

(GENERAL)

COMPTROLLER 269702
FILE NUMBER

COMMUNICATION
OF

CENTRAL SEATTLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR
REFORMS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,
RE. POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS, AND THAT
A CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD BE ESTABLISHED.

*5-11-71 Refer to Human Rights Comm
and Fred Tausend
6-2-71 Hold for Report from
Crime Prevention Comm.
11-13-73 file*

FILED MAY 4, 1971

C. G. ERLANDSON
COMPTROLLER AND CITY CLERK

BY *DePree* DEPUTY

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

REFERRED	TC
MAY 10, 1971	JUD & PERS.
REFERRED	TO
REFERRED	TO
REPORTED	DISPOSITION
NOV 19 1973	ON FILE
RE-REFERRED	TO
REPORTED	DISPOSITION

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your

to which was referred the within

HUMAN RESOURCES & JUD.

REPORT

Committee

would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that

THE SAME BE PLACED ON FILE

COMPTON
FILE NO

CENTRAL SEATTLE
REFORMS IN THE
RE. POLICE-COMM
A CIVILIAN REV

5-11-71 R
6-2-71 A
1-13-73
Chairman

FILED

BY

ACTION

REFERRED

MAY 10, 1971

REFERRED

REFERRED

REPORTED

NOV 19

RE-REFERRED

REPORTED

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your HUMAN RESOURCES & JUD. Committee

REPORT

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would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that.....

THE SAME BE PLACED ON FILE

CHAIRMAN

Janette Williams

CHAIRMAN

ALFRED J. SCHWEPPE
BERNARD REITER (1964)
MARY ELLEN KRUG
WARREN A. DOOLITTLE
FREDRIC C. TAUSEND
ROBERT R. BEEZER
THOMAS R. BEIERLE
KENNETH E. REKOW
PETER E. PAGET
DAVID G. KNIBB
ELMER F. JOHNSTON, JR.

SCHWEPPE, DOOLITTLE, KRUG & TAUSEND
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW
857 COLMAN BUILDING
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104

TELEPHONE
AREA CODE 206
MA 3-7520

May 24, 1971

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
MAY 25 11 01 AM '71

Ms. Jeanette Williams
Chairman
Judiciary and Personnel Committee
1106 Seattle Municipal Building
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Ms. Williams:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 1971 in reference to the establishment of a civilian review board. It appears from Mr. Leed's letter dated April 29, 1971 to The Honorable Charles M. Carroll, as President of the City Council, that the recommendation of the Central Seattle Community Council is based on an April 27th statement of the Human Rights Commission.

We are presently attempting to obtain a copy of the April 27th statement of the Human Rights Commission but to date have not been able to do so. If you have a copy of that statement, I would appreciate your sending it to me.

The question of a police civilian review board has been before the Crime Prevention Advisory Commission in the past and was dealt with by the Commission in its report to the Mayor and City Council dated January 20, 1971. One of the recommendations of that report, appearing on page three under section 2 "The Commission and The Police," states as follows:

Continued attention must be given to the public credibility of police internal investigation procedures with provision for appeal to an independent civilian-controlled investigating body to process complaints against law enforcement personnel.

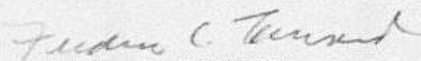
Ms. Jeanette Williams
May 24, 1971
Page Two

Four of the eleven members of the Commission signed the report subject to a minority report which dealt specifically with the recommendation advocating "an independent civilian controlled investigating body to process complaints against law enforcement personnel."

The Crime Commission, which now for the first time since it was created has a paid staff coordinator, is presently undertaking a review of the recommendations set forth in its January 1971 report for the purpose of determining what steps it can take to assure or promote implementation of those recommendations. Accordingly, the subject of assuring some effective form of civilian review of complaints against law enforcement personnel (an end incidentally, which is endorsed by both the majority and the minority of the Crime Prevention Advisory Commission) will be discussed in detail at the May and June meetings of the Crime Prevention Advisory Council.

