

Goals of the AAPL

1973



AFRO-AMERICAN PATROLMEN'S LEAGUE

7126 SOUTH JEFFERY • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60648 • 312 667-7984

"BLACK
POWER
THROUGH
THE LAW"

The selection of a new Police Superintendent gives Chicago an opportunity to take a first step toward resolving our long-festering police crisis.

It is essential that we seize this opportunity to select a police leader who is committed to independent professionalism and to certain basic reforms. It is equally essential that the selection process be broad-based and credible, and that the selection of a new Superintendent be accompanied by two key institutional reforms that will make the Police Department accountable to the public in the long run.

The situation faced by all concerned citizens, including the new Superintendent, is this: The police function in Chicago has historically been infected by political control, secrecy, and isolation from the public. The fruits of this history, which have been thoroughly documented in the past two years, are pervasive corruption, brutality and racial discrimination. The public has a justified lack of confidence in the Police Department which deeply impairs the basic effectiveness of law enforcement.

To insure that this history does not continue, these steps are necessary:

1. The New Superintendent. The person we select must of course be a strong leader, dedicated to professional police performance. Moreover, to insure that he will not follow the Chicago pattern of tolerating corruption, brutality and discrimination, he must not be from Chicago but rather must have an established record of independence and professionalism in police administration elsewhere.

These are basic criteria, but to insure genuine police reform the new Superintendent must also be publicly committed to specific reforms that are obviously required:

(a) Complete independence from politics. The new Superintendent must pledge that he will absolutely reject any effort at political control or influence of the Department, in its operating policies and in its personnel actions. To insure that he has the guarantee of independence to carry out this pledge, the new Superintendent should have a five year contract.

(b) Openness in police administration. The new Superintendent must pledge an end to secrecy in police administration. There must be a commitment to openness to public inquiries and research, and a commitment to the value of public discussion in defining police policy.

(c) Racial discrimination. The new Superintendent must make an absolute commitment to the elimination of racial discrimination in the Department's personnel practices and in its operating policies. Racially biased employment criteria and harrassment tactics in the Black and Latin communities must stop immediately.

(d) Corruption and brutality. The new Superintendent must commit himself to ridding the Department of corrupt and brutal policemen by discharge and by criminal prosecution.

(e) Independent investigation of police misconduct. To insure an end to toleration of corruption and brutality, the new Superintendent must commit himself to the creation of an independent civilian agency for investigation and fact-finding of complaints of abusive and criminal conduct by policemen toward citizens.

(f) Insuring quality in police personnel. There must be a commitment to professional ability as the sole criterion in the selection, promotion and retention of policemen. This includes a rigorous program of screening police candidates and existing policemen for emotional stability and the absolute elimination of political clout or influence as a basis for personnel actions.

(g) Responsiveness to civilian policy-making. Finally, and perhaps most important, the new Superintendent must commit himself to the principle of accountability to an effective civilian policy-making body. He must openly support the creation of a powerful and representative Police Board, free of political domination, as the basic source of civilian policy-making for the police.

2. The Selection Process. Nomination of candidates for the Superintendent's job rests with the Police Board, which since its creation in 1960 has been a narrow and passive body. To make the process of selection credible, the Police Board must appoint a significant number of independent and representative citizens to join it as advisors in screening and nominating candidates for Superintendent. Together the Police Board and these advisors must insure that the nominees for Superintendent fit the criteria and make the commitments set forth above. The names of the nominees must be made public before the final election is made. This advisory group will also be the foundation for the broader and more representative Police Board that is needed.

3. Two Other Essential Institutional Reforms. The experience of Orlando W. Wilson as Superintendent of Police demonstrates that no individual leader, no matter how highly qualified, can bring long-term change to the Chicago Police Department. Only basic reform of key police institutions can guarantee lasting improvement in police performance.

There are two necessary institutional changes:

(a) Civilian policy-making. The Police Board must be enlarged and made politically independent and representative of the community. It must have genuine authority to define police policy and to insure the accountability of the Police Department to the citizens.

It must have a strong and professional staff to enable it to fulfill this role.

(b) Independent investigation of police misconduct. The present system of police-self-investigation has totally failed to root out police corruption and brutality. There must be an independent monitoring agency with full power to investigate police misconduct toward citizens. It must be fully funded with the subpoena power and a board and staff independent of the Police Department and of politics. (This is not "civilian review", which already exists and will continue in the Chicago Police Board, but rather independent investigation and fact-finding on police misconduct complaints.)

All of these steps are essential if there is to be meaningful, long-term police reform in Chicago:

1. An independent, outside, professional new Superintendent who is publicly committed to specific, necessary police reform steps.
2. A broad-based and credible selection process.
3. Basic institutional change through the creation of a representative and powerful Police Board, and an independent investigating agency for complaints of police misconduct toward civilians.

With these steps we can build a new and respected Police Department. Without them we will merely have a new face in the Superintendent's office and a continuation of our sorry police history.

