

YOUR CALL FOR JUSTICE WILL BE ANSWERED !!!

Contact Tabor

DIAL

JUSTICE



Mary Jane Hock - Treasurer
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Det. 48221
day or night

*** Sherman & other Police study*

**DETROIT TASK FORCE FOR JUSTICE GETS YOU A
LAWYER**



- IF YOU HAVE BEEN BEATEN OR MOLESTED BY THE POLICE
- IF POLICE BROKE INTO YOUR HOME
- IF YOU ARE ARRESTED FOR DOING NOTHING WRONG
- IF YOU ARE MISTREATED AT THE POLICE STATION
- IF POLICE HAVE WITHHELD SERVICES

**DETROIT TASK FORCE FOR JUSTICE HAS LAWYERS
AND INVESTIGATORS ON DUTY 24-HOURS A DAY....
TO PROTECT YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS**

DETROIT TASK FORCE FOR JUSTICE

A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Detroit Task Force For Justice is a mechanism supported by all concerned organizations and persons committed to securing fair, dignified and humane treatment from the police and in the courts for the residents of the city's low-income neighborhoods, particularly for those who live in our impoverished black communities.

At present there are almost daily episodes, few of which are publicly reported, in which members of the police force, indefensibly exceeding their authority, humiliate, intimidate and unconstitutionally invade the homes of citizens in economically depressed neighborhoods. Incidents of police brutality and illegal arrests of men, women and children are common. In the courts, these same people are frequently the victims of verbal and physical abuse and callous and cynical indifference to their constitutional rights. Frequently they are the victims of demands for excessive bail, protracted detention, inadequate legal representation, perjured testimony and vindictively severe sentences.

D.T.F.J. is determined to take steps to end a situation in which some of the city's communities exist under virtual military rule--where citizens are under constant surveillance and suspicion, where demonstrations against intolerable social conditions are equated with sedition and leaders of protest are regarded as conspirators, regarded--in a reversal of American tradition--as guilty until proven innocent.

D.T.F.J. is convinced that the repression of the constitutional rights of any part of the population represents not only gross immorality but an ominous threat to the dignity and security of everyone. D.T.F.J. is dedicated to winning for all groups of citizens the kind of respect and consideration from the police and the courts which affluent white citizens now expect as a matter of course.

CALL FOR ACTION

It is proposed that a mechanism be established which will ensure availability of justice to persons from whom it is being withheld by the institutions. This mechanism will be the organization of--

DETROIT TASK FORCE FOR JUSTICE

Will provide:

1. Around the clock professional investigators and expert legal services.

The function of the people gathered here will be to provide funds, volunteer office time, and to publicize the existence of the service throughout the community.

2. Initiation of a program for public education, based on a constantly increasing mass of documentary evidence, to demonstrate to the still largely unaware and comfortably, illusioned white middle class of Detroit the urgent need to effect radical changes in the attitudes of the city's agencies of law and order toward hundreds of thousands of our citizens -- a radical change away from arrogance and bigotry, toward understanding and cooperation.

This immediate emergency service will precede and supplement the court program being prepared by the Inter-Faith Action Council.

Citizens of Detroit have been subject to increasingly repressive treatment by police, and increasingly severe and frequent brutalizing. Coupling this with frequent withholding of police services from the Black Community has brought us to a point where citizens must force action.

In the early spring of 1968, riot control-flying wedge techniques were used on junior high children evacuated by a fire alarm. In the fracas, community leaders, ministers and parents got the brunt of the sticks.

In the same neighborhood young people have been subject to harassment, frisking and verbal abuse. In April, at the time of Dr. King's death, Detroit's black people in mourning were unreasoningly deprived of their constitutional freedoms.

In June, the President of the Detroit Police Officers Association declared his intent to oppose the Task Force Recommendations and "do the job himself" in a display of his reactionism and flirtation with the truth.

Also in June, the DPOA walked out of a public hearing in mass threatening "blue flu" and insulting a Negro spokesman who was supporting the residency requirements for city employees.

Further, in June, the Police Trial Board exonerated the police in charge in the Cobo Hall Poor People's incident and no one has been brought to justice despite repeated requests by citizens groups and the Commission on Community Relations.

In July, the Mayor signed the Stop and Frisk law. The CCR did not alleviate the effect on the Black Community and to subdue the distorted elation of the "Law and Order" sector.

In September, the DPOA declared war on the city government by opposing Chart Amendment "A" with a vigorously waged venomous and untruthful campaign against the city.

On October 30, off duty police used brutal methods on young people at a rally whose only offenses were verbal.

Finally, on November 1, off-duty police, possibly just drunk enough to allow their true feelings to surface, viciously assaulted, without provocation, several black youths at the site of a church dance.

This is only a fraction of the number of incidents in Detroit of injury to the person and rights of individuals that have been followed by a total inability on the part of the constituted authorities to help citizens maintain their rights.

As of November 3, 1968, no complaints brought to the CCB arm of the DPD as result of the July 1967 occurrences (which usually are referred by the Commission on Community Relations or the MCRC) have been processed.

It seems fair to summarize the problems as follows:

1. The Mayor has shown his bias in favor of repression.
2. The CCR and the MCRC have demonstrated almost complete ineffectiveness in dealing with citizen-police relations.
3. The DPOA has made flagrant its lack of concern for the best interest of the city.

It is time for all citizens of the city concerned with justice to unite in a plan of action to redress grievances.