

4. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

The Secretary had no report.

5. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF

Youth Related Problems in the Third and Fourth Precincts

On Tuesday, February 26, 1991, I attended the Fourth Precinct Community Relations meeting. At that time, several citizens expressed concern about the severity of youth related problems in their neighborhoods.

In conjunction with the efforts already put forth by Commander Greene and officers of the Fourth Precinct, the Special Crimes Section was directed to concentrate their resources in the Third and Fourth Precincts. Since February 26, 1991 to this date, the Special Crimes Section has made in excess of 301 arrests in the Third and Fourth Precincts. Additionally, efforts of the officers at the Fourth Precinct have resulted in approximately 400 arrests since January.

The Fourth Precinct and Special Crimes Section will continue their enforcement activities addressing the concerns of youth related problems.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the Commission.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Edward DeCourcy, Brightmoor Community Center, expressed concern about possible police layoffs and cutbacks.

Joan DeCourcy, President of Brightmoor Concerned Citizens, expressed concern about losing Mini-Station officers that work with the teens in Eliza Howell Park.

Chief of Police Stanley Knox responded that the Department has had to make cuts to place more officers on the street.

Peter Mead, Southwestern High School Teacher, stated that they were concerned about losing police officers, and about losing kids. Mr. Mead said that they were also concerned about guns in the street and drugs in the street and they needed more Spanish speaking officers. He concluded by saying the citizens must cooperate and work with the police.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE CONTINUED

Robert Laberta, resident of the Fourth Precinct, described his home being shot up by AK 47 762 Russian automatic rifles. He displayed his clothes with bullet hole damage. Mr. Laberta advised the parents of all the children to control their children.

Emma Kogo stated the community could not afford to loose its police officers, also that each and every one must do their part to solve the problem by becoming active in the community.

Martha Datriil, 1630 Lansing, complained that her niece was assaulted after leaving school, "the gangs must be stopped" she stated, she continued that the department is undermanned and needs additional police officers.

Carl Day, President Southwest Detroit Improvement Association, stated that the Association Board of Directors took a vote and want to express their opposition to police layoffs.

Mary Turner, community person, stated that the community has a gang problem, a drug problem and a prostitute problem, thats what the kids see on their way to school. The area needs more police. She also complained that no 911 operators speak Spanish and some area citizens cannot call in a complaint.

Angie Reyes, Latino Family Services Youth Program, advised the audience that the children in the community were their children and everyone had a responsibility toward them, "we all share a duty to help, to take a couple of these children under your wing and guide them". Ms. Reyes complained that she was receiving reports that the young people in the area were being harassed and abused by the gang squad. Some were arrested for nothing and later released without charges, the police need to be sensitive to the multicultural base of the community she concluded.

Ozzie Rovell, Ex-Director for Latino Family Services, complained that the Latino Family Services has a drug treatment program but they cannot put people into treatment due to state budget cutbacks. Mr. Rovell also advised that the police must exercise caution in pursuing the gang members, some youngsters adopt the style but are not gang members he explained.

Jim Kertin, Board Member MACO Organization, warned the audience they must get a jump start on the housing stock in

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE CONTINUED

the area to begin rehabing the homes. Mr. Kertin also voiced opposition to police layoffs.

Anthony Lanczak, 7733 Radcliff, complained that his garage was burned down, his car windows busted and Fort/Green police told him their hands were tied, we need more police, he stated.

Ricardo Blazquez, former resident of the Chicago Pelson area, read a prepared statement that essentially spoke to the responsibility of the parents to guide their children, he quoted Benito Juarez, "respect for the rights of others is peace".

Thomas Christensen, Vice President of Southwest Detroit Improvement Association, read aloud a letter from an unknown woman describing the difficulties faced by a youth growing up in the southwest area, signed a broken hearted mother. Mr. Christensen concluded by asking for more help from the police.

Ray Clincher, Southwest Area resident, reported that his son was enroute to a local store and was assaulted by the Latin Counts receiving a five (5) inch wound on his face. Mr. Clincher stated he was furious and would tolerate no more harm to his family.

Father Larry Karney, St. Anne Church, reported that he had a funeral for a sixteen (16) year old kid, the second teenager that was shot to death this year in his parish. Father Karney spoke on the importance of gun control in the city.

Sandra Serna, resident of Southwest Detroit, recited a long list of crimes in the neighborhood and complained that there were not enough police in the area.

Jack Ditman, Southwest Community Association member, blamed the courts for not supporting the police, and his neighbors for tolerating kids misbehavior.

Denise Pollington, mother of ex-gang member forced to leave state due to death threats, stated she had citizen patrol radios supplied by the Police Department for people to commence radio patrols.

Jean Gendren, Southwest Detroit area, publicly thanked her children's grandmother, Cecelia Gendren, and a Mr. Retecki a former local school teacher and urged everyone to work together to end the problem of gang activity.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE CONTINUED

Father John Morten, Holy Redeemer Church, praised the people for turning out for the meeting and suggested the gang members are also victims.

Jimmy Correo, local youth, complained that the police harass the youth and all Latinos like they are gang members. "I'm Puerto Rican but that does not mean I am a gang member. The police have to learn to communicate with us and learn who the bad guys really are. The police should show us some respect", he stated.

Ricardo Galvan, area resident, complained that the gangs purport to be protecting the neighborhood when in reality they are causing violence. "We need to become a strong family and walk the streets to protect our homes".

Penny, area resident, complained that her car windows were shot out by the gangs. She did nothing to them but they did \$2000.00 damage to her car. She also stated that her brother had joined the gangs and that her mother is very upset.

Magdallio Rodriguez complained that three juveniles broke into his home carrying guns and threatened to shoot a two month old baby. He stated he will have no mercy for them when they are caught.

Jack Mulcahy, sixty year area resident, complained that the seventy-five (75) officers guarding the Fox Theatre should be redeployed to the Fourth Precinct. He added that everyone should get descriptions of the people using the guns and where they go after the shooting so the police can make arrests and confiscate the weapons.

Ralph Scherbarth Southwest Business Association, stated he was opposed to police layoffs and warned the audience of the so called gypsy swindlers ripping people off.

Belda Garza, area resident for thirty years, suggested that they hold another meeting to lay plans for action against the problems. She added that Southwest Detroit is getting all the publicity when there are problems across the City.

Karen, area resident, complained of the 911 operators screening technique.

Eddie Gavec, Clark Street resident, praised the police for the job they did in Clark Park last summer. He added that parents must control their children and know where they are at all times.