

While calling for the ouster of Layton, Terris praised Safety Director Patrick V. Murphy as "one of the very few outstanding police leaders in the country."

"He has promoted black officers for the first time to the rank of inspector and appointed a black officer as director of police-community relations," Terris stated. "Recruiting of black citizens for the department has been emphasized so that in June over 50 percent of the recruits were black."

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oust Layton for Negro, Democratic Chief Says

(By Robert F. Levey, Washington Post Staff Writer)

The chairman of the District's Democratic Central Committee yesterday called for the dismissal of Police Chief John B. Layton and urged that citizens in two police precincts be given a chance to appoint and control their own police.

Testifying before the City Council's subcommittee investigating police-community relations, Democratic Chairman Bruce Terris urged that Layton's replacement be a Negro, and chided the Council for doing "nothing . . . for too long" on what he called abuses of police power.

Neither Chief Layton nor subcommittee chairman, William S. Thompson would comment on Terris' remarks.

Terris, who said he was speaking for the whole Central Committee, specifically asked the subcommittee for elected boards that would:

- Choose the captain of each precinct from Civil Service Commission rolls.
- Choose officers who are already policemen other duties or members of the community who could meet entrance standards.

Have the power to fire policemen who are found guilty of misconduct.

- Establish policies for the neighborhood that could be overridden only by the Mayor or the City Council.

These proposals have already been advanced by the Black United Front. The Front has been holding community meetings on the proposals. The Rev. Channing E. Phillips, an official of the Front and the District's Democratic National Committeeman, approved Terris's statement, Terris said.

CRITICIZES PRESENT SETUP

Terris did not specify in his testimony which two precincts he thought should first be controlled by citizens. He rejected the idea of immediate citywide citizen control "since (it) . . . it being tried for the first time."

He stressed that his plan "might produce far more citizen cooperation with the police and far better control of crime."

"We all know that present methods have been failing miserably for decades," Terris said. "Black citizens are not going to be persuaded to support the police by Madison Avenue advertisements or bumper stickers. They must have a real say in law enforcement activities in their neighborhood."

Terris asked that police trial boards be abandoned and that the Civilian Review Board be revitalized. The police Internal Investigations Division should also investigate complaints of police brutality, he said.

Terris also called for future police recruits to be required to live in the District, and asked that present officers with the rank of captain or above move into the city within two years.

Gun regulations, Terris testified, should "clearly forbid" police shooting at citizens "when the suspect is merely suspected of stealing an automobile or cigarettes." He said that the policemen involved in the recent shooting of Theodore Robert Lawson "have grossly misused their power" and should be fired "whether or not they are indicted."

Chief Layton, Terris said, have given only "lip service to improved community relations." He has "failed almost completely to carry out the recommendations of the D.C. Crime Commission concerning community relations" and has "never understood the black community," Terris said.

The City Council, too, "has failed to exercise leadership in this vital field," Terris said. He called on the Council to hold public hearings on the issue as soon as possible.