

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS

*f det police
Dept*

MEMORANDUM

DATE November 20, 1973

TO: Ruth Rasmussen,
Deputy Director

FROM: John A. Ferris, Director,
Compliance Division

SUBJECT: Report on Complaints Filed Against the Detroit Police Department

The following is a report on the status of Detroit Police Department complaints requested by the Commission.

There are currently 191 complaints pending against the Detroit Police Department, involving allegations of racial discrimination in the nature of denial of services, unlawful arrest, and verbal and physical abuse.

Thirty-six complaints are presently under investigation and 155 complaints are in conciliation. Twenty-three of these cases have been conciliated without success, or have proposed settlements pending which have not been responded to. One hundred thirty cases have been accepted for conciliation, however, action has been deferred pending establishment of a realistic and effective procedure and system for resolution of the cases.

The present status of cases in conciliation reflects a long-standing problem growing out of the respondent's failure to engage in meaningful efforts to achieve voluntary settlements, and the requirement of providing opportunity to individual officers charged with discriminatory acts to participate in the conciliation or hearing process to the extent their personal interests are involved.

Considerable difficulty and delay has occurred in re-conciliating cases under the new procedures required by a Consent Order in the federal court suit brought against the Commission by the Detroit Police Officers Association.

As the result of on-going review and analysis of the conciliation caseload, 72 complaints against the Detroit Police Department have been closed since January 1, 1973. On October 30, 1973, two cases were referred to the Attorney General's Office with recommendations that a Charge be issued.

Ruth Rasmussen
Report on Complaints Filed Against
the Detroit Police Department
November 20, 1973

Page 2

A task force of conciliators has been assigned to review all pending cases for the purpose of setting up conciliation conferences. The conferences will commence on cases and/or groups of cases beginning the week of December 10, 1973.

In keeping with time standards for conciliation, the cases will be settled, closed or referred on for legal review within 30 days following conference. Public hearings will be scheduled on all cases in which Charges have been issued as expeditiously as possible.

JAF:mka