

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

(associated with complaints of police misconduct
in the Balduck Park Case)

This chronology is based on reports by Inspector Ted Sikora, Commanding Officer, Fifteenth Precinct (July 30, 1970), Lieutenant Earl Bohde, Platoon Commander, Fifteenth Precinct, (August 3, 1970), and Inspector William Owen, then Commanding Officer, Citizen Complaint Bureau (August 7, 1970), plus investigation of citizens' complaints by officers of the Citizen Complaint Section, beginning August 3, 1970.

"The Fifteenth Precinct has been aware of the problem since May 1, 1970, and has attempted to solve it by enforcement of city ordinances and state law. Each day the area was patrolled and the park closed at 10:00 P.M." (From report of Lieutenant Bohde, August 3, 1970).

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Tuesday, June 23, 1970

Crowd of 300 refused to leave at closing time. Scout car windshield struck and broken by wine bottle. Eight persons ticketed for loitering after closing.

Wednesday, June 24, 1970

Tactical Mobile Unit assisted Fifteenth Precinct officers in closing park.

Thursday, June 25, 1970 - Friday, June 26, 1970

Tactical Mobile Unit on standby.

Wednesday, July 1, 1970

Crowd of 700, estimated age range 13-22 years. Parking lot filled with cars and people. Pavement littered with broken bottles. Driveway into parking lot blocked by cars. Noisy. In informal conversations with police, residents on Radnor Street complained about noise and about being cursed by park users.

Thursday, July 2 and following

Precinct personnel in the area ordered to enforce ordinances on use of alcohol and cigarettes, illegal parking and excessive noise.

Sunday, July 12, 1970

Enforcement help requested of Youth Bureau.

Monday, July 13, 1970

Crowd of 300 refused to leave park. Eight or nine persons threw bottles at scout cars.

Monday, July 13, 1970 - Wednesday, July 22, 1970

Youth Bureau patrols issue 22 ordinance violations.

Tuesday, July 14, 1970

Police receive petition from neighborhood residents, dated Friday, July 10, 1970, also addressed to Department of Parks and Recreation, and Common Council. Petition complains of activities by park users, makes four specific requests: close park at 8 P.M. instead of 10; ban parking on Radnor Street between 6 P.M. and

1 A.M.; lock parking lot gates; ban motorcycles on public streets in the area. Parks department agrees to change the park closing time to darkness at request of police. Youth Bureau assists in park closing.

July 14 - 25, 1970

Enforcement on a daily basis. Crowd size drops to about 200; drinking decreased. Chief problem, reluctance of crowd to leave at new early closing time. Time posted, announced by "loud hailer".

Thursday, July 23, 1970

Scout car window broken.

Sunday, July 26, 1970

Crowd refused to leave. When police began to arrest and issue tickets, rocks and bottles were thrown, breaking rear window of a scout car. Crowd fled, but several arrested and taken to precinct. Tickets issued for loitering after closing. Those under 19 released to parents. One citizen's complaint was subsequently filed (August 24) by a witness who claimed he saw a young man struck by police officers with flashlights.

Monday, July 27, 1970

Crowd of about 200 - 250. Police were cursed, rocks and bottles thrown. Two warnings to clear the park were announced between nightfall and 8:35 P.M. Three police cars then were sent to the Canyon Street (east) side of the park, and four officers

started moving the crowd toward Canyon. Fifteen young people were arrested either in the park or coming out on Canyon Street, taken to the precinct, and ticketed under "Miscellaneous Ordinances for Loitering in a Public Park after Dark (Posted)".

One citizen's complaint was subsequently filed (August '3) by parents who claimed two teen-age girls had been confined in a precinct detention room, without police supervision and with the door locked, in the company of adults.

Tuesday, July 28, 1970

Assistance of Tactical Mobile Unit requested. Both Inspector Sikora and Lieutenant Bohde, of Fifteenth Precinct, on the scene. Park closing announced at 8:20 P.M. All cars and motorcycles began to leave the area. About 150 persons on foot began walking north toward Chandler Park Drive.

When the park area below Chandler Park Drive was cleared, a scout car drove around the streets on the perimeter of the park and saw the walking crowd in the wooded picnic area of the park, north of Chandler Park Drive. Some were pulling branches from the trees and shouting obscenities.

At 8:35 P.M., the Tactical Mobile Unit was called in by radio. A TMU group of 25 men commanded by a lieutenant and two sergeants arrived in eleven scout cars at the Chandler Park-Canyon corner, and began to move northward through the wooded area,