

**DETROIT COALITION AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY,
REPRESSION, AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF A GENERATION
P.O. Box 44925, Detroit, MI 48232**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DETROIT COALITION SAYS "NO" TO HOLLOW POINTS

**PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1998 AT 11:30 A.M. AT
LANEY GUN SUPPLIES, 4752 Chene n. of Forest, Detroit**

Will include a demonstration of the effects of hollow point bullets on the human body.

The Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation today called Detroit Police Department Chief Benny Napoleon's "risk management" proposal to issue hollow-point exploding bullets to Detroit police officers a continuation and escalation of the Department's ongoing policy of assault on the rights of Detroit residents.

Speaking for the Coalition, Ron Scott stated, "Hollow point bullets are used to kill, plain and simple. The police have initiated a true policy of deadly force. We as citizens must fight this if we intend to maintain our own safety."

The Coalition challenged Chief Napoleon and the DPD's justification for this action. Said Scott, "The proposal for the use of hollow point bullets was brought to the attention of the City Council on December 4, the day before Police Officer Shaun Bandy was killed. We certainly do not see this specific incident as a justification for a policy position which would allow police to escalate the already alarming amount of police violence which we brought to the public's attention at the City Council Public Hearing on Police Brutality last November 30. Is the use of hollow point bullets Chief Napoleon's response to the testimony of the citizens at that hearing?"

The Coalition has documented at least twelve killings of citizens by police officers in the metro Detroit area, nine in Detroit, in the last year alone. The most recent was the shooting death of nineteen-year-old Demetries Posey Horsely in the Ninth Precinct on December 5, 1998, the same day Officer Bandy was killed. Said Arnetta Grable, mother of Lamar Grable, who died in 1996 after being shot eight times by police including twice in the back, "The deaths of all these young people in our city are just so depressing. And then for them to pass a law to use hollow point bullets to intentionally take more lives is like pouring salt into our families' wounds."

The Coalition renewed its call for enactment of the demands it presented at the City Council hearing November 30 which have been published in its Report to the City Council. These include enactment of a Charter Amendment which would mandate election of the Police Commission and the Police Chief and broaden the powers of the Commission to investigate, charge, and pursue prosecution of police officers engaging in acts of brutality; and the publication of comprehensive reports detailing all citizen complaints lodged against police officers and all fatalities incurred by citizens at the hands of police, with names of the officers involved and dispositions of the investigations

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL (313) 331-7794

December 23-29, 1998

Deadly ammo plan comes under fire

By Dalondo Moultrie
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

The Detroit Police Department wants to issue its officers some of the most dangerous ammunition known to mankind.

The DPD wants to change the type of bullets that it issues from full metal jackets to shells with hollow point tips. Detroit Police Chief Benny Napoleon said use of the bullets will be beneficial in the sense that they will not go through the body, reducing the possibility of bystanders being hurt.

At a time when figures indicate that citizens are becoming less violent, law officials are becoming more heavily armed. Recent FBI statistics state that the rate of violent crimes in

America has declined 7 percent in the first half of 1998 alone. In fact, this trend has been evident for the last six years, reports say.

That has some community groups angry.

Ron Scott, of the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation, disapproves of the chief's request for the new bullets, labeling it "a declaration of war, the police against the people." He believes the Detroit Police Dept. is using the recent murder of one of its officers, Shawn Bandy, to justify using deadlier weaponry. Bandy was shot by assailants using AK-47s, an automatic assault weapon.

Napoleon disputes this claim.

"This was not done rashly," he said. "It is not a response to Bandy. We commissioned an extensive study over 100 pages long to study the effectiveness of the bullets."

According to the police chief, the department has been trying to get the expansion rounds in Detroit for some time now. In addition to lessening the chance of injury to innocent bystanders, this type of bullet helps protect the officers, he said.

"It has more stopping power," Napoleon said. "The purpose is to stop the person. We don't shoot to wound. That is not the way we are trained."

General Laney, executive director of the Motor City Sportsman's Association, a Black gun lobby, and owner of Laney Gun Supplies, said that "instead of an arms race, we need police to learn more about the citizens they are paid to protect." Citing what he calls a "Starsky and Hutch" mentality, he said, some officers forget they are public servants.

Retired police officer Henry Dudzinski, who is affiliated with the Coalition Against Police Brutality, also disagrees with Chief Napoleon's decision to issue the hollow point bullets.

"Sounds to me like this is nothing more than an execution bullet," Dudzinski said.

"When I was on the force (1948-1973), all 'dumb-dumbs' (a similar type of bullet) were outlawed because of their lethal capabilities."



GENERAL LANEY shows the hollow points' effect on a bowling pin.

