

Handwritten note:
Detroit
Police Dept

January 23, 1970

**Mr. Patrick V. Murphy
Commissioner of Police
Detroit Police Department
1300 Beaubien
Detroit, Michigan 48226**

Dear Commissioner Murphy:

I do want first to tell you that I was sincerely pleased to learn of your appointment as Police Commissioner. Your reputation is a distinguished one and I believe that Mayor Gribbs and the City are fortunate in having obtained your services.

Yesterday our Chairman, Mr. Julian Abele Cook, Jr., and I met with Mayor Gribbs and Walter Greene to discuss a variety of problems and I had refrained from contacting you directly until after that conference.

At the meeting we reviewed our past relationship with the Police Department which concerns principally the processing of complaints of violations of civil rights by police officers against individual citizens. As you may know, this Commission, under the State Constitution and by interpretation of the State Attorney General, has jurisdiction over all violations of civil rights when such violations occur by reason of religion, race, color or national origin. Currently there are approximately 300 such complaints in process involving the Detroit Police Department. Approximately 125 have been investigated by us and have been awaiting action for two years or more by the Police Department. An additional 150 or so are under investigation. The problem has been that we have been unable in the last year or so to obtain a response from the Commissioner's office with respect to the disposition of the completed cases, even where we have had agreement with the Citizen's Complaint Bureau.

Obviously there are other procedural matters which we would like to inform you about, as well as some immediate questions about the availability of records in several cases involving complaints of employment discrimination.

Mr. Patrick V. Murphy

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At the conclusion of our meeting with Mayor Gribbs, it was agreed that I would write you requesting an early meeting so that we might discuss the establishment of a constructive relationship between the State Civil Rights Commission and the Detroit Police Department, with a view toward speedily resolving past, present and future complaints. We also have an active state-wide program for the improvement of police-community relations, about which we would be pleased to inform you.

You may be assured of our sincere interest in helping to achieve not only a constructive relationship with your Department, but in cooperation with you, to be a positive influence on police-community relations in the City.

I hope I may have an early response from you.

Cordially,

Burton I. Gordin
Executive Director

BIG:mij

cc: Mayor Roman S. Gribbs
Julian Abele Cook, Jr.

bcc: Walter R. Greene
Thomas J. Peloso, Jr.
William F. Bledsoe