

formance of their duties; and that this belief has come about largely because they have seen, as practically everyone else has, the many other considerations that have been given precedence over a strong emphasis on law enforcement itself as the primary and essential necessity in effective crime control; and

Whereas, although the central importance of an all-the-way back-up of policemen in the full performance of their duties has now been clarified and placed in proper perspective by Director of Public Safety Patrick V. Murphy in a statement to the House of Representatives District Committee that (as quoted from the January 24 Washington Star) "no police department can be effective unless the officers know they are backed up firmly from top to bottom" and in promising "to do just this" Mr. Murphy has also said "I took this position to stand behind every policeman who does his job", the out-of-hand crime climb has again been underscored in a later Department of Public Safety release reporting (as quoted from the January 30 Washington Daily News) "a 3.6 percent increase in crime last month (December) over November and a 32 percent increase over December 1966," although this figure was attributed to some degree to the fact that "the increase in part came from more accurate record keeping in a few precincts;" and

Whereas, while such statements and statistics may provide some further awareness of the steps that are being taken to combat crime and the increasing extent of the crime situation itself, they still leave the public completely in the dark as to what the "case-load" in criminal activities is in actual fact, and it is felt that no real and permanent improvement can be expected until individual criminal acts are publicly pinpointed to neighborhoods so that residents can more realistically understand the dangers that confront them and can perhaps do more to cooperate with the crime program as we are constantly being implored to do; and until, as well, the criminal finally begins to realize that no compromises of any kind will be entertained in obtaining the widest extension possible of strict law enforcement operations; and until, also, far more is publicly known than is known now about the way the courts are functioning in carrying out their part of the responsibilities all public agencies have that are in any way involved in the total process of controlling crime:

Be It Therefore Resolved, That the Capitol Hill Southeast Citizens Association requests that, toward these ends, the Department of Public Safety develop more detailed public informational releases to be available to the newspapers, citizens groups and any one concerned individually, which will:

1. Indicate where and how the policy of back-up is being implemented in practice.

2. Supplement currently supplied mass statistics by a listing of individual crimes committed—as well as call-ins on threats of crime—as these show up on a consolidated day-by-day police blotter for the city as a whole, with some indication of immediate police action on the case. The Association believes that this would be a far more responsible and revealing reporting to the public of what the crime load in individual cases actually is and what the major areas are—block by block—where the residents are being hardest hit, for which purpose mass percentage figures are absolutely useless.

3. Provide, as a clear accounting to the public on crimes solved or disposed of by law, reviews of court decisions in analyses of court actions completed on cases where criminals previously apprehended have been tried or where the cases are being closed.

Passed by unanimous vote at the monthly meeting of the Association, February 1, 1968.

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 19, 1968.

Hon. JOHN L. McMILLAN,
Chairman, Committee on the District of Columbia,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In recent weeks there has been considerable public comment regarding the administration of the Metropolitan Police Department much of which has centered on the authority and responsibility of Chief John B. Layton.

Since the Reorganization of the District Government, and especially since the appointment of Mr. Patrick V. Murphy as Director of Public Safety, the relationship of the Office of the Chief of Police to the citizens of the District of Columbia has become increasingly blurred to the point that it is uncertain who is the Chief of Police.