

mail to Mayor Allen -
N.C.J.

October 25, 1967

Chief H. T. Jenkins
Atlanta Police Department

RE: Disorders on Magnolia Street
Sunday - October 22, 1967
Monday - October 23, 1967

Dear Sir:

On Sunday night, October 22, 1967, at about 9:30 p.m., Captain A. C. Bryant called me and stated that a explosive situation was about to develop at Vine and Magnolia but that he thought everything was under control.

I got ready to go to the area and just as I was leaving, I heard another help call and fire call in this area so proceeded to Vine and Magnolia.

I found that Officer J. B. Phillips and other officers had arrested several persons at that location and had had considerable trouble with the subjects and after the arrest and the persons had been transported to jail, a considerable crowd of disorderly persons gathered on Magnolia Street between Maple and Vine and set several fires. The Fire Department was called several times but the fires were put out mostly before the Fire Department arrived.

Lt. C. J. Perry and Captain Bryant were on the scene and had Car 10-B, 12-B and a wagon patrolling the area. All of these were manned by negro officers. The crowd grew and became more disorderly, setting fires and throwing rocks and bottles. The Task Force headed by Lt. C. B. Dickerson and about eight patrolmen were called into the area with special equipment, helmets, night sticks and shotguns to disperse the crowd. Several other arrests were made, one a known agitator by the name of McGuire, a white female.

In a short while, order was restored. I instructed the two K-9 trucks with drivers and the dogs in the truck to patrol the area the rest of the night. The streets and

sidewalks were littered with debris, rocks and broken bottles.

On Monday, October 23, 1967, a circular was distributed in the area calling for a mass meeting at the play lot at Magnolia and Maple to protest white ownership of stores and houses and police brutality.

Alderman Q. V. Williamson called me and came by my office. He wanted to talk to Officer J. B. Phillips and I had Officer Phillips go by his office on Hunter Street. Alderman Williamson brought one of the circulars to me and stated he was present when they were run off the machine and that he thought that the so called "Rev. Boone" was behind them.

Alderman Williamson was of the opinion that if the officers would lighten up on the defendants, it would help the situation. I did not agree with him but sent Officer Phillips to see him.

I alerted Captain R. E. Little and Lt. C. J. Perry to the situation and instructed them to allow the meeting if it was orderly.

I went to the area and was there until the situation got so unruly, I ordered the Task Force into the area with full equipment to disperse the crowd. They had set fires against the doors of both supermarkets at Vine and Magnolia, across the entire street at Maple and Magnolia and other fires in the street at Magnolia and Walnut. The fires were fed by gasoline. The door at Herman's Supermarket, 544 Magnolia, was forced open and looted of beer and other articles. While the officers were investigating this, The Big Rock Supermarket was broken in the front door but no entrance was made. The rear window of the captain's car was broken out by a brick and as I passed a group of people who were listening to Senator Leroy Johnson who claimed he had the group under control, a person standing near him threw a rock into my front window which was down and struck me on the hand. I talked to Alderman Williamson the second time that night at Magnolia and Vine and informed him that I was going to call in reinforcements and clear the area. He agreed with me. Color pictures were made of all damage.

I had held Lt. C. B. Dickerson and eight members of the Task Force in the building from 8:00 p.m. until that time, and I called for them to come into the area and disperse the unruly crowd. I was with them the entire time and they did an excellent job of clearing the street with no injuries or undue force and no arrests. No shots were fired, although the Task Force was armed with riot guns.

Captain O. W. Jordan and the Crime Prevention Bureau, including Lt. C. Dixon, Sgt. Goss and Detective R. B. Moore, were on the scene and were of invaluable assistance in restoring order and contacting the well meaning people of the community of which there were many.

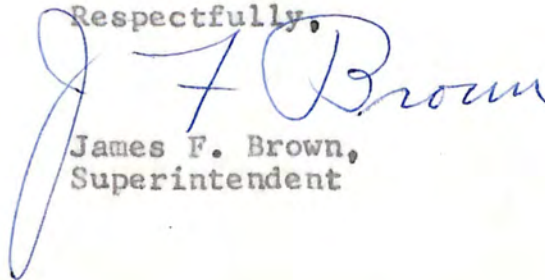
It was found that most of the unruly crowd were from several blocks to several miles away from this immediate area.

The Transit Company rerouted their buses from this area during the worst part of the disorder and automobiles that did not belong in the area were prohibited from traveling the street during the emergency.

On Tuesday night, the Crime Prevention was assigned to the area under the direction of Lt. Dixon and Sgt. Goss and no trouble was reported anywhere in the area.

The Fire Department responded each time they were called. They did ask that we appraise them of the nature of the fire so that they would know which type of equipment to send. This was done and many fire calls were canceled by the police when they could be handled without fire equipment.

Respectfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J F Brown". The signature is written over the typed name and title.

James F. Brown,
Superintendent

JFB:b