

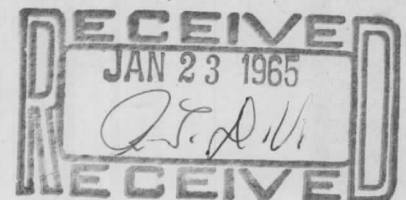


THE COTILLION CLUB, INC.

98 Garfield, Detroit 1, Michigan, Phone: FOrrest 6-4560

Office of the President:
234 Visger, River Rouge 18,
Mich. DU. 1-6265

January 22, 1965



To Members of Citizens Committee on
Police-Community Relations

Gentlemen:

Your ad hoc Citizens Committee on Police-Community Relations has held several meetings for the purpose of discussing and agreeing upon a common approach in our future meetings with the Mayor or other city officials.

One result of these discussions has been the preparation of the enclosed copy of a letter which it is proposed will be sent to the Mayor over the signature of each organization represented on our Committee. The letter is intended to set forth clearly and vigorously our common position and to document our reasons. This copy of the letter is sent to you in order that you might discuss it with your Board (if necessary) and authorize your representative to bring your views and suggestions to the Committee's next meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, January 24, 1965 at 12:30 P.M. at the offices of Mr. Nathan Johnson, architect, 2512 West Grand Boulevard at Fourteenth Street, Detroit, Michigan.

Please have your representative present with appropriate authorizations to act on your behalf in this matter in the following particulars:

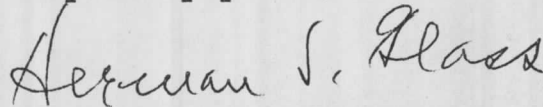
OFFICERS	President	Recording Secretary	Chaplain	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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				HERMAN J. GLASS
				DR. THOMAS M. BATCHELOR
				Specialist, Internal Medicine
				ATTY. GEORGE W. CROCKETT, Jr.

To Members of Citizens Committee
on Police-Community Relations

January 22, 1965
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- (a) To authorize and sign the letter on behalf of your organization;
- (b) To determine when and to what extent and in what manner publicity is to be given to the letter;
- (c) To determine what community follow-up action shall be taken and fix a timetable for the same;
- (d) To receive and discuss specific suggestions to be made the subject of any further meetings with city officials.

Very truly yours,



Herman J. Glass, President
THE COTILLION CLUB, INC.

HJG:gl

Dear Mayor Cavanagh:

This letter is being sent to you at the expressed direction of our respective Boards of Directors and we are authorized to release it to the press after allowing a reasonable time for its receipt by your office.

Shortly after your 1961 victory over former Mayor Mariani and prior to your inauguration you held several conferences with the representatives of our community organizations for the purpose of exchanging views on civic problems of special concern to Detroit's Negro citizens.

At both of these conferences and in your campaign pledges you gave repeated assurances of your intention to accomplish two objectives in the Police Department: to accelerate the integration of the Police Force and to end the excesses of police lawlessness and special brutality toward Negroes which characterized the last year of the Mariani administration.

Integration of Police Department:

Your record on integrating the Police Force deserves our commendation. The progress has not been as rapid as we had hoped but we appreciate the fact that you and your Police Commissioners have had to overcome the obvious racial prejudice and antagonisms of several of the older leaders of the force. In recent months,

however, with the retirement and replacement of some of these road-blocks to integration, we see more and more evidence of your determination to keep this commitment. We commend especially the several appointments and changes requested some time ago and made by the Police Commissioner within the past few days.

Anti-Negro Conduct of Policemen:

The sincerity of your pledge to end the anti-Negro conduct of certain policemen was evidenced shortly after the above conferences by your appointment of former Supreme Court Justice Edwards as your new Police Commissioner. Commissioner Edwards made a determined effort to "humanize" and restore public confidence in the fairness of the Department, but what little success he experienced was due to his persistence and not to any cooperation received from the "Top Brass" of the Department.

For example: Records available to you and the Police Commissioner show that between May of 1961 and February, 1964, more than 1,000 citizens sustained physical injuries at the hands of Detroit Policemen. Over 600 of these were Negro, notwithstanding Negroes constitute less than one-half of the City's population. During the year 1963 alone there were almost 500 cases of police-inflicted injuries; and 300 of these were in the five predominantly Negro precinct areas.

Also in 1963 there were approximately thirty-five formal complaints against police officers. Twenty-seven (27) of these complainants were Negro, ten were white and all of the officers complained against were white. The disposition of these complaints is most revealing. Ten of them were referred to the Police Trial Board and were decided in favor of the officer; the other twenty-five were decided for the complainant with the approval of the Police Commissioner and without Trial Board action.