I believe that within the next thirty to sixty days we should be in a position to make a follow-up report and hopefully to make specific recommendations on the subject.

Sincerely yours,


FREDRIC C. TAUSEND
Chairman, Seattle Crime
Prevention Advisory Commission

FCT:mp

CITY COUNCIL TRANSMITTAL

C. F. # 269702

TO: Philip Hayasaka, Director
Human Rights Department
City of Seattle

Date Sent:
May 11, 1971

Reply Requested By:

FROM: Judiciary and Personnel Committee
Jeanette Williams, Chairman

Subject:
Communication of the Central Seattle Community Council for reforms in the Human Rights Commission regarding police-community relations, and that a Civilian Review Board be established.

ACTION
— required —

Review and Return File With Your Answer to Sender

Review and Answer Petitioner, Return File and Copy of Answer to Sender

XXXXXXXX

Review and Make Recommendations, Return File and Recommendations to Sender
() In Duplicate

Prepare Legislation and Return File to Sender

Additional Information:

NZ:lcm

Jeanette Williams

Signature

CITY COUNCIL TRANSMITTAL

TO:

Philip Heyenka, Director
Human Rights Department
City of Seattle

FROM:

Judiciary and Personnel Committee
Jeanette Williams, Chairman

C. F. # 269702

Date Sent: May 11, 1971

Reply Requested By:

Subject: Recommendation of the Central Seattle Community Council for reforms in the Human Rights Commission regarding police-community relations, and that a Civilian Review Board be established.

ACTION
— required

Additional Information:

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() In Duplicate

Prepare Legislation and Return File to Sender

Jeanette Williams
Signature

WJ:jam

LOT-110-5002 CS 20.19



CITY OF SEATTLE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Y. PHILIP HAYASAKA, DIRECTOR

Room 305 Seattle Municipal Building • Seattle, Washington 98104 • 583-2754

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
MAY 17 10 54 AM '71

May 14, 1971

The Honorable Jeanette Williams
City Councilwoman
City of Seattle

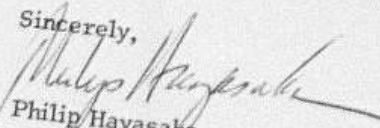
Dear Councilwoman Williams:

As requested, we are pleased to review the communication of the Central Seattle Community Council regarding police-community relations and establishing a Civilian Review Board.

We should first like to correct the wording of the subject title on the City Council transmittal form stating "... for reforms in the Human Rights Commission regarding police community relations" The Central Seattle Community Council is endorsing reforms within the Seattle Police Department as recommended in the April 27 statement of the Human Rights Commission (enclosed).

The Department of Human Rights is in agreement with the Central Seattle Community Council, and with the analysis and recommendations made in the statement by the Human Rights Commission. However, we also recognize the sensitivity of such a statement and recommendation, therefore suggest a meeting be held between the members of the City Council and the Human Rights Commission at an early date to explore and discuss the statement, recommendation and any possible remedial action that may require City Council approval or initiation.

Sincerely,


Philip Hayasaka
Director

PH:jv
Enclosure

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CITY OF SEATTLE

TO: NEWS MEDIA
FROM: REV. D. HARVEY MC INTYRE, CHAIRMAN
SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
DATE: April 27, 1971

The recent incident relating to the use of firearms by Seattle Police officers that resulted in the death of Leslie A. Black has been followed closely by the Seattle Human Rights Commission and Department. The aftermath of this incident has again aroused anger and suspicion in the minority communities against the Police and governmental officials, reminiscent of the Robert Reese and Larry Ward killings.

On April 8 the Human Rights Commission, in a letter to the Mayor, stated that we have suggested that citizens voicing concern on this issue exercise restraint and give the duly constituted authorities an opportunity to respond under the law. We further expressed our confident expectation that our Mayor, Police Chief and Prosecuting Attorney would justify our request for forbearance. To date the community has reacted responsibly.

The Mayor responded by assuring that the leadership of the Police Department is reacting in a highly professional manner.

