

*Demands Presented to the Detroit City Council  
by the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality*  
P.O. Box 44925 Detroit, Michigan 48232

The Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation demands the following interventions by Detroit city government to begin immediately, bringing relief to Detroit citizens from what we have shown to be an epidemic of irresponsible, unconstitutional, and criminally brutal police conduct:

1. We demand an end to police patrol car chases, which kill and/or threaten the lives of suspects as well as innocent bystanders or drivers in the vicinity. We demand that the City of Detroit take immediate steps to develop with the Police Department guidelines restricting when, where and under what circumstances such chases may be undertaken. Incidents of high-speed police chases have taken the lives of at least eight metro Detroiters (*Detroit News*, March 5, 1998). We demand further that Detroit dissolve any standing reciprocal agreements with neighboring law enforcement agencies which permit them to pursue citizens in high speed chases into the city of Detroit.
2. Detroit city government must require and monitor the operation of a policy of risk management in the Detroit Police Department, whereby police officers who are predisposed to violent behavior, or who have previously violated citizens' rights, will be reprimanded, required to take corrective instruction, tracked closely by superiors, and finally removed from the force, if they are found to be incapable of appropriate professional police conduct. We demand an end to protection of police officers who have repeatedly violated citizens' human rights, officers such as Budzyn and Nevers, who had a long, monstrous record of policy brutality even before they murdered Malice Green, but were allowed to continue on the force (*details of Budzn and Nevers' records attached*).
3. Related to the policy of risk management, we demand that city government require that the Detroit Police Department enforce rules of residency requirement, educational upgrades for promotions in the Department, and strict adherence to affirmative action guidelines. Detroit needs a police force that reflects its racial diversity, lives in the City, and is available to assist citizens on a 24-hour basis. In addition, Detroit, with one of the most sophisticated urban populations in the nation, requires police officers who are well educated and sensitive to basic protocols of respectful human social behavior. It is especially important that police officers learn ways to approach, question, and communicate with persons who are mentally or physically disabled.
4. We demand that city government require of the Detroit Police Department an annual report of citizens' complaints against that Department; that complaints filed by intermediaries or witnesses to police brutality also be recorded; that fatalities at the hands of police officers be included, and that the disposition of all cases of citizens' complaints be summarized and compiled in a single document that is available to the public. We further demand that complaints of prisoners against the Detroit Police Department be properly recorded and documented and that disposition of their complaints be summarized and available to the public. One obstacle to effective monitoring of citizen complaints and disciplinary actions on police officers is the lack of properly kept records and statistics. This absence of records persists in spite of the fact that the United States Justice Department's 1994 Crime Act requires police departments to maintain accurate databases regarding use of force by police

officers. On November 10, 1998, the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality was denied statistical information concerning civilian fatalities involving police officers. Our request was made under the Freedom of Information Act. We asked for names and addresses of all victims and their next of kin. We also asked for cause of death, ethnic group, gender, disability status, sexual orientation and age of each victim, as well as the names of the officers involved. The reason given for denial of our request for this information was "the Detroit Police Department does not maintain a record of information you have requested. . . . In order to comply with your request it would require research and compilation of numerous records." We were told, further, that the DPD is not required to *compile* such records, only to provide a copy of existing documents, but only those pertaining to *specific incidents*. This appears to be a form of institutionalized secrecy. We therefore intend to appeal this denial of information.

5. We demand that city government require accountability from the Detroit Police Department in its application for, receipt and allocation of funds from the State and Federal governments; that such funds be used in ways that are non-discriminatory, and that no programs implemented by these funds will violate human and Constitutional rights of Detroit citizens—as does, for example, the current practice of computer filing of the fingerprints of everyone who is arrested, whether or not the person is charged with a crime or misdemeanor.
6. We further demand that city government implement new policies to provide for communities to establish their own structures for handling matters of conflict within their jurisdictions; that citizens may have the option to submit their grievances/conflicts for resolution by their neighbors or persons whom they trust, thereby remaining outside the police/criminal justice system altogether.
7. We demand that city government take every action to ensure that Detroit Police Department practices of surveillance and intimidation of community activists cease immediately; and that those who work consistently in our communities to protect and ensure our civil and human rights will not be subjected to a reinstatement of the notorious Red Squad files. ***Further we demand that the continued harassment and surveillance of families whose members have been abused or killed by police be halted immediately. The burden of grief that these families are carrying is already more than should be required of anyone in a so-called democracy. Tonight we will hear testimony concerning instances of police harassment and intimidation of the families of victims.***
8. We demand that the city government take every action to protect Detroit citizens from any state or federal programs, plans or strategies that would use military forces in conjunction with the Detroit police to further repress, intimidate or violate citizens' Constitutional and human rights.
9. ***Most important, we demand that the Police Chief, the Public Safety Director, and members of the Police Commission be elected officials. An elected Police Commission must have its own independent counsel and subpoena powers. It would serve as the Board of Review, responsible to the citizenry to monitor and ensure professional police conduct. These demands emerge from the obvious failure of the current police review structures to hold police accountable. We have already cited the formidable expense to Detroit citizens brought by police abuse case settlements. First the police abuse citizens physically, sometimes taking their lives; then they abuse the general population by making us pay for their behavior. We must have a Police Chief and Police Commission who are directly accountable to the citizens. These changes require amendment of the City Charter, which we demand that City Council begin to prepare immediately for presentation to the citizens as a ballot question.***