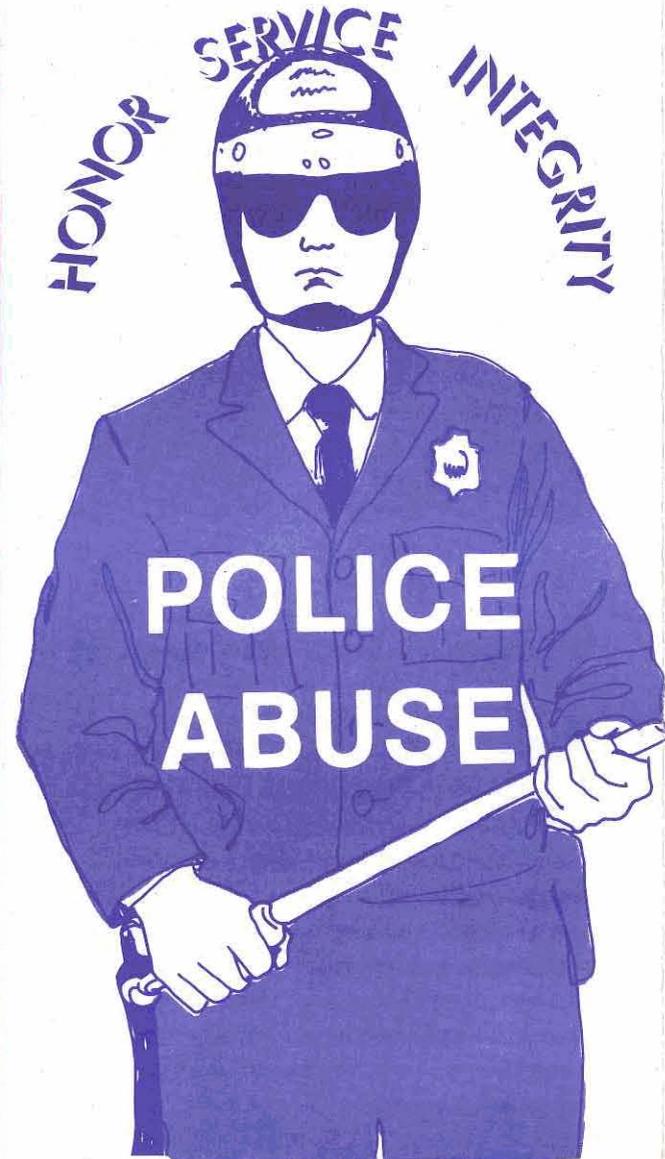




Campaign Against Police Abuse
 1501 Cherry Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19102

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST



The Motto of the Philadelphia Police Department is Honor, Service, and Integrity.

Media attention in Philadelphia has this year brought into sharp focus and to public awareness the common abuses, unchecked beatings and denial of the rights of Philadelphia residents who come into contact with the police. This attention, as well as officers being dismissed from the force for narcotics, rape, and robbery, among other things, have brought the very credo of the Philadelphia Police Department into question. Exposure of these activities has brought about a federal grand jury investigation, state legislative hearings and a readiness on the part of a large segment of the public to move to bring them to a halt. This set of circumstances presents a rare opportunity for action against police abuse.

According to the City Solicitors Office, police abuse in Philadelphia cost the taxpayers 1.5 million dollars from 1975 to July 1977. This figure is probably much lower than the actual amount spent. It does not include settlements reached in out-of-court negotiations or the amounts settled when only the individual officer has been named as the defendant, nor does it include the amount settled in Commonwealth or State Court. This figure does not reflect the cost to the taxpayer for legal fees incurred for the defense of the officers in court, or for any subsequent cases

for the appeals of defendant officers' cases.

The Police Advisory Board, a body which attempted to fill a gap between the courts and the Police Department's internal Board of Inquiry, was generally conceded to be useful in spite of its weaknesses, but was dismantled by Mayor James H.J. Tate December 22, 1969 after litigation to abolish the board brought by the Fraternal Order of Police failed in the courts. Since the elimination of the Police Advisory Board, the opportunity for redress of grievances against the police through administrative channels has almost completely disappeared.



The Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia (PILCOP) Police Project's end of the year report shows:

- The problem is not isolated to a particular class of victim or a particular part of the city.
- Complaints begin to demonstrate how widespread the problem is and how departmental policy serves to foster its continuance. The Police Department

disciplinary code does not specifically address penalties for use of deadly force, excessive force, unlawful arrest, illegal use of search warrants, harassment, etc.

- The problem police districts are the 6th, 11th and Winter Streets; 9th, 400 North 20th Street; 4th, Germantown and Haines Streets; 18th, 55th and Pine Streets; 35th, York Road and Champlost Streets; and 39th, Hunting Park and Schuyler Street.

The Philadelphia Inquirer published two series of articles in the spring and summer of 1977. The first was based on how homicide detectives conduct interrogation of suspects. The second consists of selected cases studies of street violence by police officers. The Inquirer reported "that beatings, intimidation and coercion during homicide interrogations are common" and that "the violation of basic human rights by policemen is not only systematic, taking place in total safety to the policemen and under the noses of the entire command structure, but that it is being tacitly condoned by the



mayor and his subordinates."

The Campaign Against Police Abuse (including community organizations, black, white, and Spanish-speaking citizens, the clergy and members of the legal community) is conducting a public awareness campaign around police abuse. Blatant disregard of the law by any member of the Police Department cannot be tolerated in a free society. The acceptance of police misconduct by free citizens is the first step towards a police state.

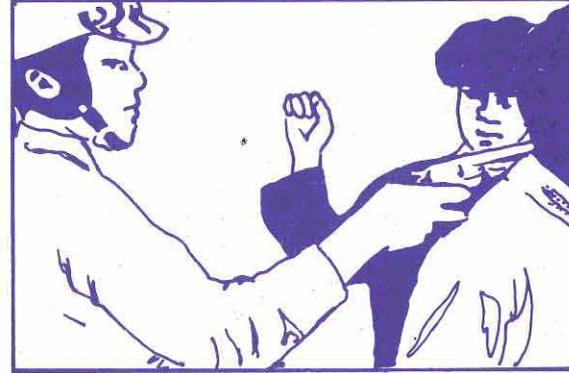
The Campaign supports drafting of city ordinances and state legislation geared towards

- requiring due process in handling of citizen complaints
- limiting the powers of off-duty policemen and disarming them
- providing guidelines for use of deadly or excessive force
- prosecution of policemen for assaulting citizens during interrogations and routine stops on the street

The Campaign supports and will help organize

- demonstrations and protests to demand police accountability
- political activities aimed at requiring elected officials to take responsibility for police conduct
- monitoring court proceedings and city council meetings dealing with city ordinances geared to make police accountable to the law.

Members of the Campaign are available to speak at schools, organizations and meetings. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our proposals for making the Police Department accountable to a citizen review process.



Agencies working with the Campaign Against Police Abuse:

- AFSC (American Friends Service Committee)
- ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)
- Pennsylvania Community Advocate Project
- PILCOP (Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia)
- NLG (National Lawyer's Guild)
- Friends Suburban Project



For more Information contact:

Campaign Against Police Abuse
1501 Cherry Street
241-7129 or 7128

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

- I wish to be a campaign organizer
- I wish to attend meetings
- I wish to be put on the mailing list

Return to: **Campaign Against Police Abuse**
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102