The inquest panel found the killing to be unnecessary and contrary to the Police Department's own regulation. The Prosecuting Attorney has filed an information against Officer Elmore for manslaughter.

April 27, 1971
Rev. D. Harvey McIntyre
Seattle Human Rights Commission

The Human Rights Commission is dismayed by the response of Chief Tielsch. We agree that the shooting was tragic. But we find nothing in Chief Tielsch's statement offering assurance that this type of tragedy will not occur again. In fact, find just the opposite.

It is not the prerogative of the Human Rights Commission to administer the Police Department. However, it is our responsibility to be concerned with the results of any action by any City Department that has an effect upon minorities as it relates to human rights. Police-Community relations have been difficult at best, and the actions of Chief Tielsch appear now to worsen the situation.

In his first press release to the public following the inquest's conclusion, Chief Tielsch stated that there would be no announcement of any disciplinary action to either officer involved in the shooting, and that the officer who fired the fatal bullet would remain on active duty in an administrative capacity.

Such actions can only be interpreted by the minority community to mean its safety and welfare are not as important as the Police Department's morale. It appears that the Department's regulation is like a band of rubber, to be stretched to fit any occasion.

The report as given by Chief Tielsch together with his inaction have all the appearances of a white wash, and are in direct conflict with the finding of the inquest panel. The panel findings confirmed that regulations did not require officers to fire their weapons. On the contrary, the firing of weapons was strictly prohibited. The officers would not have been held responsible by their departmental regulations if the suspect were not apprehended. Further, it would appear that, with all the modern techniques available, the Police Department would have been able to identify and apprehend the suspect at a later time.

April 27, 1971
Rev. D. Harvey McIntyre
Seattle Human Rights Commission

The act of the officers combined with the absence of any disciplinary action by the Chief can only contribute to the hostility, alienation and suspicion of the minority communities toward the Police Department and the City. Unless there be discipline for officers who have violated Police regulation, there can be no positive community relations resulting.

One of the most frustrating and anger-producing aspects of the relationship between the Police and the community has been the use of unnecessary force, especially when life is taken. There must be a drastic change by the Police Department and its leadership in their attitude toward unnecessary use of force.

Prosecuting Attorney Bayley has filed a criminal charge against one of the police officers. The inquest panel found a violation of police regulations. It is incredible that the Police Chief, over one month after the incident, has failed to take effective internal disciplinary action in a matter that vitally affects all citizens.

We therefore recommend that the Seattle Police Department establish a consistent policy of automatic suspension of police officers involved in any fatal shootings, pending the results of an inquest panel.

We further recommend that the Seattle Police Department effectively enforce its own firearms regulations, and the establishment of automatic sanctions for the violations of these rules.

We further recommend that the Seattle City Council immediately proceed to establish a Citizens Review Board to investigate serious and tension-producing infractions of Police Department regulations.

G. J. P. C.M.C.
CENTRAL SEATTLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

417 RAINIER AVENUE SOUTH • SEATTLE, WASH. 98144 • EA 4-6668



... for communication, coordination and citizen planning ...



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
MAY 3 2 31 PM '71

April 29, 1971

The Honorable Charles M. Carroll, President
Seattle City Council
Seattle Municipal Building
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Mr. Carroll:

The Board of the Central Seattle Community Council has endorsed the April 27th statement of the Human Rights Commission. We second the conclusions reached by the Commission, and we join them in urging you to institute immediate reforms. We specifically request that a civilian review board be established as soon as possible.

The Human Rights Commission is correct in its presentation of the concerns of the Central Area about the deterioration of police-community relations. We agree with the Commission that this is a critical issue and that it must be faced now.

Those who maintain that the police are always above criticism, and who misinterpret and distort the motives of the Human Rights Commission are only contributing to a steadily worsening situation. We again urge you to act responsibly, and immediately, to restore public confidence in the police.

Yours truly,
Roger Leed
Roger Leed,
President

cc: All City Council Members, The Honorable Wesley Uhlman,
Chief George Tielsch, All News Media

RL:kr