

In a separate incident on October 27, 1992, members assigned to the Armed Robbery Unit investigated a series of nine (9) bank robberies committed by a lone male wearing thick prescription eyeglasses and dubbed as "Mr. Magoo." On this date they arrested Alphonso Ward, M/34, of 9577 American and obtained warrants charging him with bank robbery. Through his arrest nine (9) bank robbery cases have been closed.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the Board.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Thomas Christensen, Southwest Detroit Improvement Association, I would like to address you and read the following letter:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Southwest Improvement Association, which is located in the Fourth Police Precinct, is a residential organization with over 500 member families. This organization is deeply concerned with the quality of life and safety of its constituents in the entire Southwest Detroit region.

As you are well aware, we have many gang related problems in this area. In addition, we have narcotic, liquor, gambling and vice problems. Although this list is significant, it is not intended to be all inclusive. Our community and the police department were working together to eliminate some of these devastating problems. It was advantageous to both parties to work together in a united effort to reach these common goals.

In particular, Commander Gomez was a significant leader in the Fourth Police Precinct who, along with Officer Lott, would regularly attend our monthly meetings and respond to any complaints where the Police Department could be helpful. If neither Officer had an immediate answer, they would be sure to investigate and give a detailed answer at the next meeting. A short time ago, the department saw fit to transfer Commander Gomez to the downtown department. Why was this done? This organization nor its members can condone the removal of an individual who has

fought with us hand in hand to make our community a better place to live!

As if losing Commander Gomez wasn't enough, the new commanding officer of the Fourth Precinct, Inspector Shoulders, has removed other officers that were instrumental in starting the rejuvenation of this community. These officers know the community, the gangs and the problems that we face every day. When questioned about the removal of these officers, Inspector Shoulders merely replied that he was running the Fourth Precinct. Is this a prime example of police community relations?

Our community association feels that perhaps the board of police commissioners does not know what is really happening in our area. We feel that it is incumbent upon us to inform you that we are unhappy with the present situation.

We need to get the Fourth Precinct and the whole Southwest area moving in the same direction and working on the same agenda again. Although the community has lost some respect for the police department and the current relationship between the two parties leaves something to be desired, the whole situation is not without hope! In order to get back on the right track, we need the following done:

(1) Return Commander Gomez to the Fourth Precinct so he can once again work on the community problems which affect all of us. Let him do the job that he was so good at doing.

(2) Return Police Officers Packard, Alyala and Pompa so that they may work on the gang related problems in our area.

The above police officers were doing an excellent job on attempting to curb gang related activity. They worked plain clothes detail at night when most of the problems were happening. Why would you remove police officers from a job that they were doing so well? Not only were they competent, but they were well respected by the community and the business people.

Hopefully, the Southwest Detroit community is not suffering at the hands of political maneuverings. It would be a great injustice if all of the hard work so many people have put in was "wasted" by political game playing.

Commissioner Gurewitz stated that there was a letter written to us that was responded to about ten days ago regarding the transfer of Commander Gomez. But, I want to inquire about the occasions you have met with Inspector Shoulders or other Officers at the precinct to talk about not just the transfer of people but about the relationship you would like to have working to take care of gang problems and anything else that you have mentioned.

Mr. Christensen said that we met with Inspector Shoulders to welcome him to the precinct and the Inspector informed us he would do what he could to curb the crime.

Thomas Christensen further inquired about when the Fourth Precinct merger will start.

Commissioner Gurewitz stated he did not know. There are a number of considerations too difficult to articulate at the present time, but there are plans to move forward on this.

Mary Sobiak made a complaint about 9-1-1 giving an address over the police radio letting someone know who called the police. Chief Knox previously informed her that they would not give the address over the police radio - but it is still being done.

Executive Deputy Chief Bannon stated that if she could give him the specifics he would check into this. There is only rare instances when the police would give this information out, i.e. if original call was that somebody was shot, potentially injured, or whatever and we are unable to get a response at that address.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held November 5, 1992 at Police Headquarters, Room 328-A, 1300 Beaubien, Detroit, Michigan at 3:00 p.m.