

**POLICE - COMMUNITY RELATIONS SECTION
WICHITA POLICE DEPARTMENT
WICHITA, KANSAS**

**FINAL REPORT
O.L.E.A. GRANT NO. 109**

**GRANT PERIOD
JANUARY 16, 1967 - JULY 15, 1967**

NCS-000473

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I. HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF O.L.E.A. GRANT #109

For the first time during the summer of 1965 Wichita began to officially become aware of the fact that racial tension and unrest was beginning to rear its head in the city.

Large crowds of 200-400 young Negroes were starting to gather at various locations at different times, and they were becoming unruly and defiant. They were blocking the streets and sidewalks, making it impossible for vehicular and pedestrian traffic to move freely. They were also throwing rocks, bricks, bottles, etc. at passing vehicles -- both police and civilian cars.

Included in this group as leaders were -- and are -- approximately six young "hard nosed" criminals with extensive police records, encompassing both felonies and misdemeanors. Many of the other members of the group also have criminal records.

These gatherings were becoming more than just a nuisance, but the police department didn't want to use force if there was any other way to handle the problem. It was felt that all other possibilities should first be explored with the most promising of these to be tried. Force was to be used only as a last resort.

Chief Pond met with Negro ministers, attorneys, and other leaders to discuss courses of action that might possibly work. Some of

these men accompanied officers on calls to the various affected areas and attempted to disperse the crowds peacefully. This worked rather well for a short while, but finally the crowds would no longer pay attention to the attorneys, ministers, etc. These incidents became more prevalent and increased in intensity. Chief Pond was able, at this time, to exert enough personal influence on the crowds that the incidents didn't erupt into wild mob disorder and violence.

Throughout the summers of 1965 and 1966 beat officers answered many calls to 13th and Hydraulic, 17th and Grove, 17th and Poplar, and 9th and Grove. No force was used by the officers, nor were dogs ever used. Many windows were broken out of police cars and many cars were dented by missiles -- rocks, bricks, and bottles thrown at them by members of the mob. Arrests were few and far between because it was almost impossible to identify any of the rock throwers, as the incidents occurred at night and those throwing were always at the rear of the crowd throwing out over their heads.

Most of these incidents occurred only during the summer months and usually on Friday, Saturday, and Monday nights.

It was becoming more and more apparent that these young people had the backing, advice, and sympathy of certain "militant" adults, including "Black Power" advocates that were attorneys, ministers, and

other adults connected with M.A.A.U. (Movement for Afro-American Unity).

Chief Pond and Mr. Bill Knox, Director of the Human Relations Commission for the City of Wichita, went to Washington, D.C. for a conference with Department of Justice officials, for the purpose of obtaining a planning grant in order to establish a Police-Community Relations Section within the Wichita Police Department.

Notification that the grant had been awarded was received in Wichita in December, 1966, and immediate plans were made for staffing the new section.

The original grant application proposed November 1, 1966, as the effective date, but due to the fact that notice of the grant award wasn't made known until December, a request was made to O.L.E.A. to change the effective dates from November 1, 1966 through April 30, 1967, to begin on January 16, 1967 and to terminate on July 15, 1967.

The amount of the grant award was \$14,998.00, with grantee contribution of \$14,408.00. Personnel to staff the new section was to be a police major, two police sergeants, two civilian field representatives, and one secretary.

The two civilian field representatives were to work out of the Human