THE AFRO-AMERICAN PATROLMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CHICAGO

1. The black policemen of Chicago share the goal of other groups in the community of building a strong black community. In order to do this, they must equip themselves to perform their jobs in the highest professional tradition. In addition, and perhaps more important, is their wish to shoulder their civic responsibilities to the end that their skills and abilities may be of greatest service to their black brothers.
2. It shall be necessary that the black police officer achieve and maintain the image of idealistic and sympathetic members of the black community. The Afro-American Patrolmen's League of Chicago has the unique purpose of realizing this ideal.
3. Police officers have a unique knowledge of the problems of violence and self-hatred manifested in conduct of black people toward each other. Their advice and their cooperation can be helpful to other agencies interested in the solution of this problem. In the past, such cooperation has been on a sporadic basis. We believe that the newly organized League will command the kind of respect that will cause the larger community to avail themselves of this service not otherwise available.
4. There will be reservations on the part of police officers and black citizens to this organization. It will be necessary to convince them of the fact that black men regardless of rank of office or station in life can base a relationship on mutual respect and love. The martyr leaders of black people shall have died in vain if we continue to separate ourselves from each other on the basis of vocations and economic status.
5. The Afro-American Patrolmen's League consists of black men who are proud of the professional level on which they engage in their occupation. They are proud that police officers play an important role in maintenance of peace and order in our community.
6. The Afro-American Patrolmen's League is also proud that its membership consists of able black men who play a vital role in their community in youth programs, family life, church life and social activities. They, hereby, dedicate themselves to increasing the importance of these roles, and extend their hands and hearts in cooperation with their black brothers to build a community which will be truly black, truly united, and truly beautiful.

AFRO-AMERICAN PATROLMEN LEAGUE

We are going to elevate the Black policeman in the Black community to the same image-status enjoyed by the White policeman in the White community; that is, a protector of the citizenry, and not a brutal oppressor. We find it impossible to operate within the framework of existing Police Associations. For example, we disagree categorically with the position of the Fraternal Order of Police supporting "stop-and-frisk", and their position supporting the order to "shoot to kill" or maim looters during civil disorders.

We will no longer permit ourselves to be relegated to the role of brutal pawns in a chess game affecting the communities in which we serve. We are husbands, fathers, brothers, neighbors and members of the Black community. Donning the blue uniform has not changed this. On the contrary, it has sharpened our perception of our responsibilities as Black males in a society seemingly unresponsive to the needs of Black people. We see our role as the role of a protector of this community, and that is the role we intend to fulfill.

We submit this to your organization for appraisal and endorsement. A member of the Afro-American Patrolmen League will contact your organization in regards to this endorsement. We are attaching copies of our policy statement for your further information.



AFRO-AMERICAN PATROLMEN'S LEAGUE

7126 SOUTH JEFFERY • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60649 • 312 667-7384

**"BLACK
POWER
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WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN PATROLMEN'S LEAGUE??????

The goals of the League are: to work for high standards of police performance in black communities; to elevate the image of the black policeman to a position of dignity and respect, especially in the black communities; to work for total police reform; and to strive for improved relations between black and white policemen.

THE AFRO-AMERICAN PATROLMEN'S LEAGUE is not a union or an athletic or social club. The League is a community organization of Black policemen who want to play an important role in the maintenance of peace and order in the Black community.

Members of the League are actively involved in community youth programs, family life programs, and church and social activities. They make themselves available to many individuals and community organizations, giving them advice on their legal rights, and in participating in solving community problems.

The League has attempted to fulfill its pledge to Chicago in a variety of practical ways:

1. It was chiefly responsible for the federal government filing suit against the Chicago Police Department for racial discrimination in hiring, promotional and disciplinary practices. The League is seeking a halt to Chicago receiving revenue sharing funds until the Chicago Police Department discontinues their discriminatory personnel practices.
2. It has conducted seminars for black and white policemen on the problems of law enforcement in the black community.
3. It has filed a lawsuit in the Federal Court to insure that policemen who try to serve our community will not be intimidated.
4. It has maintained anti-police brutality program and lawyer referral service for victims of wrongful police actions.
5. It has maintained a speakers bureau to inform the citizens of Chicago on police matters.
6. It has conducted classes for black youth, men and women interested in taking the police department entrance examination.
7. It has negotiated with the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and has been successful in securing an investigation by this Federal Agency producing evidence of discrimination in the Chicago Police Department.
8. It has secured corrective measures in the administration of the sergeants examination.

