

MEMORANDUM

November 14, 1966

TO: Inner City Organizing Council
FROM: Donald J. Roberts
RE: Police Brutality Issue
ATTENTION: Mr. Kenneth Cockrell, Vice-Chairman

On 11/10/66, I took testimony from Mrs. Eunice Brayboy, an ADC mother of 8 children, who resides on 12th Street (phone: 869-0252). Her concern was to redress grievances which she had against the Detroit Police Department.

Specifically, she was concerned about the fact that her son, Joseph Dunbar, age 14, was severely beaten by Patrolman Novak, of the Detroit Police Department, Precinct 10. The beating occurred on 8/23/66. The resulting injuries involved skull concussion and considerable damage to the child's shoulder. According to her report, her child took a ride in a stolen automobile with Reginald Scott, who is a teen-ager, and whose residence is at 8343 12th Street. The two youths were pursued by police and eventually fled from the stolen automobile. Joseph Dunbar ran into a garage on the premises of 2738 Glynn Court. Patrolman Novak pursued him, drawing his pistol as he went into the darkened garage after Joseph. He discovered Joseph hiding underneath the parked auto in the garage. The boy was dragged from beneath the car and pistol-whipped. According to the patrolman's initial statement, the boy was injured as he jumped from the stolen car. Later evidence contradicted his statement, and Dr. Sarkisian, of Grace Hospital, along with Dr. Darmody, Detroit General Hospital, indicated that the concussion resulted from being struck more than once with a hard object.

Mrs. Brayboy, on the above-mentioned date, was visited by 2 uniformed officers at approximately 1:30 in the afternoon. Initially, they asked if she had called the police. Shocked at their appearance at her home, she sat on the side of the bed and within the time necessary to smoke a half of a cigarette, the policemen returned with two additional officers, informing Mrs. Brayboy that her son was in Detroit General Hospital, seriously injured after jumping from a stolen car. She went immediately to the hospital and gained entrance to the emergency room where her son was being treated. She described his injuries as being "gruesome", tremendous swelling, etc. The doctors regarded his situation as critical and one in which his life expectancy was questionable. Shortly after she had gained entrance to the Waiting Room, she was denied the opportunity to see her son any more, by a detective. Although an attendant had raised objection to the detective's orders, she was not permitted to see her son again until 9:30 P.M.

After convalescing in Detroit General Hospital, the boy was removed to the Wayne County Youth Home, after which time he was sent to Whitmore Lake, where he is presently (please see attached medical report).

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There was one eye-witness to the beating; a woman who lives adjacent to the garage at 2738 Glynn Court viewed Joseph Dunbar as he was struck by Patrolman Novak. Although the eye-witness told Mrs. Brayboy what she had seen, she requested that she not become involved and that her name should not be used.

A second person who lives immediately next door to where the incident occurred, reported to Mrs. Brayboy that he observed several officers surrounding Joseph after the beating had taken place. He further reported that the officers would not let him come outside of his home to get into his car, even though he had to go to work. His impression is that they did not want anyone to observe the injured boy. The officers made certain that no one got close to Joseph.

Mrs. Brayboy has contacted Governor Romney in regard to this case and has a written response. Additionally, Mr. Edward Bryant, of the Wayne County After-Care Unit has been involved. Mr. Bryant can be reached at 222-6150. He is Joseph's Probation Officer. Joseph has been on Juvenile probation for previous incidents of delinquency. The most recent incident prior to the beating was the act of escaping from Boys Training School in Lansing, approximately two weeks before this incident.

The detective who would not permit Mrs. Brayboy to see her son is Detective Edwards, of the Homicide Bureau.

One week after the beating occurred, Mrs. Brayboy went to file a complaint with NAACP. The NAACP referred her to the Citizens' Complaint Bureau, of the Detroit Police Department. As of now, she has not received any satisfactory resolution.

She has attempted to make an appointment with Police Commissioner Ray Girardin but was denied this opportunity. She was told by his office staff, that he was too busy to see her.

DJR:sj