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April 18, 1989 Statement By Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward on the Final Report of C.C.R.B. on the Tompkins Square Park Incident

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APRIL 18, 1989

STATEMENT BY POLICE COMMISSIONER BENJAMIN WARD
ON THE FINAL REPORT OF C.C.R.B.
ON THE TOMPKINS SQUARE PARK INCIDENT

I want to compliment the board on the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of its report and say that I am in general agreement with their findings.

I will carefully review each of the recommendations.

However, at this time I want to say that I agree with the recommendation to double the number of civilian investigators at the Civilian Complaint Review Board and have supported that position for quite a while. In fact I am in the process of hiring the additional investigators. In addition, I will develop promotional opportunities for these civilian investigators subject to civil service regulations and Office of Management and Budget approval.

As to the other recommendations we are certainly sensitive to the need for clear officer identification. Since Tompkins Square Park we have required officers to keep their protective helmets in their radio car and will soon have a system in place to label each helmet with the officers shield number. We will also evaluate the other officer identification approaches set forth in the report.

11/10



OPERATIONS ORDER

NUMBER

72

DATE

6-29-89

Misc. 1033-D (1-87)-14

TO ALL COMMANDS

Subject: ISSUANCE OF NEW DEPARTMENT HELMETS AND SHIELD NUMBER DECALS

1. The department is presently issuing new Disorder Control Safety Helmets to all uniformed members of the service with the initial distribution being to officers on patrol. At this time the majority of officers on patrol have received a new helmet and the remainder will receive helmets in the near future.

2. For identification purposes, shield number decals for each police officer are being distributed to all commands and are to be affixed to the front of the helmets directly below the City Seal. If necessary, to avoid having the shield number obscured by the helmet face shield, a small portion of the City Seal decal will be overlapped by the number decal (see Appendix "A").

NOTE Numbers must be visible when the face shield is attached.

3. Precinct/unit commanding officers, executive officers and/or integrity control officers are required to verify the accuracy of each police officer's shield number received and affix the shield number decal to the officer's helmet in the location depicted in Appendix "A."

4. A roster is also being distributed with the shield number decals. The ranking member issuing the decal will initial the roster next to the officer's name verifying the decal is affixed to the officer's helmet. If a member is sick, or on vacation or extended leave, the command will retain the shield number decal until the member's return. However, regardless of circumstances, if a shield number decal cannot be issued within thirty (30) days, it is to be returned to the Office of the Chief of Department with an explanation.

5. Within fifteen (15) days of distribution, commanding officers will forward to the Office of the Chief of Department:

- a. A report on Typed Letterhead indicating which shield number decals have been retained with an explanation for the retention.
- b. The shield number decals that cannot be issued for reasons other than those specified in paragraph 4 above, with a brief explanation.
- c. The initialed roster indicating which shield number decals have been issued.

6. If no shield number decal was received or an incorrect number was received for a member of the command, the commanding officer will prepare a report on Typed Letterhead, including the name, tax registry number and shield number of the member concerned and forward the report to the Office of the Chief of Department. A correct shield number decal will be forwarded to the commanding officer for issuance.

7. Helmet inspections and verification of shield numbers will be the subject of the semi-annual uniform inspection conducted during the month of May.

8. Any provisions of the Department Manual or other department directives in conflict with this order are suspended.

BY DIRECTION OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER

DISTRIBUTION:
All Commands