is through a fully developed youth services program that is created for the purpose of offering Detroit youth a creative and cultural future.

THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT MAY WELL BE THE CORNERSTONE OF THE YSP, SINCE IT IS BASED IN PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE. THE TWO APPROACHES TO THE OVERALL PROGRAM WILL BE:

1. ORGANIZING YOUTH FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTION. THIS IS THE MAJOR STRATEGEM.

2. THE TACTICAL OPERATION SHOULD BE BASED ON THE USE OF STREET WORKERS OR COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKERS, COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS. THE WORKERS' MISSION IS TO BRING YOUTH INTO SERVICE BY ORGANIZING WITH YOUTH USING HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, CREATIVE AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS AS THE THINGS (OPPORTUNITIES) THAT THE CITY HAS TO OFFER AS OPPOSED TO DRUG ABUSE, FRATRICIDE, PEER ASSASSINATION, ETC.

Goals:

1. Promote and develop youth creativity through cultural development.
2. Open new mechanisms for youth employment, education and training.
3. Promote health of youth including environmental, physical, and mental health.
4. Plan, develop, and institute as a major program component a community youth organizing effort. This effort should emphasize both social and political organizing.

Rationale:

After evaluation of current youth services in Detroit, we conclude there is insufficient, unfocused youth and development programs. This situation perpetuates the passage of spiritual death of youth and eventually the society in Detroit. We feel encouraging our youth to direct their creative energy to constructive and unifying endeavors is the best preventative medicine there is. We see the YSP as a life support program of employment, education, training, and focused youth health services. Through this approach the City makes abuse of substances by our youth an unnecessary escape from the realities of too few creative and cultural opportunities.

Program Components:

1. Employment and Job Development

This will function to develop new employment opportunities through job development, career counselling, and employment placement. (The Mayor will need to take the lead by identifying scattered and current ongoing youth employment functions for maximum impact.) The City should seek to create more youth employment opportunities, both on a full time and cooperative basis.

2. Training and Education.

Youth training and education function is to develop training and education opportunities by providing knowledgeable, trained staff to identify educational opportunities in school and co-op, to counsel youth for educational and training opportunities, and to expose youth to a variety of growth experiences. (The educational and skilled development of the City - current - will focus more particularly on youth. Example: Current City operated up-grading programs through civil service and the tuition reimbursement plan.)

3. Health

This component will function as a youth public health and preventative medicine approach to young people's health; a commitment of public health resources, including and especially public health outreach workers (public health nurses), and community health workers. Note: there is virtually no school public health nursing service for Detroit schools. This absence means almost no prevention in schools, no early diagnosis in schools, and leaving the families of these youth left out of prevention, early diagnosis, and personal family health services.

The provision of youth health services is most often covered financially by various scattered uncoordinated programs throughout the City. Example; PRESCHAD Medicaid Screening.

4. Recreation and Culture

This function will accomplish the following objectives:

- a) Promote culture through ethnicity and self-awareness
- b) Create outlets for creative expression and/or appreciation.
- c) Provide recreation for members of community
- d) Provide activities of interest to a wide group of people

Rationale: With the shift in interest of youth toward cultural activities (films, music, dance, drama, etc.), the existing facilities in the City are all available for this concentrated program. The absence of creative cultural outlets perpetuates substance abuse, crime, etc. This component could actually stimulate business in various ethnic communities (movies, record business, concert halls, etc.).

The basic rationale of this component is the belief that cultural awareness creates a more positive environment in which to live and that emphasis on channeling energy of young people into more constructive endeavors will drive the pushers out of the community.

Health, Education and Prevention Function

The first task of the City's drug prevention efforts should be directed toward answering three questions: What is the extent of the problem? Who does the problem involve? Where is the problem manifesting itself?

The next order of business for this program is to adopt a community orientation which directs itself primarily to parents and children. The material which it presents to its communities must be factual, current, and appropriate for the intended audience, which in the case of Detroit means that it should be relevant to the experiences, lifestyle, perceptions, feelings and values of those communities in which it is presented. Operationally it should emphasize the meaning and function of drug use rather than its physiological or psychological effects. Its objectives should be to leave its target population, especially its youth, secure in its information and realistically able to assess the risks, while providing continuing opportunities for discussion and the exploration of issues.

Policy Considerations for YSP

- A. The Program will require an ADVISORY COMMISSION board or committee. This committee should be youthful and ethnic.
- B. This program must be given Mayoral priority and authority in order to coordinate existing programs and develop a YSP out of those on-going, unrelated, unfocused program activities.
- C. YSP must be DECENTRALIZED on an ethnic and neighborhood basis.
- D. The program must have a secure YOUTH DIRECTOR who is comfortable with a decentralized service delivery operation and has adequate staff assigned on a decentralized base.
- E. The program must be political in the sense that its operation is designed to bring youth into participation and influence of the government.
- F. The Mayor might want to review decriminalization of drugs in view of the state's trend in this regard. Currently this committee feels decriminalization of drugs can only work if we have the above services well under way. At that point, drugs become irrelevant anyway.

Public Departmental Accountability

1. The Police Department's annual budget should delineate line item costs in accordance with accepted accounting procedures, and should be made available for public review.
2. In order to build confidence of the citizens and collect much needed information about criminal activity, but only as an interim measure, a Citizens Information Receipt Center, operated by civilians under the aegis of respected community figures, should be established. Citizens who are unwilling to report suspected criminal activity or complaints about police behavior directly to the Police Department, would have the option of reporting same to this Center.
3. When the new charter takes effect the Police Commissioners will be charged with establishing policies, rules and regulations. In order to expedite their work, a small Task Force composed of people who are knowledgeable about law enforcement should be established in advance to review, analyze and evaluate present Police Department manuals and operating procedures. The Task Force would complete its work by July 1, 1974 and would present its report to the Board of Police Commissioners.
4. The citizen complaint process should be strengthened in the following ways:
 - a) Upon taking office, the new Mayor should release a report on action taken in regard to the 27 citizen complaints stemming from the search for Haywood Brown and others. This would dramatize a new attitude by a city administration. Public disclosure of action on any complaint which is of major concern to the community should be the rule.
 - b) Letters should be sent by the Citizens Complaint Section to complainants informing them of the opening of a case and the case number assigned. This would serve as a written record for the complainant as to when his case was begun, and would prevent a case investigation from being discontinued by the investigator before completion.
 - c) A written report should be mailed to the complainant or referral agency, within a stated period of time, summarizing findings and stating what action has been taken. (CCS procedures apparently provide for this now, but there is widespread belief among knowledgeable people that this is seldom done.) There should be enclosed a form on which the citizen can indicate if he is dissatisfied with the disposition of his complaint. Reconsideration should then be given to the complaint, and all which are not satisfactorily resolved within the Police Department, should be reported to the Mayor's office.