

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
1203 CITY HALL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Report on Meeting with Staff of Bethlehem Center (located near Carver School) and Wesley House Centers (Southeast and Southwest): on April 24, 1967

The staff who work with young people in these areas expressed the following concerns:

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That Police don't come" when you call them, or take so long that they are too late to help when they do arrive.

That Police need special training to handle young people.

That there should be some registration and/or regulations concerning the possession of firearms and weapons. They spoke of increasing incidences of use of knives, etc.

That laws relating to the sale of whiskey to minors should be more stringently enforced.

That no more liquor licenses be approved for the area close to Bethlehem Center. They have opposed it at hearings which they know about, but wonder where the hearings are advertised.

That more rehabilitative work be done through the Juvenile Court. Tendency to send clients home without much work - either attitude that nothing is wrong or that nothing can be done.

That people in the neighborhood are afraid to report some of the older youth, for fear of reprisals - both adults and younger people are afraid.

They have made various contacts with Police Department, Juvenile Court, etc. They are still worried about what they feel to be a growing "lawlessness" and use of weapons, which they feel to be a problem of "Community Relations". How can community protect itself against people who intimidate by threats, which are not basis enough for legal action or people who have residents scared to swear out warrant against them?