

DETROITERS FOR POLICE RESIDENCY

EAST SIDE OFFICE: 8521 Mack - Phone: 922-9569
WEST SIDE OFFICE: 11130 Grand River - Phone: 935-9869

Detroiters for Police Residency is an organization involving over twenty-five community groups who want Police Officers to continue to maintain residency in our city. "On the record", 215 police officers are officially known to be in violation of city residency requirements by living outside of Detroit boundaries. Community research also indicates that suburban residency for police officers working for the City of Detroit could currently run as high as 1500. The courts say that this issue should be included in contract negotiations between the City and the police officers. Two of three arbitrators have been appointed to assist in arbitrating this matter. We feel the vast majority of Detroiters are in favor of police residency. We want to document this by presenting the City with signed petitions from as many residents as we can obtain in a few short weeks.

The following are some of the reasons we are in favor of police residency:

1. The vast majority of citizens want it. In a democracy, this must be one of the most important considerations. Why change it? For sixty years, it has been a civil service requirement for city employees. In 1968, it was strengthened by City Ordinance. It is not a new requirement.
2. We want it for our protection. If a police officer may live anywhere, then the possibility of a police officer living in our block or our area is reduced. As has happened in Newark, where residency is not now required, the officers are less available in bad weather and for emergency duty. If one calls in ill, there is very little that can be done to verify illness for one living 75 miles away.
3. Fellow-citizens, sensitive to our problems, will be better law enforcers. It is important that those we hire to protect us and enforce our laws be a part of us, a part of our community, that they live among us sharing our anxieties and hopes. If they, too, share our concern for our neighbors and properties, they will be sensitive to those concerns because of their own vested interest as residents.
4. The taxpayers of Detroit are the employers and have the right to determine the qualifications for employment as they have for almost sixty years, to include residency.
5. With high unemployment rates, why should we hire non-Detroiters to fill positions we pay for with our own tax money? Why not give this employment to fellow Detroiters who will help pay the taxes to support public services?
6. The economy of Detroit will certainly suffer if the police are allowed to live outside the City. If they are permitted to live in the suburbs, then all Detroit City employees will eventually demand and receive this right. This will mean more homes for sale, more abandoned homes, and a loss to our tax base. There might even be more crime. The jobs we taxpayers pay for will be given to people who neither share our tax burden nor do their share of purchasing in Detroit.

7. Jobs for minority groups, who already suffer higher unemployment rates than others and who are not now adequately represented in City employment, will become even more scarce if City employees may come from those who live outside Detroit.
8. Businesses will suffer more as a result of less employment among Detroit residents and a moving out to the suburbs of large numbers of City employees, black and white.
9. Detroit taxpayers will either have to pay higher taxes or have less services provided by the City government. Non residents pay less income taxes, no school or property taxes.

JOIN US!! Petitions for this drive are available from many community groups or from the above headquarters. Have your block club, social or veteran organization join with us. Ask your church to pass out petitions to make this drive successful!

Chairpersons include the Reverend Charles Adams, Mr. George B. Van Antwerp, Father Norman Thomas, Ms. Betti Wiggins and Mr. Walter Brown.

DETROITERS FOR POLICE RESIDENCY -- PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

SHRINE OF THE BLACK MADONNA
OPERATION GET DOWN
THE GUARDIANS OF MICHIGAN
OPERATION PUSH
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC)
THE URBAN LEAGUE
THE 1ST DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CONGRESSIONAL)
THE 13TH DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CONGRESSIONAL)
THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK STUDENTS
TURN DETROIT AROUND
INTER-FAITH CENTERS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
TEAM FOR JUSTICE
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
CONGRESS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE
THE MICHIGAN PROGRESSIVE BAPTIST CONVENTION
PUERTO RICAN ORGANIZATION FOR POLITICAL ACTION
SER (SERVICE EMPLOYMENT REDEVELOPMENT)
CARDINAL LEGER COMMUNITY
PROJECT REDIRECTION DETROIT
FOREST PARK I AND II, CITIZEN'S DISTRICT COUNCILS
DELRAY COMMUNITY CENTER
PROFESSIONAL SKILLS ALLIANCE
FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL