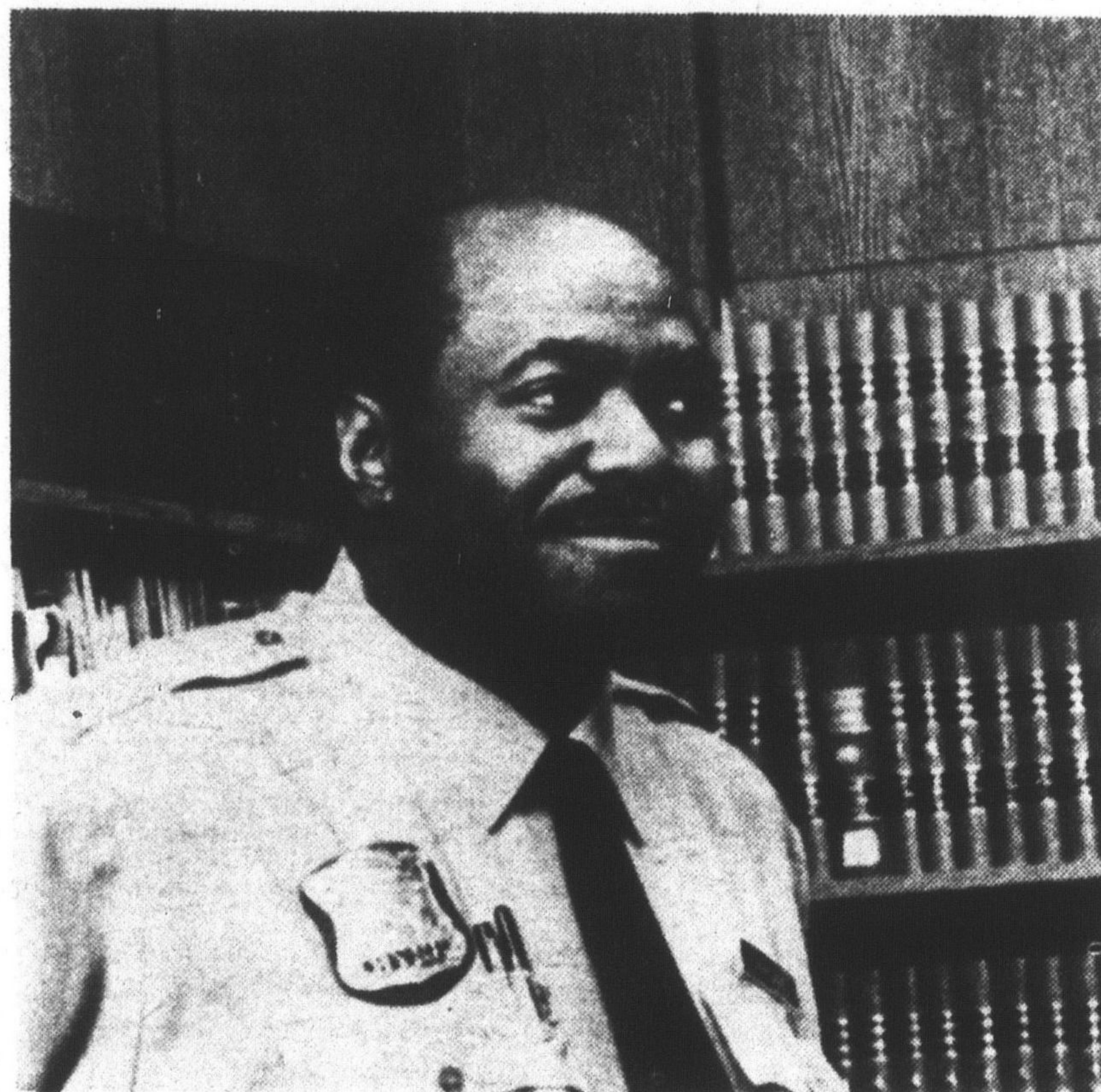


# Guardians Attack John Nichols



Moses Baldwin Executive Director of the Guardians

As the November 6 mayor's race approaches, Police Commissioner John Nichols has not yet resigned his post. His run-off opponent Coleman Young, is not the only person questioning this political incest.

During the primary election campaign, the Guardians of Michigan, a black police officers organization whose members are mainly from Detroit, sent a letter to Nichols and then later held a press conference to publicly report their opposition to the Nichols decision.

In a letter dated July 25, the Guardians stated to Nichols: "We realize you have been a strong advocate for police professionalism, however, . . . attempting to combine politics and professionalism can result in . . . a return to the "spoil system police department of yesterday."

Nichols remained police commissioner during the primary campaign, often refusing unfavorable speaking engagements by saying that he "was still putting in a 40 hour week."

At a September 14 press conference, his first after the primary victory, he said, "I will base my decision on resigning or retaining the police commissioner post on whether I feel I can adequately handle the job while campaigning for Mayor."

"The way he (Nichols) is dealing with this makes it much harder for us," says Police Officer Moses Baldwin, "because we supposedly must enforce the laws fairly and impartially. That gets hard to do when the guy who runs the Department is also the guy running for Mayor."

## Nichols—Making The Cop's Job Harder

Baldwin, a veteran of 22 years on the force, is the Executive Director of the Michigan Guardians. He is also one of the two police officers assigned to the courtroom of people's judge Justin Ravitz.

"As we said in our letter," continued Baldwin, "his dual role thing only adds to the mistrust people already have. All Nichols is really doing is putting another political cloud over our heads, when what we're trying to do is go out and do a good job for the people."

Moses Baldwin knows what he's talking about. Despite years of struggling within the Department, particularly for the recognition and representation of black officers, he has never lost touch with what a police officer should be.

"I joined the force," continues Baldwin, "because I wanted to help the people. I think that's what the majority join the force for. Cops should be out working with and helping the people. But it gets harder all the time, because a lot of the people upstairs get in the way every chance they get. It's particularly true of recruiting."

## Nichols' Decision—A Cop-Out?

"It's almost funny," he added, "because during this whole campaign I've heard all these politicians, including Nichols, talk about how they're not going to contribute to the racial polarization. And yet, it's these same guys who have made it what it is today."

"And Nichols' not resigning," finished Baldwin, "contributes to it that much more. He's saying one thing and then doing the exact opposite."

John Nichols is still keeping quiet. He says he will announce his "decision" on September 29.

John Nichols is a cop-politician, so regardless of what he announces on September 29, we know — since he's done it to us many times before — one thing: He'll say one thing then do the exact opposite.

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