

# Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, Local No. 3

22 Franklin Street  
Newark, New Jersey



JOINT STATEMENT BY:

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Newark Patrolman's Benevolent Association, Local #3, composed of approximately 1800 active and retired members, is "appalled and shocked" by the report that was issued by the Governor's Commission to study civil disorders, *Anthony Giuliano, president, said yesterday.*

"It is apparent to us that the Commission did not seek to go into the proximate causes for the disorder. The accusations and allegations made are without any proof, unsubstantiated and Un-American. The statements concerning so-called acts of police brutality and excessive use of force were again un-warranted. Some of the Commission members and their staff should try to explain this to the widow of the late Detective Fred Toto of the Police Department and the widow of the late Captain Michael Moran of the Fire Department. They should also try to explain to the members of the Police and Fire Departments who were injured in the line of duty and one Housing Patrolman who was shot in the leg.

"It was shocking to read that this Commission seems to consider as the causes of the riot some alleged corruption in the Police Department relative to laxity in gambling. It is unbelievable that a group of alleged reputable people that sat on this Commission would make allegations of a great Police Department concerning gambling and corruption without any substantiation.

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" This report was a whitewash and lop-sided report. Nothing was said in this report of the numbers and thousands of leaflets which were distributed throughout the City which were racist in nature, which incited the non-white community to riot, nor did it contain any statement concerning the thousands of leaflets of how to make molotov cocktails or the location of the machines which printed them in the summer of 1966 and 1967. There was nothing in this report either which mentioned the fact that at least eight snipers were arrested in the City, one of whom has admitted killing a member of the negro community.

"The published degree of actual involvement of many pre-riot agitators led me to conclude that the report has been dressed to fit the opinions of certain members of the panel, one of whom, who it would seem is acting in conflict of interest, ~~is~~ representing many of the rioters, including the cab driver whose arrest allegedly triggered the riots.

"To impose an extra judicial body like a Police Review Board is not only wrong in principle but unconstitutional. It subjects the Policeman to double jeopardy and hinders his duty as a Policeman.

"The recommendation that Captain Edward Williams be placed in command of the Fourth Precinct just because he is non-white, is discrimination in reverse and non-democratic. Captain Williams is of ~~high calibre~~ high calibre and certainly a credit to the Newark Police Department but to cite the fact of race alone as the prime consideration in appointments in the Newark Police Department is an attempt to defeat reasoning in the administration of public safety. Certainly there are matters of seniority and competitive qualifications which must be considered in the final analysis of police assignments.

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We have not had the opportunity to study this report in its entirety inasmuch as we have not been afforded the right to acquire a copy of their report. But we will immediately institute suit to prevent creation of any so-called Review Board. We will not tolerate this denial of constitutional rights and have instructed our attorneys to study the Civil Rights Bill to ascertain the legality of the suggested discrimination in reverse move, and further consider bringing our views to the people by every lawful means. We are reserving a further statement pending a reading and interpretation of this so-called report of a study on disorder.

The P.B.A. feels that a report of this type is demoralizing to the Newark Police Department and does this Department irreparable harm. It has always been our sincere feeling that the Newark Police Department was a thin blue line between the citizens and the mounting crime in our city streets. It is our belief that this report will increase the terror of our citizens and will create a tremendous hysteria amongst not only its residents but those who come to work in this city.

I want to ask all people of this community: "What would you have had the police do during the insurrection, to return the city to a peaceful status?"

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