



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

W. WILSON GOODE
MAYOR

September 15, 1987

Dear Coalition Members:

This week as we celebrate the 200th birthday of the signing of our constitution: a document which protects our rights to protest, speak freely and assemble, I believe it is appropriate to make clear to you the City policy and position as to the lingering issue of police surveillance and citizen access to public functions.

The City recognizes that the plaintiff groups have played a positive role in making our constitution a vital document. As I have publicly stated before, as a matter of policy I am opposed to interfering with a peaceful group whose purpose is only to lawfully express its opposition to local, state or federal government policy.

This City, through my Administration, is committed to insuring that all citizens enjoy to the full their constitutional rights. In that regard, all citizens should have reasonable access to public functions. They should be able to protest and be visible, to carry signs and to wear buttons or clothing expressing their views. In the near future, I will be issuing a policy directive on this.

As far as surveillance activity, I have been advised by Commissioner Tucker that there is no surveillance of any group which is a member of the coalition currently taking place. To ensure that future surveillance is performed consistent with my policy we have developed further intelligence collection procedures. They are as follow:

1. Prior to physical infiltration, the Commanding Officer of the Intelligence Unit will submit to the Commissioner a written report detailing the reasons for a potential criminal threat.
2. The Intelligence Review Committee, composed of the Police Commissioner, the First Deputy Commissioner and the Managing Director will review the report and approve or disapprove the request for intelligence gathering.

3. A report on the intelligence gathered will be submitted to the Police Commissioner for approval to continue or terminate the surveillance.
4. In extraordinary cases, where formal, advance reporting is not possible per the above, verbal approval by the Police Commissioner and the Managing Director is acceptable; however, a written report must be submitted to the Commissioner and the Managing Director by the close of business the following day.

Together with you and Commissioner Tucker I have been working to come to mutually agreed upon adjustments to the City policy. I believe we have all benefitted and I look forward to continuing our cooperative efforts to ensuring the rights of all.

Sincerely,



W. Wilson Goode
Mayor

WWG/tc