

Police

mail to Mayor Allen:

August 17, 1967

Honorable David Ginsburg, Executive Director
The National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders
1016 - 16th Street
Washington, D. C. 20036

My dear Mr. Ginsburg:

Congratulations on the very excellent way that you are helping the Commission to get organized, and the very fine selections that you are making in organizing a staff. The Commission is extremely fortunate in having your services.

The recommendations regarding the National Guard were excellent and very timely. I am confident that the Defense Department will follow through on these recommendations.

I believe that the Commission must make similar recommendations for the police.

The only way to control a riot, is to prevent it. This responsibility rests almost exclusively with the city government, and the city police department. The state police, and the National Guard are seldom, if ever, called until the riot is out of control.

Every city police department is a separate and independent organization and most police departments have a good training program, but there is no uniformity and obviously, there are some departments that are badly in need of up-grading.

I believe that the greatest need is for the adoption of national police standards, police recruitment, police training, police pay, police supervision, and especially, police community relations. Once such standards are adopted, the cities must have considerable financial assistance to meet these standards.

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The preparation of such standards and the enforcement of them will be a most difficult task. It might be desirable to ask the International Association of Chiefs of Police to prepare the standards.

The Commission might not want to accept this responsibility at this time, but I believe it is the most pressing need to keep riots from happening again and again.

I only make this suggestion for discussion, and I will see you next Tuesday.

With deepest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,


Chief of Police

HTJ:gp