

*Check out under 17
w/Records - Youth Bureau*

January 24, 1968

**TO: Mr. Robert Reese
Corporation Counsel**

**Deputy Superintendent John Nichols
Police Department**

**FROM: James L. Trainor
Assistant to the Mayor**

Attached is the memo from Stan Lewin regarding a situation involving the Police and some Negro teenagers who are operating or attempting to operate a clubhouse or business called the Infernoburger located at the corner of Cherrylawn and Puritan.

The immediate issue is explained in the paragraph numbered "1" in the attached memo. The teenagers and their parents are concerned that their being picked up and interrogated by the Police will reflect badly on their educational or job opportunities. At a meeting which I attended, Inspector Werner of the Twelfth Precinct agreed to furnish each teenager who had been picked up by the Police and later released with a letter stating that the teenager had been picked up on such-and-such date in connection with a specific offense and had been found innocent of any wrongdoing. Inspector Werner clearly exceeded his authority in promising such a letter, but the issuance of such a document by the Police has become the central issue in improving the relationship between the Police and the community in the Fitzgerald area. If we cannot or will not authorize such a letter, we will have alienated much of that community.

The importance of this particular group of teenagers should be emphasized. While there are undoubtedly some who have endorsed the black power, separatist policy and would like nothing better than to worsen relationships with the Police Department, there are others who are trying sincerely, I believe, to salvage the situation and to improve Police-community relations. If at all possible, we should try to reinforce the hand of those who are willing to work with us by showing the entire group that the "white power structure" can respond to a community problem. Therefore, I would like to be able to do two things:

*Void file after
6 mos destroyed*

*should get a card
saying can pick up
records in 2-3 weeks
court order in court of record*

*Directly at Identification Bureau
fingerprinted, check
& there is no record.*

*not apply to
16 and
under*

1. Draft a legally correct letter which the Police Department could issue upon demand to any teenager, or any citizen for that matter, who has been picked up by the Police for questioning and has been clearly not involved in any wrongdoing.

2. I would like to have such a letter ready for presentation to the Fitzgerald Community Council meeting on the 2nd of February. If we do not act in a positive way at that meeting, the Community Council will be forced by the militant elements in it into rejecting any type of cooperation with the Police Department. In order to have such a letter in time, I would like to arrange a meeting between myself, the Corporation Counsel and the Deputy Superintendent for January 31, 1968 at 9:00 a. m. in my office.

JLT/ba