

March 4, 1963

To Mayor Gillette and the Rochester City Council:

The recent charges of improper conduct on the part of certain police officers in the treatment of Negro citizens and the mounting tension arising from these charges are of grave concern to all members of the community. Events of the past two weeks have provided evidence that inadequate resolution of these charges could lead to potentially ugly conflicts and could undermine public confidence in the city's law enforcement agencies.

Due to prompt recognition of the deteriorating and potentially dangerous situation by the County Manager and the City Manager, significant steps have already been taken toward relief of the situation in which these charges arose. We are particularly impressed by the rapidity with which Mr. Homer initiated a series of intensive consultations among diverse community groups in his effort to find a solution that would reduce prevailing tensions and insure prompt and fair treatment of all interested parties.

We are persuaded that Mr. Homer's proposal for the immediate establishment of a Citizen's Review Board represents such a solution. We welcome the City Council's resolution in support of this proposal. We urge the City Council, in keeping with the urgency expressed by the County Manager and the City Manager, to establish this Review Board at the next meeting. We further urge that the membership of the Review Board be chosen in such a manner that the conclusions of the Board will command the respect of the entire community.

Nathan Z. Rosoff
William H. Pihren
Richard F. Fenno
Bernard Slokin
Alfred Harris
James F. Dawsons
William T. Bluhm
Robert A. Osbon
Edward Zabel

Norman M. Kaplan
Kenneth Z. Fickel
Dean Carigan
B. W. Jones
Ray H. Jones
Robert B. Penman
Harry D. Goldstein
Martin Perry
Edward S. Merrith
Daniel W. Healy
Kenneth A. Ross

Mary Miller 60 S. Washington (8)
Wm. F. Sellers 149 S. Plymouth
Paul E. L. Van 11 Knolltop Dr., Rochester
Robert T. Trauger 7 Purvie St. City 10, N.Y.

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These are RIT faculty from four of its five colleges, all city residents

Robert J. Koch } 24 May St. (20)

*Patricia J. Koch
FAC. WIFE*

Joseph Schaefer - 49 Troup St (8)

Robin Brooks - 504 Mt. Hope Ave. (20)

Arthur D. Jant - 17 Thayer St. (7)

Norman Boarder - 34 Tracy St. (7)

Robert R. Boarder 724 Harvard St.

William J. Hayles - 2457 Browncroft Blvd (25)

James R. Gordon 140 Shelburne Road, 20.

Demond Brooks 711 ...

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Stefan C. Marzyski

Clarence S. Koenigs Jr.

FA Black C.S.B.

William R. Nauvo

Jeanne Bartlett

Gus Dapper

Rita Mc Carthy

Joseph E. Mc Mann

Richard J. Pegis

Mary Regina Peary

Robert R. France
Lemon H. Lippitt
Charles E. White
Albert Gold
Levin D. Gault
Carl E. Henry
Ralph A. Quinn
A. S. Stone
Dorothy Stone

L. Mataque
Alexander K. Cameron
Liam H. Howlis
Marcus Oletis
Jacob H. Matthews
Joseph
R. E. Hopkins
Guadalupe P. Escobedo
William P. Bassett
~~and others~~

Dean N. Hayer
W. L. Gunn
George L. Schuchinger, Jr.
Capt. Wainwright
Leonard S. Finigan
W. E. Palshoff
Myron J. Gordon

Donald J. Green
Joseph Cole
William H. Clark
Howard C. Horsford
Emory C. Coward
Melvin Fay
John H. Flavell
D. C. Ackerman
Dale A. Neuman
James O'Leary
Leonard Gillman
Ed W. Coyne
W. B. Muchmore
Allan M. Campbell
Arnold W. Ranin
William E. Gray
Linnell W. Ingle
H. W. Tubright
Robert Hall
J. H. Spragg
Ermin
R. R. Kragbill
John W. Bartlett
Robert H. Beaver

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS
An association of men who have
fought America's foreign wars
on land, sea, and in the air.



ALFRED W. WAY
Quartermaster

MONROE COUNTY COUNCIL
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
WAR MEMORIAL
100 EXCHANGE STREET
ROCHESTER 14, NEW YORK
LOcust 2-7747

GEORGE R. THRASH
Commander

FOUNDED 1899
"To care for him who has borne
the battle and those dependent
upon him."



NICK PRONIO
Executive Secretary

5 March 1963

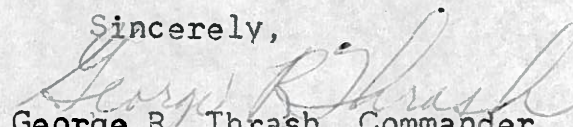
To: City Council of Rochester
City Hall
Rochester 14, N.Y.

