

39 :Linnaean Street  
Cambridge, Mass.  
October 9, 1974

James Sullivan  
City Manager  
Cambridge City Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Against the backdrop of several years of protest within the Cambridge community against brutal police behavior and in conjunction with the suit filed by Black officers of that same department, it certainly seems to me that an investigation of the police department is badly needed and long overdue. The report of Professor Liacos, commissioned by the city several years ago, supports this view.

When I worked at the Governor's Committee for Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice, it was an often repeated remark that Cambridge had one of the worst police departments in the Commonwealth. Recent events here in Cambridge, especially the incident involving Clarence Anderson, point to the truth of those statements.

It amazes me that Police Chief Regan could slander officers on his own force by equating good police officers with brutal police officers. That there was not a massive public outcry by the police officers so slandered is yet again testimony to the vise-like grip the Chief has on his department. His public utterances make him appear to be senile or at least of dubious mental ability.

By refusing to investigate the police department yourself, you are unwittingly aiding the furtherance of police brutality in this city. I am reminded of what President Kennedy once said: "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible, make violent revolution inevitable." It is certainly a matter of concern that you, by refusing to do all within your power to solve this problem of racism and police brutality, are hastening the day when citizens will see violence as their only means of recourse.

I urge you to act now to try and head off such a confrontation. It is entirely unnecessary for it lies within your province to act effectively and immediately. Such action is badly needed now.

Sincerely,



Wesley E. Profit  
Resident

cc: City Council Members

30 510

Comm. from Wesley E. Profit re: to Police  
brutality.

10/21/74

Referred to the  
City Manager

Copy sent to City Mgr  
10/23/74 dl.

In City Council,  
Oct. 21, 1974