Laney, Scott and the coalition recently put on a demonstration of the hollow point bullets. At Laney's gun range, the bullets were fired from a .38 caliber handgun into a bowling pin. The bullet created a hole in the pin but did not pass through it. He said similar tests have been performed on flesh. In those tests the bullet went through.

Many gun enthusiasts agree that hollow point bullets are believed to be more damaging to the human body and its internal organs.

The NAACP issued a statement in response to the police chief's attempts to acquire the new ammunition. The civil rights organization defended Napoleon's decision-making ability.



HENRY DUDZINSKI (left), retired Detroit police officer, and **RON SCOTT** of the Coalition Against Police Brutality, spoke out against Chief Benny Napoleon's attempt to issue hollow point bullets to his officers.

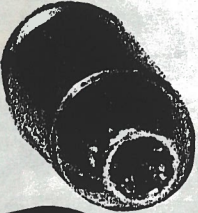
NAACP Executive Director John Johnson Jr. wrote, "Chief Napoleon has always responded to the needs and concerns of both his department and the community, and has a skill for providing the appropriate balance. I am sure he will exercise those admirable talents in this situation."

However, the NAACP is not completely comfortable with the idea that local officers will use such dangerous weaponry.


"The proposed use of organ-mutilating bullets is a concern," Johnson wrote. "The over-reactive nature of some officers, resulting from many factors, may lead to an unwarranted and unnecessary death, or extreme disability."

See Hollow point page A-4 ►


DID YOU KNOW.....




On July 21, hollow point bullets were approved for the use of ALL Detroit Police Officers by an arbitrator?



These bullets mushroom in the body, creating huge, gaping wounds that are almost always fatal.



These bullets, originally developed to kill large game animals, have historically been used world-wide against peoples of color.



On July 21, the requirement that Detroit Police Officers live in Detroit was struck down by the same arbitrator, meaning the police force will become increasingly white and suburban.

Detroit's Police Department already has the highest rate of fatal shootings by police in the country.

DETROIT COALITION AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY DEMANDS BAN ON HOLLOW POINT BULLETS; TELLS CITY COUNCIL: REVOKE FUNDING

For the past two years, the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality and the Criminalization of a Generation has challenged the decision of Police Chief Benny Napoleon and the Police Commission to use hollow point bullets against the citizenry of Detroit.

The Coalition presented historical and contemporary evidence concerning the barbaric nature of hollow point bullets, which were originally designed for use against people of color in the former British colonies.

At a press conference in 1998, the Coalition demonstrated the devastating impact of these rounds, which mushroom upon entering the body, creating huge, gaping wounds.

Police Chief Napoleon, who heads the most violent police force in the nation, argued that the use of such weaponry was a matter of risk management. He told City Council that he had directed police officers under threat to "shoot to kill."

The Journal of Forensic Science has reported that use of these bullets endangers not only those involved in direct confrontation with the police, but also the general population. They report that 80% of rounds fired in police shoot-outs miss their targets.

Detroit Police have the national record of the highest number of police shootings per capita. With Napoleon's "shoot-to-kill" policy in effect, we have a trigger-happy police force armed with the deadliest possible weaponry.

(over)

In March of 1999, the Detroit City Council voted to approve the contract to purchase hollow point rounds, 5-4. President Gil Hill, Sheila Cockrel, Kay Everett, Nicholas Hood, and Alberta Tinsley-Talabi voted "Yes." Clyde Cleveland, Ken Cockrel, Jr., Maryann Mahaffey, and Brenda Scott voted "No." Sheila Cockrel said she voted Yes because the Police Department assured her that the ammunition would be used only by two select units of officers.

On July 21, 2000, Arbitrator Donald Sugerman ruled in favor of the following Detroit Police Officers Association (DPOA) contract demands: 1) the general issue of hollow point rounds to the entire 3,000+ member Detroit police force 2) the elimination of the residency requirement for Detroit police officers, in keeping with recently enacted state legislation.

The effect of these two policies will be the creation of a police force increasingly hostile, alien, and militaristically disposed toward Detroit residents.

The Coalition urges the community to call City Council members and demand:

- 1) *Revoke funding for the hollow-point contract.* The contract they approved expired August 31, 1999. There is currently no Council-approved contract for the bullets in place.
- 2) *Seek legal measures to retain the residency requirement for Detroit police.*

We call upon all Detroit citizens to mobilize, organize and resist these policies which threaten our lives and engender an even more repressive environment for our young people and ourselves.

**THE DETROIT COALITION
AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY, REPRESSION & THE
CRIMINALIZATION OF A GENERATION**

P.O. Box 44925, Detroit MI 48232 (313) 875-2691
Meetings every Wednesday, 6:30 PM 4605 Cass/W. Forest

