

February 13, 1968

Commissioner Ray Girardin
Detroit Police Department
1300 Beaubien
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Commissioner Girardin:

I regret that it has not been possible for us to meet to review the matters which I am setting forth below.

As you are well aware, one of the most abrasive areas in the whole civil rights picture is the unresolved issue of relationships between citizens, particularly Negro citizens, and the Police Department.

The Civil Rights Commission has directed its staff to give top priority to complaints against the police so that these matters can be quickly resolved with the possibility of thus easing tensions in the above-mentioned relationships. To this end, we ask that you also give priority to this type of complaint and facilitate in every way possible the disposition of the complaints that are currently pending before the Civil Rights Commission involving the Detroit Police Department.

In spite of the fact that we have a working agreement, we have had difficulty in obtaining information and interviews in cases of alleged unlawful discrimination by policemen. In several cases, however, we have completed an investigation and have entered into conciliation conferences with the officers of the Citizens Complaint Bureau whom you designated to represent you in these matters. In sixteen of these complaints, we have reached agreement with the department, but the actions they have agreed to take have not been completed. These cases are numbered as follows:

292-LE, 363-LE, 364-LE, 365-LE, 366-LE, 367-LE, 986-LE, 1453-LE,
1677-LE, 1772-LE, 1773-LE, 1774-LE, 1978-LE, 2307-LE, 2308-LE and
2989-LE.

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In six other complaints, although we have met in conciliation, we have not obtained agreement from the Department as to steps to be taken. These cases are as follows:

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Proposed Terms of Conciliation</u>
169-LH and 170-LH	Request retrials in Trial Board Proceedings to give civilian witnesses opportunity to review statements made to Department Investigator; scheduling of civilian witnesses to provide convenience to these witnesses and payment of witness fees.
241-LH	Procedure to provide notification to property owners where illegal activities are taking place on the property owned and the owner does not reside on the premises.
1990-LH and 2862-LH	Appropriate disciplinary action for officers. A bulletin reminding officers of procedure to be followed in equal accommodations complaints and instruct officers that if procedures are not followed, disciplinary action will result. Inclusion of equal accommodation complaints on the monthly reports of citizen complaints submitted by each precinct and bureau to the Citizen Complaint Bureau. Letters of apology to the claimants.
1653-LH	Appropriate disciplinary action. Clarification of procedures which officers are to follow in handling sick or injured citizens. Instruction to officers which re-emphasizes the need for prompt response to reported crimes. Letter of apology.

In these cases, we would like a response as to your intentions so that the Commission may be able to decide whether holding public hearing in these cases would be warranted in the absence of an agreement.

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In addition, we have the King -vs- Detroit Police Department and related complaints which are still not completely resolved even though, in meetings with you previously, you have agreed to take certain actions including the reduction of the penalty on Patrolman Johnson in case #2272-EM, and letters of apology or regrets in certain other cases in this series.

Considering the seriousness of the problem, we ask that you expedite these cases in every way possible, and that we receive a response from you on action taken by February 20.

As you may know our Commission has arranged to meet with Mayor Cavanaugh on February 21, to discuss the subject of police community relations in Detroit and the status of the relationship between our two agencies.

Very truly yours,

Barton I. Gordin,
Executive Director