

Police Board Opposed

By CLIFF SMITH

A New York City councilman said here today that a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Philadelphia opposes that city's Police Advisory Board for the same reasons that a policewoman opposes the Rochester board.

Dominick Corso, a Brooklyn Democrat, described the Philadelphian as "an outstanding criminal lawyer" whose opinion of the police review board there coincides with what Rochester Policewoman Rosemary L. Leary thinks about the local board.

"Miss Leary told me that there was no need for the board because if a policeman is alleged to have used excessive force he can be taken to court, charged before the district attorney, reported to the police chief or FBI or even brought to federal court for violation of civil rights," Corso said.

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HE QUOTED the Philadelphia NAACP representative as insisting there was no need for the board. "He told me the board was useless," Corso said, "because any policeman who uses brutality is a criminal like anyone else, and we have courts to handle criminals."

Corso and four other New York City councilmen first visited Philadelphia and are now visiting Rochester as members of a council subcommittee studying the background and operation of police review boards in other cities.

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THE LOCAL BOARD, created in March 1963 as a result of growing Negro unrest over allegations of police harassment, discrimination and brutality, has so far received 20 unofficial complaints, all outside its jurisdiction, and two official ones. One of the latter is still being processed. In the other the board cleared a patrolman of the main charge but questioned his "professional conduct."

Corso said that both Policewoman Leary and Patrolman Daniel Murphy, president of the Police Locust Club, told the visiting New Yorkers that the board has hurt police morale.

Corso, who heads the subcommittee, said Rochester NAACP members told him that they favored the board and that the absence of cases means that the board's mission has been accomplished.