SUPPORT YOUR AFRO AMERICAN PATROLMAN'S LEAGUE

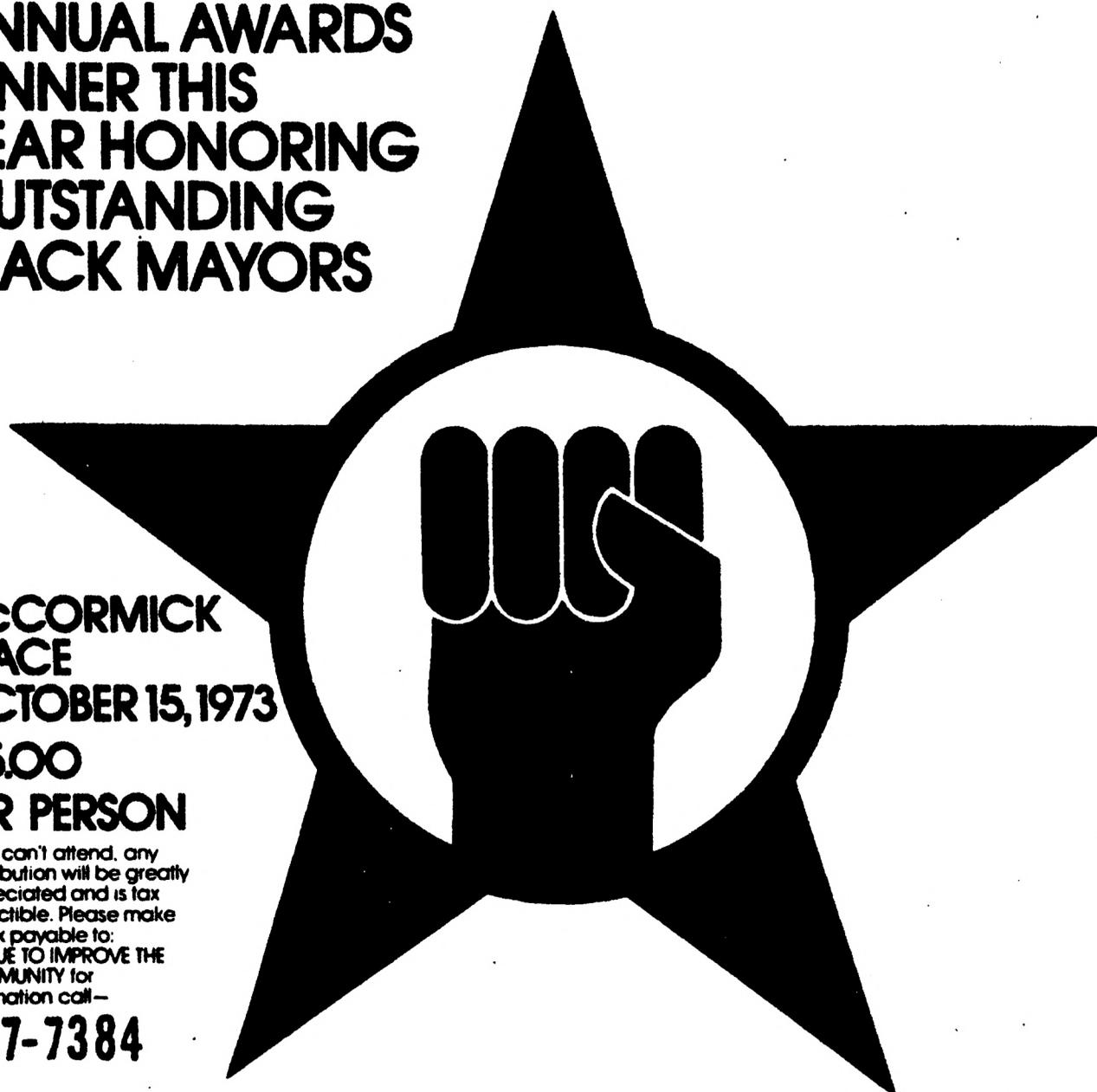
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BROTHERS HELPING BROTHERS TO BE BROTHERS



AFRO-AMERICAN PATROLMEN'S LEAGUE

7126 SOUTH JEFFERY • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60649 • 812 667-7884

"I AM MY BROTHER'S
KEEPER
BE MY BROTHER"

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The League has attempted to fulfill its pledge to Chicago in a variety of practical ways:

- 1) It has conducted seminars for black policemen on the problems of law enforcement in the black community.
- 2) It has conducted seminars for black policemen on the problems of white policemen working in the black community.
- 3) It has filed a lawsuit in the Federal Court to insure that policemen who try to serve our community will not be intimidated.
- 4) It has maintained anti police brutality program and lawyer referral service for victims of wrongful police actions.
- 5) It has maintained a speakers bureau to inform the citizens of Chicago on police matters.
- 6) It has conducted classes for black youth interested in taking the police entrance examination.
- 7) It has negotiated with the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and has been successful in securing an investigation by this Federal Agency producing evidence of discrimination in the Chicago Police Department.
- 8) It has secured corrective measures in the administration of the sergeants examination.
- 9) It has assisted community organizations in relation to their participation in police matters during the Model Cities Program.
- 10) It has been a potent force in organizing and servicing the National Black Policemen's Association.