By VINCE SPEZZANO

Rochester policemen will present petitions with 40,000 names of persons opposing the creation of a Police Advisory Board at tonight’s hearing on the controverte proposal before City Council. A spokesman for the Police Locust Club, which circulated the petitions, said the petitions are being gathered in bundles of 200 pages (5,000 signatures) for presentation to the Council tonight.

The Republican minority was prepared to permit a City Council vote tonight on the proposal although the GOP council oppose creation of an advisory board.

The Democrats, who have the votes to pass the measure, have not taken a position on creation of the board although the proposal was drafted by the Democratic administration.

The issue, with racial overtones, has stirred up widespread support and opposition. The latest groups to speak out include the Rochester Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers (in favor), the Valguarniera Society (opposed), and representatives of 12 veteran organizations who claim to speak for 10,000 men and women (opposed).

As proposed, the nine-member advisory board would check on citizens complaints of police brutality.

The legislation would be limited to making recommendations.

THE REPUBLICAN councilmen have recommended an alternative a mayor’s committee composed of representatives of labor, industry, commerce, education, the clergy and other groups.

One of the Republican councilmen, Hyman B. Freeman, told some 100 members of the Young Republican Club that police brutality is only a part of the local problem, which is centered on economics.

"If some Negroes have turned out to be poor citizens they may have been led to it because they wanted something to eat," he said.

Freeman said the current tension may bring some good because of the attention focused on local leaders, urging them to the real needs instead of "mouthing platitudes."

In other development, today, the Rochester Ministers Fellowship unanimously voted to support policemen and oppose the creation of any police advisory board.

The Rev. William Millar Crawford, president of the fellowship, said they feel there are presently adequate safeguards to deal with brutality.

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Advisory Board Idea ‘Ridiculous,’ Says Sarachan

State Investigations Commissioner Goodman A. Sarachan today said that the idea of a Police Advisory Board is "ridiculous."

Sarachan, a Democrat, criticized the proposal in a speech prepared for the Rotary Club today. The proposal is sponsored by the Democratic city administration and will be the subject of a hearing before City Council tonight.

The commissioner said the proposal was the result of "a series of misconceptions," and added: "The idea that a board can be formed which would function in such a manner that it would be of any value to the community is ridiculous."

Sarachan continued: "The real problem is the law enforcement officers themselves. They are the ones who must be held responsible for their actions."

"The person being arrested is not bound by the Marquis of Queensbury rules—"he can kick, gouge—and it makes not a particle of difference whether the person is white, black, yellow or brown."

Establishing this board, Sarachan said, will be to put the police in a situation where they will hesitate to use force when a person resists arrest. "Sometimes," he said, "considerable force is necessary."

Such a board, he added, would have "no power of any kind, its decisions would not be binding."

"All it would be doing would be interfering with the normal processes of law enforcement."

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THE SECOND new point of view on the crime problem, he said, is "a rash of recent decisions in our higher courts which have made it more and more difficult to enforce the criminal laws."

Previously, Sarachan had listed the trouble spots as racketeering, corruption of public officials, control of labor unions by ex-convicts and racketeers, and juvenile delinquency. "Every time one of these decisions is announced," Sarachan said, "the crime syndicate celebrates... Every time I learn of a case thrown out of court on a technicality and a narcotics vendor or a racketeer or a burglar is freed, my heart sinks."