

Dan
NOTE: "The City of Atlanta Police Department is investigating all of the incidents which took place in the Dixie Hills area June 17th thru June 20th."

July 12, 1967

REPORT ON DIXIE HILLS EPISODE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A memo in the files of the Community Relations Commission, dated April 5, 1967 states "Mr. Charles Hart suggests that the Commission hold a hearing in the Northwest area immediately - including, Troy Street area, Dixie Hills, Almond Park, etc. He pointed out several problems in the area.

.. On April 19th a meeting was held at Allen A. M. E. Church, at which time 24 persons spoke, and some 15 more submitted written statements about needs. (On May 4th, a meeting was held at Wilkes Chapel, in Perry Homes area) The complaints included sewers; street paving; street signs; police protection, "In Dixie Hills Plaza"; recreation; double session schools; charges in public housing projects; rats; maintenance of apartments.

The individual complaints were referred to the appropriate departments and the Commission was informed that an encouraging number had been handled.

The major ones, of inadequate resources for young people would require major resources and programs through the City Parks and Recreation Department or through the Board of Education.

On May 9th, the Center Hill - Grove Park Civic Association and the CNAC for the West Central EOA center submitted requests to the Parks Committee for 8 specific programs in the general area. On May 10th same groups submitted to the Police Committee requests for development of a Police Athletic League.

The Dixie Hills Shopping Center is in area of about one block by one-half block. It is surrounded by apartment houses with little open space --- a parking area for about 20 cars.

On the evening of Saturday, June 17th, a customer left the Flamingo Grill at about 9:15 P. M. and was standing on a corner in the plaza. [He was drinking beer.] According to him, Eddie Wilkins, who was the one arrested: "I was standing on the corner, had a can of beer and I'm old enough, I'm over 21; then three security policemen from the Flamingo Grill, came up and told me to move on. He's got a grudge against me; the security guards said 'You can't stand here on the corner' I said 'Why?' Then he pushed me. (The security guard) Then we started to fight. And then the city police came."

Eddie Wilkins' sister, Georgia Wilkins, was arrested later. Her version was: "Detective J. W. Bailey pulled me over and tried to handcuff me. He slapped me and I started to fight back. My Daddy told me to let the police take me on in and he would get me out. They put a boy in the car and took out brass knuckles, beat the boy and then started beating me in the stomach and back. I asked why they were arresting and hitting me. The Negro officer told me to shut up! He said he had arrested me for bad language. I said they should arrest everybody then. I kept quiet so they wouldn't beat me."

During this period, a crowd gathered and some protested the arrests. Another man was also arrested. A police officer said Miss Wilkins was hitting at them with her pocketbook and cursing. She was arrested on charges of an assault on an officer, using obscene and vulgar language. Her brother was arrested on a miscellaneous mischief charge. The third person, Joseph Kendrick of Proctor Street, was charged with interfering with an officer. They claim to have been beaten by the police in the car.

The crowd gathered. The police officer denied the charges against him, saying that they were fighting and protesting.

There were no disturbances on Saturday night and no police cars in the area. The incidents in the Dixie Hills area were sparked off as a result of the fight with the security guards on Saturday. On Sunday afternoon Stokley Carmichael and his SNCC companions were in the neighborhood. After a swimming trip at Mozley Park, they were arrested for loitering. It was reported by Howard Watson, a resident of the Dixie Hills area, there were about 4 police cars patrolling. He held a meeting at St. Joseph's Church on Verbena Street, N. W., with some residents of the community to decide whether they should picket the shopping plaza. The meeting was held at 3:00 P. M. , shortly after Stokley Carmichael's arrest. There were no incidents Sunday night.

Monday afternoon, a young man was shot by a police officer. The incident was described by an eyewitness as follows: "Somebody threw a brick in the shopping center and hit the window to a store, the burglar alarm went off. A boy (the one who was shot) picked up a stick and started beating on the alarm to try to make it stop, as they had seen policemen do. The police drove up, one man got out of the car and came over to the boy and told him to stop. The boy didn't stop. When the boy continued beating, the policeman demanded again that he stop. When the boy continued beating, the policeman pushed him. The boy's friend suggested that he defend himself. Then the boy retaliated by pushing the policeman back. They started to scuffle. The boy pushed the policeman against his car and backed away from him. The policeman pulled out his pistol and shot the boy."

