

## CLAIMS POLICE HARASSMENT

# Howard King Beat Again, His Mother Bit on Neck

The "worst incident in a series of police harassments, beatings and false arrests" hit Howard King July 18.

King, 17, of 3002 Harrison, was involved in an incident of police brutality last September, suffering a broken hand and a facial cut requiring nine stitches. One of the officers involved has been suspended and Police Commissioner Ray Girardin has promised further action against the other officers.

A Negro patrolman who gave testimony to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission which substantiated King's story has been transferred from Second precinct to Seventh precinct because of harassments.

Monday at 9 a.m. King was walking near Cochrane

and Butternut with two friends, Willie and Henry Jackson, to a park to play baseball, when they saw Danny Reed, white, 18, of 2847 Brooklyn, drove up in his '58 black convertible and tried to hit King. In jumping out of the way, King said his baseball bat hit the car.

Reed drove away and circled back at a high rate of speed. King and his friends say it looked as if a Tactical Mobile Unit stopped him to write a ticket; when he pointed down at King. The police report states the TMU car was halted by Reed, who told them King had tried to assault him with a baseball bat.

King was chased to the rear of 3001 Cochrane by Patr. George Patrick, who

caught him on the back porch. King and his friends say Patr. Patrick began beating him on the neck and ribs with his gun, saying, "You're under arrest, you black SOB." He got away and ran inside the house and hid.

His mother, Mrs. Mary Lee King, came out and asked why they were chasing her son. None of the witnesses saw any attempt at assault by her. She was beaten, bitten on the neck, and dragged to the scout car.

The police report states Mrs. King jumped on Patr. Patrick's back with a 10" butcher knife, and during the scuffle, the officer suffered a laceration to the top of his right hand.

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# Howard King

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By this time, other police cars had arrived, and 12 policemen broke down the door and searched for King and could not find him. One witness said he believed Patr. Patrick received the cut on his hand when he overturned a rabbit hutch in the back yard looking for King.

Mrs. King said that during the search she was told by one of the TMU officers, "You people are animals and we're going to treat you that way." Mrs. King also feels the officers picked up the knife in the kitchen during the search and brought it along to use in charges against her.

She was taken to Second precinct and to Receiving hospital for treatment for the bite on her neck. She said she was not allowed to talk to her attorney until after the courts closed, in an attempt to make sure she had to stay in the hospital all night. She was strapped to the bed the entire time, until she was released at about 8:30 p.m. Charges of felonious assault were dropped against her. She is now charged with obstructing a police officer in the performance of his duty.

King came out after the police left and went to his attorney, Ron Reosti, of the American Civil Liberties Union, and his attorney found out he was wanted for felonious assault and took him to the Prosecutor's office where he was booked.

King and two other witnesses say Danny Reed had threatened King with a shotgun in May. King was picked up on a false murder charge several months ago and kept in jail over the weekend and released on Monday, and no one was told who had issued the murder charge against him.

Mrs. King and neighbors say police have "laid in wait" frequently, lights off, in the neighborhood since the incident has been picked up and released several other times.

West Central Organization, which has been involved in the King case since September when King's aunt, Mrs. Margaret Shine, a founder of WCO, brought it to their attention, held a rally that afternoon at Campus Martius protesting police brutality.

They brought a 900 pound chunk of ice, with the message, "Cool the cops," from Campus to 1330 Beaubien, police headquarters.

The Citizens' Complaint Bureau of the Police Department initiated a full investigation of the incident even before the King family filed a complaint. Commissioner Girardin commented, "The Citizens' Complaint Bureau is undertaking a complete investigation and will arrive at the facts and take needed action, if any. I have complete confidence in the investigators to come up with the truth."