

INTRA-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION
SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FROM Chief F. C. Ramon
TO Honorable J. D. Braman, Mayor, City of Seattle
SUBJECT Homosexuality

Recent "scare" publicity in Seattle regarding homosexuality occasions this report for your information.

Every city, including Seattle, for many years has had a problem with homosexuals. Generally speaking, the problem is limited to a very few establishments where homosexuals congregate. For more than fifteen years the number of such places in Seattle was five or less. In recent years it has suddenly expanded to three times that number. The principle concern of the police with homosexuals is in three areas.

The first is that of homosexuals accosting or attempting to recruit persons who are not homosexuals. Secondly, there are the crimes that stem from homosexuality itself. There are at least five unsolved murders in Seattle which are known to be the result of homosexual affairs and would appear to be destined to remain for a long time, if not forever, in the "unsolved" files. There are at least twenty cases of aggravated assault; the majority of them solved and some of them unsolved which stem from homosexual or lesbian activities. Thirdly, it is known to the police of every city that homosexuality causes many crimes which are not reported to the police. One of the most continuing bunco actions is that of persons pretending to be policemen shaking down homosexuals for money under the guise of not prosecuting them for homosexual acts. This particular criminal activity is known throughout the United States.

Also in the shadow area, the police are convinced that hundreds of homosexuals are victimized by extortion or blackmail or robbery or assault and do not report these crimes to the police. There have been a few convictions for the so-called "degenerate shakedown" and a fairly recent one for extortion and robbery, but we are well aware that the percentage of these offenses known to the police are minute. Another area of major police concern is the influx of homosexuals to any community when the information available is that the community is "soft" or "tolerant" of homosexuals.

In the Bay Area of California, it is estimated that there are 90,000 homosexuals. In April of this year there were simultaneous parades in Los Angeles and in San Francisco participated in by an estimated total of 10,000 persons demanding that homosexuality be legalized and the homosexual be admitted to "the main stream of social life". For many years Finnochio's Cabaret in the International Settlement of San Francisco has been notorious as a homosexual hangout. The Golden Cat in Oakland and the Black Cat in Los Angeles have the same reputation. They have caused considerable police problems and have been the root of a large number of criminal activities.

Another area of police concern is that the existence and operation of establishments catering exclusively to homosexuals gives the same appearance of police ineptness, inefficiency or corruption that the present problem of the visibility of prostitution in Seattle creates.