

PETITION

February 7, 1961

We the undersigned hereby respectfully petition and urge the Mayor of the City of Detroit to create and appoint a Public Police Review Board.

We believe such a Board, composed of independent, representative, private citizens of high integrity, created to investigate, hear, and determine complaints by citizens against police officers and procedure, and to make recommendations to the Police Commissioner, would reassure the community of impartial and just evaluation of such complaints, protect both the citizen and the police officer, promote greater citizen police cooperation, increase respect for law and law enforcement, and help reduce group and racial tension in Detroit.

We believe that the protection of the dignity and constitutional rights of all helps, not hinders, effective law enforcement. We doubt whether, in the long run, law enforcement is furthered by unresolved allegations of wrongful conduct by police officers. We desire to promote between all citizens and police officers greater mutual respect, confidence and trust. In an atmosphere of mutual trust, law enforcement is less difficult and more effective, the police officers job less hazardous and civic unity is enhanced.

We believe, in association with many other citizens, and community, religious, labor, and professional organizations, that a Public Police Review Board is one constructive measure among others that can help increase and maintain cooperation by all citizens for effective law enforcement.

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