

*Sierra Situations as taken from - Complaints
Who contacts Dept*

ADJUTANT

file

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR,

CITY OF DETROIT,

By the Michigan Civil Rights Commission

February 21, 1968

The public officials in Detroit need to take dramatic remedial action to realistically improve police-Negro relations. The Civil Rights Commission believes that the following recommendations are not only fair and wise, but in the long run will be the least costly. Therefore, the Commission recommends that the Mayor of Detroit take the following actions:

1. Immediately appoint a new Police Commissioner, dedicated, committed and able to communicate and make fair treatment and service the primary values of the Detroit Police Department.
2. The majority of additional police officers should be Negro.
3. The major ghetto precincts should be headed by Negro police Inspectors.
4. Fifty per cent of the complement, or as many as possible, of each ghetto Precinct should be Negro officers.
5. Among the five top-appointed positions in the Police Department, two or three should be Negro appointees.
6. The City should open at least twelve neighborhood store-fronts, manned by the Police Department, to act as "ombudsmen" for citizen complaints about police, other municipal services and code violations.
7. The Citizens Complaint Bureau should have sufficient personnel to conduct a vigorous investigation of its complaints, and to engage in its own observations of how police are working and responding to calls in the ghetto.
8. Each policeman should act as an ombudsman. He should take complaints against and inquiries of any state or city agency, in triplicate, on a pad that he carries. One copy would be sent by the police, to the agency complained of or of which inquiry is made. The second copy would be kept by the police department, and the third copy given to the citizen.

9. Each Precinct should have its own police advisory group of local citizens to consider problems, programs and policies for that Precinct.

10. The Department should change those practices and procedures which tend to incite citizens, i.e. stop and frisk, verbal abuse, etc.

11. The Department should vigorously implement its agreement with the Civil Rights Commission. The stymieing with the Citizens Complaint Bureau should be ended. The Detroit Police Department should make it publicly clear that while it will vigorously support its officers in the discharge of their duties, it will also not tolerate abuses or mistreatment of citizens. Officers found to have abused or mistreated citizens should be disciplined in a manner commensurate with the violation.

12. The greatest need in Negro communities is for better and more services from the Department. There are widespread complaints of inadequate service.

13. The Department should recognize the Civil Rights Commission's right to station observers at precincts.