

City of Detroit

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

JEROME P. CAVANAGH
Mayor

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Crime Conf
file
November 19, 1965

TO: Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh

FROM: James Trainor

DATE: November 19, 1965

Here's what happened in today's "stop and search" meeting.

The professional civil rights people were there in force and in voice.

They were polite, subdued and unanimously against the proposal. But the sentiment of the meeting was that there should be more and better cops. They want another meeting with you and the "total community" on "positive action". --what ever that means.

Girardin opened the session telling them you were away but would have further discussion when you returned. He said the meeting had been called because of the build-up of crime in the last few weeks, that people were aware of this and frightened.

He added that Negroes and Whites were victims and perpetrators and that the law was being enforced equally, fairly and vigorously. He said the police should be able to question suspicious persons. He went on to say that he worked last night as well as the superintendent, the deputy and all the inspectors and that there were more policemen in the areas where crime has been going on. He also said that the police officers were told there are no new laws and that they were to treat citizens as they have been instructed to do. Girardin pointed out that there was no crime in the area where more police were working.

The commissioner then said he wanted ideas and discussion on the whole proposal.

Believe me, he got it. Here's the way it went:

Ernest Mazey---Disappointed how the whole thing was handled. Had a right to expect more from the mayor. He said the proposal would "reactivate tensions and had no doubt the Negro minority would be harassed. He said you should invite responsible leaders for a positive program, and you ought to consider what can be done with existing measures. It was an unfair public announcement. Far more sound approach is more policemen. Crime and how to cope with it should be discussed at a conference.