

OPEN LETTER TO THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT  
OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

From

THE COALITION AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION

Too long has this community been threatened by lack of community involvement in regulating the police department. It must be recognized that the police, just as the armed forces, is an armed body of the state to care for the well being of the masses of people. And as such a legitimate body, you, the duly elected representatives of the people of Nashville and Davidson county, must understand your duty to keep the police responsive to the masses of people. However, this is a function that you can only partially handle, because it must be kept very close to the people. We demand direct citizen participation in an advisory capacity so that the people will have assurance that the police will be sensitive to the needs of the people.

Moreover, we feel that this selection must be made with the realities of this community and of who is victimized by the sometime excessive use of force of an insensitive police force. This means a significant representation from the Black community.

Therefore:

1. We want Section I of Resolution 73-827 amended to read four additional members, deleting the at large Councilman and including two citizens from the general community.
2. We want Resolution 73-827 to be passed with the understanding that at least one Councilman and one citizen will be Black.
3. We want Resolution 73-827 to be passed with the understanding that the Council will entertain nominees for the Black membership from the Coalition Against Police Repression, the city-wide coalition that represents the interests of the Black community on this issue.

JUSTICE NOW!

RESOLUTION NO. 73-827

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CHIEF OF POLICE, OR ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE, TO APPOINT THREE MEMBERS OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL TO SERVE ON THE DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, recent events in the community reflect a need to have civilian input in disciplinary proceedings involving officers of the Metropolitan Police Department; and,

WHEREAS, the former Chief of Police established a Disciplinary Review Board consisting of members of the Metropolitan Police Department to review cases involving possible disciplinary action against police officers and to recommend appropriate disciplinary action; and,

WHEREAS, the addition of certain members of the Metropolitan Council to the Disciplinary Review Board would provide the community with capacity to the Chief of Police or Acting Chief of Police; and,

WHEREAS, civilian representation on the advisory Board would provide a means whereby interested citizens can be apprised of the relevant facts of each case involving police disciplinary action.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

SECTION 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as requesting the Chief of Police or the Acting Chief of Police to appoint three additional members to the Metropolitan Police Department Disciplinary Review Board. The additional members of said Board shall be chosen by the Chairman of the Metropolitan Council from among the membership of said Council with one appointee of the Personnel Committee of said Council, one appointee being a member of the Public Safety Council, and the remaining member to be chosen from among the general membership of the Metropolitan Council.

SECTION 2. The Chief of Police or Acting Chief of Police is hereby requested to signify his compliance or noncompliance with this resolution by an appropriate letter addressed to the Chairman of the Metropolitan Council.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

Introduced by:

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Morris B. Haddox