

Case - The Shooting of Carrie Sanders

This case involves the shooting and arrest of a convicted Negro prostitute by a white police officer on May 27 1965. The officer Patr. Crank, while driving in the vicinity of Brush and Garfield, stopped and attempted to arrest Carrie Sanders. In the process of making the arrest Carrie Sanders broke away several times. This comotion attracted a crowd which was extremely hostile and threatening to the officer as he was in civilian clothes. Patr. Crank removed his revolver and informed the crowd that he was a police officer. In the interum Miss Sanders grabbed Crank's hand and the gun accidently went off, inflicting a superficial abdominal wound. She then ran down the alley, Crank called for assistance from the crowd, he ~~then~~ left ~~the scene to call the police station~~ the scene and called the Precinct station from a near by grocery store. Carrie Sanders was arrested a few minutes later leaving an appartment building on Brush. She and Crank were transported to Receiving hospital, Crank was treated for abrasions and scratches, and discharged, Sanders was kept for treatment and charged with Accosting and Solicing, with a hold placed on her for Resisting and Obstructing a police officer in the performance of his duty.

This shooting raised the level of tension in the community:

On May 28 1965 NAACP demanded an investigation of the altercation as well as requested that a committee be created to study ways to curb prostitution in Detroit. Both requests were submitted to Commissioner Girardin and Mayor Cavanagh.

On June 2 1965 ACME and NSM held a mass meeting of neighborhood people (about 250) at Plymouth Congregational Church, protesting the shooting.

They also encouraged witnesses to come forward ~~and~~ to make statements concerning the shooting.

Current Status of case and Recommendations