

*Extra Info*

# DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM  
First Precinct

Date May 21, 1970

To: Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy (Through Channels)

Subject: INVESTIGATION AND REPORT ON LETTER OF COMPLAINT FROM MR. GEORGE SABO TO COMMON COUNCIL REGARDING BLACK PANTHERS. (MC-2644).

In his letter of complaint to Common Council, Mr. Sabo complains of the members of the Black Panther Party selling their paper on the corner of Woodward and Gratiot and creating a nuisance.

On May 20, 1970, I talked to Mr. Sabo at his newsstand on Gratiot at Woodward. Mr. Sabo has been selling newspapers at the same location for twenty years and has not had any problems until about three weeks ago when members of the Black Panther Party moved onto the corner to sell their paper. His main complaint is that his business has suffered, and in particular, the sales of the Michigan Chronicle. He further stated that he wanted the police to allow only one of the Panthers to sell papers on his corner.

I informed Mr. Sabo that the police officers could not limit the number of persons selling, and that the sale of the Panther paper is protected by the First Amendment.

I assured Mr. Sabo that the First Precinct is very much aware of the problems caused by this group in the area of the J. L. Hudson store, and also that members of the Department have issued ten tickets to the Panthers for the violation of various Ordinances and have made four arrests.

Mr. Sabo stated that the group has not bothered him for the past week, but if they did return, he would be willing to appear in Traffic and Ordinance Court as a complaining witness.

On May 21, 1970, I conferred with Mr. William Doran, Assistant Corporation Council assigned to the Police Department, regarding Mr. Sabo's complaint. Mr. Doran rendered the opinion that Mr. Sabo would have to go to civil court to limit the salesmen. Mr. Doran also repeated a previous opinion that police officers should have a complainant when writing the ticket for "Impede Pedestrian Travel while Vending."

Mr. Sabo expressed his satisfaction with the manner in which his letter was handled.

Inspector

*William Doran*