

# Labor Defense Coalition

11331-33 Woodward, Detroit, Michigan 48202

CENTRAL OFFICE

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## PRESS STATEMENT

On Saturday, January 27, 1973, a meeting of concerned members of the Detroit community was held at the offices of the Labor Defense Coalition, among those present were Attorney Elliot Hall, President of the N.A.A.C.P., Attorney Samuel Simpson, President of the Wolverine Bar Association, representatives of the Black Panther Party, Mr. Barry Hankerson from Operation Getdown and other members of the community concerned about the question of public safety in Detroit.

Fifty-four persons present agreed to do the following things:

1. Constitute themselves as an interim steering committee to organize a community educational rally to be held on Sunday, February 11, 1973, from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Adlai Stevenson Building, 10100 Grand River Avenue in Detroit.

Admission is free and live entertainment will be included in the program which will include Councilwoman Erma Henderson, Attorney Kenneth Cockrel, Elliot Hall of the N.A.A.C.P. and other community figures.



2. The thrust of the program will be directed to the following questions:

a. The need to abolish S.T.R.E.S.S. so as to create the atmosphere of cooperation and confidence in the law enforcement function that is essential to stopping crime.

b. The need to unite the community in a structure committed to the elimination of heroin, and other illegal opium derivatives from our community.

c. The need to have 24-hour arraignment available to all persons arrested as suspects in Detroit so as to make prompt arraignment without undue delay a practical reality in our City.

d. The need to support the defense of the S.T.R.E.S.S. shooting suspects so as to enable the community to have full and accurate information as to what occurred in the incident that precipitated the current crisis since December 4, 1972 in our City.

e. To inform the community of the fact that the Labor Defense Coalition office is available to receive calls and interview citizens who have complaints of police abuse, and who have no confidence in the D.P.D. Citizen's Complaint Bureau.

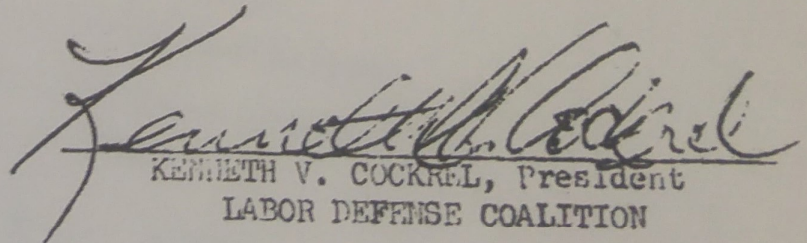


f. To project the view that effective redress can only be had as a result of the people of this community uniting to use the 1973 municipal elections to install a city administration that will perform the law enforcement function in such a way as to make it possible for community energy to be directed to the pressing problems of housing, health care, education, transportation, and employment, the conditions that generate the despair that breeds crime.

To this end all candidates for Mayor are asked to attend this rally and advance their views on this situation.

A subsequent release and conference will be scheduled prior to February 11, 1973 and we ask you to be on the lookout for the same.

We thank you for the cooperation you are prepared to give and request that you contact our office if further information is requested.

  
KENNETH V. COCKREL, President  
LABOR DEFENSE COALITION

Dated: January 30, 1973