Inasmuch as the Rochester Police Force has a very important job to do for the city. Also that they are sometimes hindered in the efficient performance of their various duties either knowingly or unknowingly by the citizens and officials of this community; they have in the past done a very commendable job to make this community a better place to live, educate and bring up our families and a city that we may be justly proud.

Therefore, be it resolved that Monroe County Council, V.F.W. go on record as commending the Rochester Police Force for the fine work they have done in the past and we are confident that they will continue to show the same diligence in the performance of their duties in the future.

This resolution was unanimously adopted at the regular meeting held by the Monroe County Council, V.F.W. on Tuesday evening March 5th 1963 held in the V.F.W. meeting Hall in the Community War Memorial.

Sincerely,


George R. Thrash, Commander
Monroe County Council, V.F.W.

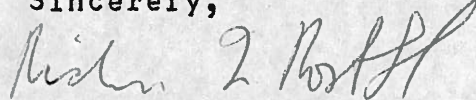
194 Clovercrest Drive
Rochester 18, New York
March 6, 1963

Mayor Henry Gillette:
Rochester City Hall
Rochester, New York

Dear Mayor Gillette:

Here, for your consideration, is
a statement signed by 99 interested citizens of
Monroe County.

Sincerely,



Richard N. Rosett

RNR:md
Enclosure



Rochester Firemen's Benevolent Association

Rochester, New York

March 6, 1963.

Members of the City Council
%Wilmer Patlow, City Clerk.
City Hall
Rochester, 14, New York.

Gentlemen;

The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Firefighters' Benevolent Association, representing a membership of eight hundred and forty in the City of Rochester N.Y., voted at the regular monthly meeting held at Fire Headquarters on Tuesday March 5th '63 to go on public record against a Citizens Review Board in any form.

The Board expressed complete confidence in the manner in which our public officials, both elected and appointed have performed their duties in accordance with Civil Service Laws.

Motives of influences supporting such a Review Board are questionable in as much as all citizens have many recourses prescribed under the law.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Martin
Recording Secretary.

DANIEL J. MURPHY
President
JOHN N. HRYNIW
Secretary
JAMES CAVALLARO
Treasurer

The Locust Club Inc.

Policeman's Organization
111 SPRING STREET
ROCHESTER 8, NEW YORK

Organized in 1904

Affiliated with
STATE POLICE CONFERENCE
and
CENTRAL POLICE CONFERENCE
LOCUST 2-4008

March 11, 1963

To _____,
City Councilman, City of Rochester
City Hall
Rochester 14, New York

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the policemen of the City of Rochester, we respectfully urge you to vote against any ordinance which would create a Citizens Advisory Committee over police conduct by whatever name it might be called. We feel that you should vote against this proposed committee for the following reasons:

1. The present machinery for the review of police conduct is adequate and has been sufficient throughout the years.
2. It would be eminently unfair for a committee composed of laymen, not acquainted with the professional aspects of police work or the actual problems of policemen in the performance of their duties, to pass upon the propriety or inpropriety of police action.

It is difficult for us to understand, as policemen, why our group as civic employees should be singled out for special attention when such committees do not exist for any other group of city or county employees.

3. Within the past several years a large number of police officers have been assaulted while in the performance of their duties and yet the police officers were willing to find redress within the present framework of the civil and criminal laws which were available to them.

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4. It is the unanimous feeling of the police officers of the City of Rochester that the morale of the Police Department would be greatly lowered by the creation of such a committee and we believe you will agree that the morale and efficiency of a police department go hand in hand.
5. That the creation of such a committee would undermine the confidence of the general public in the efficiency and integrity of the Police Department.

To those of you who are lawyers, we believe that the creation of such a committee is contrary to all fundamental concepts of equal rights under the law because it would single out the Police Department for special treatment and, by singling them out, cast aspersions on the integrity and efficiency of the Police Department.

6. The argument has been made that the committee is for the equal benefit of the public and the police. On behalf of the Police Department may we state that we are not asking for any additional help or protection of our rights other than those that we have at the present time which we feel are adequate for ourselves and all other citizens in the community.

Thousands of citizens have shown their support of our position by the signing of petitions which are opposed to the creation of this committee. These petitions will be submitted to the Council at the appropriate time. I am sure that the numbers of those requesting this committee are only a very small percentage of those citizens of our community who are opposed to it and we sincerely feel that you, as a City Councilman, should pay heed to the wishes of the majority.

The fundamental issues involved in this matter transcend any political affiliations or interests and, if the arguments for and against the creation of such a committee are weighed carefully, I am sure that your sense of justice and fair play and what is best for our city will impel you to vote against the creation of the so-called Police Advisory Committee.

Very truly yours,



Daniel J. Murphy, President
The Locust Club Inc.