

ABOLISH STRESS!



TO: Mayor Roman S. Gribbs, and Police Commissioner John Nichols

We the undersigned members of the total Detroit Community: Workers, students, parents, teachers, clergy, merchants, professionals, and policemen, do hereby declare our total opposition to the continued existence and operation of the S.T.R.E.S.S. (Stop the Roberies. . . Enjoy Safe Streets) unit of the Detroit Police Department in our community.

Further, we state our recognition of the fact that the activity of the S.T.R.E.S.S. unit could not go unchecked without the cooperation of the Wayne County Prosecutor's office.

To illustrate the basis for our demand we cite just a few of the reasons as follows:

1. The existence of S.T.R.E.S.S. has created an atmosphere of police violence that enables police officers to inflict fatal force on "suspected" felons at will, secure in the knowledge that they have only to say "I thought he had a knife" and therefore it will be declared justifiable homicide by the investigators from their own department and the prosecutor's office.

2. The legal rights of the "suspected felon," such as the presumption of innocence, are denied by officers who on the spot function as prosecutor, judge and jury, and executioner in a state that has no capital punishment.

3. The "New Criteria for S.T.R.E.S.S." adopted by the Mayor and his Police Commissioner are not reforms. They even go so far as to propose that ". . . Helicopters now on test by the Detroit Police Department will begin to coordinate their patrol activity with that of STRESS units, to take advantage of their extensive night floodlighting capability. An arrest scene floodlit by helicopter should make escape by the suspect more difficult, and make it easier for arresting officers to complete the capture without use of maximum force (Firearms)." This obviously represents a conscious escalation of the approach of stopping crime by the method of open terror instead of equal enforcement of the laws.

4. That the danger to the community, as evidenced by all of the S.T.R.E.S.S. related homicides, including the "Rochester Massacre" and the recent killing of Curtis McConnell, age 15, is so great as to require that S.T.R.E.S.S. be completely discontinued immediately.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, THEREFORE, DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE ELIMINATION OF S.T.R.E.S.S. FROM OUR COMMUNITY!

Name

Address

Zip

Precinct

Frances A. Proda	9583 Lenore	48239	
Jean P. Smith	9561 Salem Det.	48239	
Laura L. Smith	9561 Salem Det.	48239	
Theresa Koble	11375 Winston	Det 48239	
James E. Snoka	9583 Lenore	Det 48239	
Mary Jane Koberge	10014 Grayfield	Det 48239	
Sue Millington	10035 Sioux	Det 48239	
Thomas A. Holt	11375 Winston	Det. 48239	
Irene Lopez	11388 Riverdale	48239	

Name

Address

Zip

Precinct

Eugene Strobel 20278 Old Homestead 48225 Harper Woods

Robert A. Cruger 12081 Sanford 48205 Detroit

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Stop STRESS Now!