

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration Division
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM
Citizen Complaint Bureau

Date July 29, 1970

To: Commanding Officer, Citizen Complaint Bureau

Subject: PROGRESS AND STATUS REPORT OF THE OSBORNE HIGH SCHOOL COMPLAINT,
CCB 70-77.

On April 8, 1970, at about 10 a.m., a large segment of the student body at Osborne High School exited the building in protest of the decision of the Board of Education in reference to school decentralization and bussing of students. Detroit police officers from several precincts (11 & 15) and bureaus (TMU, PSU, Rangers) were summoned to the scene, as the crowd swelled and remained in the area.

NOTE: A report relating circumstances and details of incidents prior to and leading up to contact between police officers and students was prepared by District Inspector James Bannon (see attached copy dated 4-13-70).

Further refer to a report titled, "Recapitulation of Conversations", prepared by Inspector Richard Boutin dated April 10, 1970.

The Citizen Complaint Bureau has further investigated the allegations of the plaintiffs listed in the report and also several other complaints of physical and verbal abuse.

On April 8, 1970, in the evening, the Citizen Complaint Bureau investigators attended a protest meeting at Vernon Chapel, 18850 Norwood and interviewed the following plaintiffs.

DENNIS BROWN, 15/M/N, 18867 Albany, alleges physical abuse, stating he was part of the crowd that moved in to assist a friend of his and a police officer struck and kicked him. He cannot identify the police officer, was not arrested, and received no treatment for the alleged injuries suffered. When he was given the opportunity to view photographs of police officers, he picked the photograph of an officer who was not present.

PENNY LEWIS, 15/F/N, 18097 Bloom, alleges physical abuse, stating that a policeman struck her on the back as she was talking with a teacher (Mrs. Clara Crowell). Plaintiff cannot identify the police officer, was not arrested, and received no treatment for the alleged injury. Mrs. Clara Crowell stated in her interview that she did not see any police officer strike Penny Lewis.

PATRICIA BRYANT, 14/F/N, 18036 Syracuse, alleges physical abuse, stating that she was a part of a large crowd moving in to assist a friend of hers and a police officer hit her on the head with a club. She was not arrested, cannot identify the officer who struck her, and received no medical attention or treatment for the alleged injury.

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other persons interviewed as witnesses to allegations:

Emil Lampkin, 18/M/N, 15741 Tuller (arrested for interfering with a police officer)

Lillie Bryant, 17/F/N, 18036 Syracuse

Latrice McCary, 17/F/N/, 13821 Lumpkin

Leroy Caffey, teacher at Osborne High School

Clara Crowell, teacher at Osborne High School

On May 1, 1970, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission forwarded additional allegations of plaintiffs that had filed complaints with their agency, for joint effort and investigation of the complaints. Difficulties and obstacles developed immediately, due to vague information listed in the complaints, and then the lack of cooperation of the plaintiffs when contacted for further interview. This matter was referred to the MCRC investigators, who then arranged that May 28, 1970, at their local office, 6362 Gratiot, all the plaintiffs would be made available for interview and the possible identification of police officers.

The following plaintiffs were interviewed:

MARLENE HEARN, 16/F/N, 13428 Shields, arrested for inciting a riot. Plaintiff alleges physical and verbal abuse, stating police officers swore at her, grabbed her arms, and then threatened to hit her. Police officers involved have been requested to submit statements regarding the allegations.

MELODY DOTSON, 15/F/N, 18039 Syracuse, not arrested. Plaintiff alleges physical abuse, stating that she/bumped into by an officer riding a scooter, who then picked her up by the waist and she fought with him, and her friends came and helped her. A second time, about 20 minutes later, a scout car pulled up close to her and an officer got out and approached her and hit her on the jaw, causing her to fall down. She received no treatment for the injuries suffered. Plaintiff did not identify any officer by photograph when given the opportunity.

NOTE: This is the female that appeared on the T.V. news film.

GLORIA CHERRY, 17/F/N, 13197 Mackay, not arrested. Plaintiff alleges physical and verbal abuse stating the officer called her a name and then pulled her out of a line she was in waiting for a bus. She did not make a positive identification of the officer when given the opportunity to view photographs.

JONATHON GRAYSON, 16/M/N, 2930 Lawley, arrested for disturbance in school area. Plaintiff alleges physical and verbal abuse, stating officers made insulting remarks to him and then one officer hit him in the stomach with a stick, and when he took the stick away from the officer, others jumped in and beat him. He received no treatment for injuries suffered and was released to his mother at 4 p.m. Police officers involved in the arrest and conveyance have been requested to submit information relative to the allegations made.

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On June 8, 1970, Keith Knight, 16/M/N, 18829 Bloom, was interviewed at his home, arranged by MCRC Investigator Margaret Rimstad. Plaintiff was not arrested and alleges physical abuse, stating he was in a large crowd of students that police officers were pushing with nightsticks. One officer hit him on the shoulder with his fist. He did not identify the officer by photograph, however, by a general description of a sergeant wearing glasses and riding a motor scooter. Statements were requested.

The following two plaintiffs appeared at the Citizen Complaint Bureau for interview:

RONALD JOHNSON, 16/M/N, 14002 Goddard, arrested for felonious assault on a police officer. NOTE: This plaintiff appeared on the T.V. News film. Plaintiff alleges physical abuse stating that for no reason a police officer approached him, grabbed him by the shoulder, spun him around and hit him on the nose with a club.

Police officers involved in the arrest and conveyance of the plaintiff have been identified and statements relating to the allegations in this case have been requested of them.

JOEZELL WILLIAMS, 18/M/N, 13468 Fleming, arrested for improper diversion. Plaintiff alleges physical and verbal abuse, stating an officer hit him under the arm and then he was threatened enroute to the station. He received no treatment for injuries suffered, or made no complaint of any kind at the station. Arresting officers and conveying officers have been identified and have been requested to submit statements relating to the allegations.

Plaintiff ESPERANZA CINTRON, 5670 Buffalo, arrested for interfering with a police officer, was not interviewed as of this date. MCRC Investigator Margaret Rimstad advised of this.

Photographs of police officers present at scene are available and plaintiffs have been advised that positive identification from these photographs must be made when not arrested.

As of this date, information is not complete or conclusive, but it appears that the general allegations that police officers on the scene over-reacted and brutalized black youths is questionable. No medical records support any of the allegations of injuries claimed by any plaintiff.

The final report in detail will be forthcoming when all the available information is submitted and reviewed.

Detective Sergeant

Paul Nast

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Citizen Complaint Bureau

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