

THE NEED FOR CHANGE

The need for a police department turnaround was spotlighted during the late 1960's by rising tensions in police-community relations, and a sharply rising crime trend.

In 1970, crime reached an all-time peak in the city, with a total of 192,886 crimes of all types reported. This represented an increase of 25 percent in only three years. Robberies, the most frequently reported crime involving personal violence, rose even faster, by 92 percent over a three-year period, to a total of 23,038 in 1970.

ROOTS OF THE TURNAROUND

The passage of the Omnibus Crime and Safe Streets act greatly expanded federal aid to the criminal justice system. The first federal funds to reach Detroit in 1970 arrived as crime approached its peak.

The efforts of the community, including the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce and privately funded groups such as New Detroit, Inc., aided the planning and cohesive actions of municipal government and the police to augment the fight against crime.

The new city administration under Mayor Roman S. Gribbs placed top priority on support for effective counter-crime measures and improvement of police operations.

Within the department, a move to bureau organizational structure was begun.

The city administration joined with the leadership of the Police Department in a search for additional outside help, including substantial funding and management research manpower to help develop a coordinated approach to total department improvement, and put it into effect.

All these essentially long-range moves had no immediate effect on the rising crime trend through 1970.

CRIME IN DETROIT 1966-1972
(ALL REPORTED CRIME—IN THOUSANDS)

