

Rain and Curfew Cool Off Newark

By William T. Slattery
and Arthur Golden

Helped by a torrential rainstorm, Newark police cleared the city's streets early today for the first predawn period in four days. The calm followed a night of looting and sniper fire. 9-4-74

Police had no trouble enforcing Mayor Kenneth Gibson's ban on street gatherings of more than three persons, invoked in efforts to end violence by bands of rampaging youths, most of them Puerto Ricans.

There were no new arrests linked to the disturbances that had shaken New Jersey's largest city since Sunday. In the first three days of turmoil, at least 76 persons were arrested and 54 injured.

As he arrived at City Hall this morning, Gibson told reporters that the city had experienced "a relatively quiet night." He expressed confidence that "normal business" would be conducted.

"Continued reinforced police patrols will be in effect but the only extraor-

dinary measure is the continued ban on street demonstrations," Gibson said.

Police Director Hubert Williams said he didn't have to enforce a 10:30 p.m.-to-dawn curfew for persons under 18 in a 10-block area around the Columbus Homes project, a focal point of the disorders. 9-4-74

"The rain did the job for us," he said.

Police said about 15 stores, including a five-and-dime and a small de-

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partment store, were looted last night by Puerto Rican youths in the predominantly white North Ward.

At one point, a squad of eight policemen came under sniper fire while investigating a report of looting at a liquor store.

Police said that six shots were fired but that none of the officers was hit and they withdrew without returning the fire.

A spokesman for Gibson said the Mayor hoped the "improved climate" early today would encourage the search for lasting solutions to the problems of Newark's Puerto Rican community.

Gibson, a black, planned further City Hall meetings today with Puerto Rican leaders. Ten per cent of Newark's 400,000 residents are Hispanic and 50 per cent are black.

The Mayor's mediation efforts have been handicapped by rivalry between older, moderate Puerto Ri-

can leaders and young Hispanic activists allied with blacks.

Gibson's problems were underscored yesterday after a meeting with a group headed by Ramon Rivera, director of Oye, a federally funded Spanish-language youth organization.

Rivera said he had demunicipal authorization to investigate charges of police brutality against Puerto Ricans. He said Gibson had rejected the proposal.

"We got no satisfaction at all. His [Gibson's] attitude was insulting," Rivera said. man for the People's Com-

Sigfredo Carrion, a spokesman Against Repression and Police Brutality and another community leader who met with Gibson, warned:

"If the city does not provide proper avenues for re-

dress, the people will take out their anger on those institutions around that bring about their plight."

But Police Director Williams said any allegation of misconduct against members of his 1400-man department would be thoroughly investigated.

"We urge the public, and particularly the Puerto Rican community, with complaints against department personnel to come forth," Williams said.

On another note, Williams told a press conference that there had been no identification of a man, between 25 and 30 and either white or Hispanic, who was found shot to death yesterday, victim of buckshot wounds.

Buckshot was among the ammunition carried by police during the disturbances, but Williams said an investigation had not yet established

any connection between the fatal shooting and the disorders.

The violence started Sunday when police broke up a dice game at a Puerto Rican picnic in Branch Brook Park.

On Monday, demonstrators pelted City Hall with rocks and bottles to protest what they charged was police brutality in quelling the Sunday incident.

The trouble flared again yesterday a few hours after Gibson had imposed the ban on street demonstrations. The disorders continued until a few hours before midnight, when the downpour intensified.

Police in the Columbus homes area, a city-owned, low-income project which is predominantly Puerto Rican, said the rain had helped douse firebombs hurled from the buildings. 9-4-74

No serious fires were reported last night but police said scores of cars passing the Columbus homes had been pelted with rocks and bottles.

Gibson, in a message written in Spanish and English called for "an appeal to reason," urged "good sense and cooperative attitude" to help restore peace to the troubled city.

Five Seized In Yonkers

Five men, believed by police to be major Westchester County drug suppliers, were seized in Yonkers today.

The men, four from New York City and one from Mount Vernon, were arrested in front of a building where undercover agents said they found an estimated \$100,000

in heroin.

Those arrested were Eleannder Clarke, 26, of Mount Vernon; Kenneth Pitter, 22, of 1415 Linden Blvd., Brooklyn; Derek Witter, 22, of 394 E. 184th St., Bronx; Arthur Hansen of 1470 Amsterdam Av., and Al Simmons, 22, of 1430 Amsterdam Av.