

# DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT ✓

## INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM Tactical Mobile Unit

Date May 24, 1967

To: District Inspector Anthony Bertoni

Subject: INVESTIGATION AND REPORT RELATIVE TO THE LETTER OF MR JOHN BEDFORD OF 400 BAGLEY, APARTMENT 2020. COMMISSIONERS FILE #1291.

Mr Bedford was personally contacted by Lieutenant Alan Eichman, Tactical Mobile Unit and a follow up telephone contact made by the writer. He reiterated essentially the contents of his letter. His allegations in the "Belle Isle" incident evolved around 3 conditions.

1. Inadequate communications between Police and Public .
2. Reckless and wanton action by the Mounted Bureau.
3. Neglecting to allow enough time for persons to leave the island before being assaulted.

The writer was present on Belle Isle on the day referred to by Mr Bedford. When Tactical Mobile Unit Officers attempted to make a lawful arrest, they were interfered with, and bombarded with bottles and missiles. A significant number of people immediately left the island, after viewing this assaultive demeanor of the crowd. In the interest of Public Safety, the island was ordered closed and all persons requested to leave. A portable battery operated bull horn was used by me to make this request to the unruly crowd in this one specific area. Smaller groups and individuals were contacted personally by other officers.

It was an absolute necessity to form the Motor Traffic Bureau, Tactical Mobile Unit and Mounted Bureau into squads, and in a concerted effort move this rebellious crowd from the island. As this was being accomplished, the request to leave the island was continually being broadcast over the bull horn. It was necessary to continue this action in the Jefferson, Boulevard area, and for several blocks in each direction, until the area was also secured.

During our successful Tactical maneuvers, I witnessed no evidence of any unnecessary charging or mistreatment by any Police Officer.

Our responsibility in a critical situation such as this, and the reason for the apparent stern methods employed were explained to Mr Bedford.

At the termination of our conversation Mr Bedford expressed a sense of gratitude for the attention given his complaint.

I recommend this matter be considered closed.

**APPROVED**

MAY 25 1967

*Anthony Bertoni*  
DISTRICT INSPECTOR

**APPROVED**

MAY 25 1967

*Thomas C. ...*  
CHIEF INSPECTOR

Inspector

*Chester Sylvester*  
Chester Sylvester  
Commanding Officer  
Tactical Mobile Unit