The current wave of anti-Negro brutality dates from Commissioner Edwards' resignation. We know that his successor, the present Commissioner, Mr. Girardin, is a well-meaning, dedicated public servant who would like to make - and is endeavoring to make - the Police Department the kind of civilian-controlled law enforcement body mandated by our City's Charter. But the power clique in the Department (aided and abetted by a County Prosecutor whose office has become adept at white-washing policemen involved in the shooting of unarmed Negroes) is blocking Mr. Girardin's good intentions just as they check-mated the more vigorous program of Commissioner Edwards.

The Police Commissioner cannot make your pledge a reality, Mr. Mayor, unless he has your publicly expressed support and backing each step of the way. The corollary is also true: if your pledge is not fulfilled and notwithstanding such failure, the Commissioner is retained in office, then the obvious conclusion is that you do not want the pledge implemented.

Detroit's Negro Community - with generous support in the white community - is united in its demand that your campaign pledge to put an end to the anti-Negro conduct of our Police Department be implemented. How this is to be achieved is a matter we leave to you. We have some recommendations which we are prepared to discuss with you or your representative. Chief among these is a stepped-up program of integration; returning the Department to the civilian control mandated by the Charter; and assuring a fair degree of Negro participation in that control.

Meanwhile, we suggest that the Mayor's responsibility under the Charter cannot be avoided by reliance upon the legalistic conclusions of Mr. Gallagher, your Assistant Corporation Counsel. Mr. Gallagher is not dependent upon - and hence, may not be responsive to the will of the people as expressed at the polls. It is easy for him to write off or to simply ignore the legitimate aspirations of a third of the City's population who happen to be Negro. We doubt if a Mayor of Detroit can be so naive.

Moreover, Mr. Gallagher's comments, as reported in the press, show a studied reluctance to examine the Charter affirmatively with a view to helping you find a method by which this explosive situation can be remedied. We think the approach of Corporation Counsel Reese, as reported in the press, is more in accord with the Charter.

It is apparent from the Charter and applicable Court

decisions that the Mayor is the final authority in the Police Department. Chapter III of the Charter provides that the Mayor shall be "the Chief Executive Office of the City and conservator of its peace," and Chapter XXI authorizes him to appoint a Police Commissioner "who shall have charge of the Police Department." The Michigan Supreme Court has held that this power to appoint includes the power to remove. Nagel v. Martin, 229 Mich. 282. Thus, the Commissioner exercises all of his powers and performs all of his duties subject to the approval of the Mayor.

Among other things the Police Commissioner is expressly authorized by the Charter to "exercise supervision over the Police Department and make all proper rules for the government and discipline thereof." He also is authorized to "create whatever offices and positions he may deem necessary."

It seems clear to us, therefore, that if the Mayor or the Commissioner wants to find a way in which the anti-Negro conduct of policemen can be ended once and for all time, the above Charter language is broad enough for the purpose.

Our organizations and the entire Detroit Negro Community are waiting, Mr. Mayor, for you to exercise your authority under the Charter and now to implement your campaign promise to end police brutality against our Negro citizens.

Respectfully,

THE COTILLION CLUB, INC.

By: _____

By: _____

By: _____

By: _____

Etc.

CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Herma J. Glass	17505 Mitchell St.	TW 3-7607	Cotillion Club
Marc Stepp	4329 W. Grand Ave.	WE 4-9287 ext. 24	MDLCA
Myzell Sowell	307 Tobin Bldg. (26)	WO 1-5542	Wolverine Bar
David Klein	2102 David Stott Bldg.	965-4950	Det. Chap. National Lawyers Guild
Dave Niederhauser	1326 Temple	831-4917	Cone & Conkton
S.P. Spottswood	811 Edison	866-7227	Clergy
L. Juan Burt	5837 Inoquois	923-0670	Clergy
Francis A. Konegaj	208 Mack Ave.	TE 2-4600	Urban League
Geraldine Nelson	3422 Ludden	567-8629	ACME
Donald J. Roberts	11651 14th	866-4529	Cone
James Wadsworth	2212 Atchison	TO 8-8120	NAACP
John Conyers	7438 Dexter	TY 5-7145	Cotillion
Frank H. Joyce	7632 12th St.	872-4687	Northern Student Movement
Robert R. Tindal	13118 Dexter	TO 9-6412	NAACP
James N. Garrett	16580 Ohio	UN 4-6465	Cotillion Club
Wilbur Hughes	1684 1/2 Wildemere	UN 2-6617	NAACP Cotillion Club
Geo. W. Crockett Jr.	3200 Cadillac Tower	WO 5-0050	Wolverine Bar Cotillion Club
Lovell E. Jones (Dir. of Health and Welfare)	208 Mack Ave.	Te. 2-4600	Urban League
Jackie Vaughn III	1946 W. Grand Bldg	Ty. 5-6991	Cotillion