

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE CONTINUED

Robert Laberta, resident of the Fourth Precinct, described his home being shot up by AK 47 762 Russian automatic rifles. He displayed his clothes with bullet hole damage. Mr. Laberta advised the parents of all the children to control their children.

Emma Kogo stated the community could not afford to loose its police officers, also that each and every one must do their part to solve the problem by becoming active in the community.

Martha Datriil, 1630 Lansing, complained that her niece was assaulted after leaving school, "the gangs must be stopped" she stated, she continued that the department is undermanned and needs additional police officers.

Carl Day, President Southwest Detroit Improvement Association, stated that the Association Board of Directors took a vote and want to express their opposition to police layoffs.

Mary Turner, community person, stated that the community has a gang problem, a drug problem and a prostitute problem, thats what the kids see on their way to school. The area needs more police. She also complained that no 911 operators speak Spanish and some area citizens cannot call in a complaint.

Angie Reyes, Latino Family Services Youth Program, advised the audience that the children in the community were their children and everyone had a responsibility toward them, "we all share a duty to help, to take a couple of these children under your wing and guide them". Ms. Reyes complained that she was receiving reports that the young people in the area were being harassed and abused by the gang squad. Some were arrested for nothing and later released without charges, the police need to be sensitive to the multicultural base of the community she concluded.

Ozzie Rovell, Ex-Director for Latino Family Services, complained that the Latino Family Services has a drug treatment program but they cannot put people into treatment due to state budget cutbacks. Mr. Rovell also advised that the police must exercise caution in pursuing the gang members, some youngsters adopt the style but are not gang members he explained.

Jim Kertin, Board Member MACO Organization, warned the audience they must get a jump start on the housing stock in