Marion Ward, 31 Shirley Place, gave this account of what happened Tues. night. He said: "The Police Department got nasty with us last night after people got shot. We tried to get police officers to help us out, he told us to wait, we should have been in the house, to wait, they would get to us when they could ----- Fellow was dead, little boy would have died --- told me to pick fellow up and bring him to him --- fellow was already dead --- the fellow I went to was the person who did the shooting. Police were scared to death, had shotguns. Fellow who threw firebomb was no where near us. Lady said 'We better go in the house' when firebomb was thrown, tried to get in the same door. I would know police officer who shot --- got a good look at him in light of bomb".

The observations of Reginald Carter after Dixie Hills Rioting .
(Community Relations Staff)

I arrived into the area about 9:15 A. M., Tuesday, June 20th at Verbena Street at the EOA West Central Neighborhood Service Center. I saw the bulldozers and tractors of the City of Atlanta grading ground to be used for a play lot. The street cleaners were clearing the streets. The sewers were being cleaned out and many of the city officials were in the area giving directions and making plans about what is to be done next about play lots. The area was without incident. Later on in the evening, 10:15 P. M., when I arrived back into the area, policemen were fully armed. I had heard that four (4) people were shot, one fatally. The area was high in tension and several shots were fired periodically.

I went to Grady Hospital in an effort to get an official report of the incident and possibly to talk to some of the injured. I was only able to get a story of what happened from a news reporter. She reported: "A Mr. Timothy Ross was fatally shot while sitting on a step at his home; Marion Ward was shot between the eyes, his injury was not serious; Catherine Duncan was shot in the hand while in her apartment. The shooting resulted from a kid who threw a fire bomb at a policeman. The policeman got excited and started shooting". Reginald Rivers, age nine (9) was shot in the side.

I returned to the area of Dixie Hills and heard that the Mayor had been there for a short while. I listened while Reverend Boone, Rush Congregational Church, Reverend J. C. Ward, Hunter Hill Baptist Church, Ben Perry, WADK, and Douglas Jackson who was shot by the police on the evening before, was interviewed about the shooting of the afternoon.

I left the area about 12:15 A. M., there were no further incidents.

Wednesday morning: Mayor Allen rendered a 9 P. M. - 7 A. M. curfew under powers granted to him on Monday, and requested the Community Relations Commission's Executive Committee to hold a meeting to hear from residents of the area --- notes attached:

Upon recommendation of the local leaders and the Community Relations Commission the Mayor extended the curfew to midnight.

Washington and Anderson Parks are progressing. Meetings of residents with apartment managers and store managers in the riot area have resulted in agreements for better maintenance service in the apartments and better quality goods in the stores. The Reverends Boone and J. C. Ward were very interested in this.

At its meeting on Friday, June 23, 1967 the Community Relations Commission adopted resolutions:

1. Urging the Retail Food Dealers Association to adopt membership qualifications and to discipline its members.
2. Requesting an immediate survey of Recreation resources

3. Asking the Community Council to convene a city-wide meeting for long-term plans for recreation, and
4. A resolution addressed to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the text of which is attached.

Minutes of the Hearing held by the Commission on Wednesday afternoon, are attached and copy of requests from Citizens Groups to Parks and Recreation Committee on May 9th and Police Committee on May 10th.

Disposition of Cases. as of July 21, 1967:

Miss Georgia Wilkins: In Municipal Court, fined \$17 for resisting arrest; \$15 for profane language; bound over to County Court on charge of assault and battery.

Mr. Eddie Wilkins: In Municipal Court, charge of vulgar language, dismissed; bound over to County Court on charges of assault and battery and malicious mischief.

Mr. Joseph Hendricks: In Municipal Court, for interfering with arrest, fined \$25, or \$15 and time, suspended; charge of profane language dismissed; bound over on charge of assault and battery.

The cases have not been set for trial in County court; probably in September.