



# City of Cambridge

5.  
IN CITY COUNCIL  
October 24, 1977

MAYOR VELLUCCI  
COUNCILLOR GRAHAM

- WHEREAS: I have received the attached correspondence regarding incidents of racism and discrimination at the Cambridge Police Department, and
- WHEREAS: Such incidents cannot and will not be tolerated in the Police Department, now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Chief of Police to issue a general order condemning racism in any and all forms in the Cambridge Police Department.

In City Council October 24, 1977.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.  
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy,

ATTEST:-

October 18, 1977

Ad hoc committee  
C. Kantor  
R. Dottin  
T. Benson  
G. Morrison, Jr.  
W. Rhone

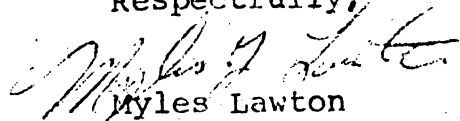
Leo Davenport  
Chief of Police  
Sir:

We the undersigned, representing the members of the Cambridge Afro - American Police Association, respectfully wish to draw your attention to the following situations:

- 1) The derogatory employment applications found by Officer Walcott in the guardroom.
- 2) The virulent, racist remarks aired over the police radio.

It is our contention that it is incumbent upon you, being the chief of police in Cambridge, to promulgate a general order condemning racism in any and all forms in the Cambridge Police Department.

Respectfully,

  
Myles Lawton  
President

ML:cs

c.c. - James Sullivan, Cambridge City Manager  
Al Vellucci, Honorable Mayor, City of Cambridge  
Black Council, City of Cambridge  
NAACP, Cambridge branch  
Chief of Police, MIT  
Chief of Police, Harvard College



# City of Cambridge Police Department



TELEPHONE  
(617) 868-3400

LEO F. DAVENPORT  
CHIEF OF POLICE

*Office of the Chief of Police*

HEADQUARTERS

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
5 WESTERN AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

October 19, 1977

Myles Lawton  
Patrolman  
Cambridge Police Department

Sir:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your Committee for your hand delivered communication submitted to this office on October 19, 1977 at approximately 11:32 a.m. Present at that time were Patrolman Garfield Morrison and Detective R. Dottin, who as part of your Ad hoc Committee came to the Office of the Chief of Police with yourself and addressed themselves to the subject matter of your correspondence.

I do appreciate your interest in this matter, even though this office had previously taken positive steps to combat said situations, numbered one and two of your communication, whether or not, in fact, they do or do not exist, much earlier than your appearance with your committee in my office on this date.

The fact that a Staff Inspection was commenced immediately by the Inspectional Service Section of this department on October 11, 1977 in the A. M. under the direction of the Office of the Chief of Police and is of common knowledge to the members of your Committee, who have been privy to various steps taken in said investigation. This action being taken and followed through in-depth, demonstrates the interest evidenced by the Office of the Chief of Police. As of this point in time, said Staff Inspection is still being conducted.

The fact that you and your Committee came before me in an attempt to have me issue a General Order in writing relative to  
continued

October 19, 1977

items numbered one and two of your communication, prior to the distribution of carbon copies of your communication to the listed recipients as set forth on my copy, leads me to believe that you and your Committee have devoted much time to this matter, for which, we thank you for your assistance and thoughts.

Also, I would like to inform you that Sergeant Thomas Benson came to my office at approximately 4:30 p.m. on October 19, 1977 on the same matter and as a member of your committee, he was also told about the staff meeting with all the uniformed Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains on October 14, 1977 and October 17, 1977. At which time, dictates were laid down by this Office relative to racial slurs, communications, etc. and that the Office of the Chief of Police would not tolerate such conduct on the part of any officer.

As I stated at the completion of our conversation, thank you for your interest and assistance and I look forward to a continuation of a mutually satisfactory relationship in the future.

Sincerely,  
  
Leo F. Davenport  
Chief of Police

cc: James L. Sullivan, City Manager  
Alfred E. Vellucci, Honorable Mayor  
Black Council, City of Cambridge  
Alvin Thompson, President NAACP  
James Olivieri, Chief, M.I.T. Police  
William Lee, Acting Chief, Harvard Police

Ad hoc Committee:

C. Kantor, Sergeant  
R. Dottin, Detective  
T. Benson, Sergeant  
G. Morrison, Jr., Patrolman  
W. Rhone, Patrolman

Enclosure

October 18, 1977

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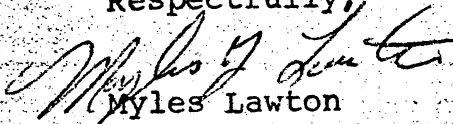
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R. Dottin, Detective  
T. Benson, Sergeant  
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Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy,

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul E. Healy".

Order #5

F-320

M. Vellucci and C. Graham re: racism and  
discrimination at the Police Dept.

In City Council,

Oct. 24, 1977

$\frac{146}{11}$   
10/24/77

Order  
Advised