

CITIZENS FOR FAIR LAW ENFORCEMENT
1101 W. Warren

Detroit, Michigan 48201

Tel. 832-1890

August 15, 1966

Dear Friend:

The undersigned believe that the truth about last week's incidents on Detroit's East Side has not been told; that there never was anything approaching a riot and that most of the sixty some people arrested from Tuesday to Saturday nights were victims of discriminatory and inflammatory police action.

Evidence enough is available to persuade us that the leaders and members of the Adult Community Movement for Equality (ACME) and the Afro-American Youth Movement (AAYM) were not responsible for acts of violence nor were they involved in planning civil disorder.

The widely quoted, "trial by newspaper" allegations of two unidentified teenagers, who by a seeming miracle were present when each ACME or AAYM member was arrested or was engaged in "plotting", needs much more explaining to be credible. The same goes for the converging of more than 20 police cars within minutes at the scene of a routine (and routinely unjustified) ticketing on a loitering charge-- the incident that set off an explosive public gathering Tuesday night.

If you feel, as we do, that "riot jitters" should not be allowed to close the minds of Detroiters to the truth about the police and the East Side, and that, at least until they are found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction, those who stand accused should be regarded as innocent, then you have an opportunity and an obligation to join your fellow citizens in demanding the truth and just police procedures.

Immediate Contributions, in any amount are needed for the following:

1. To provide bail bonds for the innocent victims of arrest. Bonds have been abnormally high. We estimate that at least \$2,000 will be needed to secure the release of those presently held.
2. To pay for a newspaper ad in the Detroit Free Press on Wednesday August 17, 1966 in order to counter the distorted and one sided account of the events which has been presented in the press. This will cost \$900.
3. To establish a legal defense fund (Attorney Fees, transcripts, typing etc.)

Please send what you can now and/or make a pledge payable over the next two months. Checks should be made payable to Citizens For Fair Law Enforcement. If you wish further information, or wish to offer your services (manning telephones, typing, office work etc.) call 832-1890.

A public meeting at which the events of the week will be presented in greater detail and perspective will be held on Friday August 19, at 7:30 PM at the Central Methodist Church House Auditorium. Many of those arrested will be present to explain what happened and why. We urge you to attend.

Yours for Freedom,

Rev. Roger Barney

Rev. Roger Barney
Acting Chairman