

INTEGRITY/Houston

P. O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

P R E S S R E L E A S E

August 13, 1973

This organization of homosexuals deplores the recent atrocity of murder, madness, violence, drugs and rape by the individuals, Dean Croll, et al. Since some local news media has branded this a homosexual crime, our organization decided to come forth. In meeting tonight, we unanimously voted to release this statement to the press:

We believe that these crimes mentioned above are heinous crimes, whether they be heterosexual, homosexual or not sexual at all. These crimes are committed often, but seldom by homosexuals. The principal could have performed similar crimes as a heterosexual and we believe that his sexual orientation is not of significance.

Here these crimes were combined with Croll's madness; indeed a rare combination. So many other atrocities have been performed by heterosexual madmen that we believe that his sexual orientation is passive compared to his homicidal, maniacal, violent nature.

Thousands of Americans have worked long and hard to bring about understanding and acceptance of the homosexual community and now because of the vile and abhorrent acts of only a small handful of individuals, we stand to lose all we have worked so very hard for.

We appeal to your sense of justice to not let this happen.

Our hearts cry for the helpless victims and their survivors, and for a world and society that breeds even one such person or even one such infamous act.

Integrity/Houston

INTEGRITY/HOUSTON A HOMOPHILE SERVICE-FELLOWSHIP
IN COOPERATION WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.
FREE BLOOD TESTS
TO DETECT SYPHILIS
SUNDAY, MARCH 25TH - 11 AM till 2 PM
3512 TRAVIS
VD PRESENTATION BEGINNING AT 12 NOON
LEARN THE SYMPTOMS - ASK QUESTIONS
YOU DO NOT GIVE YOUR NAME TO HEALTH DEPT!

Gay-backed candidate wins mayor's race in Houston

HOUSTON—Attorney Fred Hofheinz Jr. defeated City Councilman Dick Gottlieb for mayor of the South's largest municipality by a margin of only 3027 votes, less than two per cent of the total vote cast in the Dec. 4 election.

Hofheinz received wide support in the gay community while Gottlieb was generally regarded with indifference. The black community apparently gave Hofheinz his greatest support.

The size of the gay vote is difficult to estimate but is generally thought to be well in excess of the 3027. The gay vote may have been around 20,000 of the total of 244,243 votes cast.

There were several instances in the campaign of gay support of Hofheinz. Integrity, a local gay activist organization, circulated a flyer urging a vote for Hofheinz.

Integrity reported that Hofheinz had appeared before them during the primary campaign and "endorsed gay rights."

The organization also claimed

that Hofheinz told them he would seek an end to police harassment of Gays. "He is receptive to establishing a liaison between the police and the gay community in order to eliminate some of the harmful misconceptions which now exist," according to the group.

In another instance, Farmhouse Club co-owner Gene Howle announced his endorsement of Hofheinz over his club's sound system on election eve. The club was packed with about 500 customers at the time.

One of Hofheinz' major campaign promises was to replace Houston Police Chief Herman Short. Gottlieb had been expected to retain Short.

Short was not very popular in the gay community. In October 1972, when transsexual "Tony" Mayes was seeking a meeting with him, Short responded, "I don't talk to queers." Mayes was trying to get Short to instruct officers to stop their frequent arrests of Mayes wearing female attire.

THE HOUSTON POST
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1973

Heights parents ask state aid to keep center open

By FRED BONAVITA
Post State Capital Bureau

AUSTIN — Faced with a heavy deficit and what they say is a lack of concern by City Hall and local sources, a group of parents from the Heights area of Houston turned Monday to the state for help to keep their neighborhood center open.

The center was opened Aug. 22 in the wake of Houston's mass murders of young boys and has been operated on a volunteer basis as a haven for runaways and as a community center to give idle youngsters a place to go.

But pleas for financial help from City Hall in Houston and from the city's major philanthropic organizations have, for the most part gone unanswered, said W. L. Mayhew, executive director of the Heights Parents Community Center at 633 West 19th.

"ALL WE have been getting from anybody is a lot of noise and no action," declared Mayhew.

Mayor Louie Welch could not be contacted to comment on the claims.

Mayhew said a meeting with James M. Rose, director of the Division of Planning Coordination for the governor's office, on Monday was the first positive response the group has had in weeks.

"We told him our problems, and he is going to cooperate with us," Mayhew said of the meeting with Rose. "Any help he can give, he will give us."

Mayhew, State Rep. Ron Waters, D-Houston; the Rev. Alan Abraham, pastor of the Heights Christian Church and a member of the board of directors of the center; and R. C. Burns, service officer of a Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter, were extremely critical of what they said was a lack of concern and interest in the center from Houston and particularly from outgoing Mayor Louie Welch.

"WE CAN'T GET cooperation from the present city government," Mayhew continued. "They have done nothing. We have asked them several times, but it was made clear to us in a round-about

way that they are not going to do anything for the Heights area."

He said the city removed playground equipment from the few parks in the area and balked at the idea of replacing it.

"We get the word, 'Well, they'll just carry it off,'" Mayhew said he was told.

He estimates the center will need about \$50,000 for operational and planning expenses for the coming 12 months. At the present, he said, it is about \$2,000 in debt with parents paying many of its bills from their pockets.

The building it occupies was donated by Houston businessman George Polk, and other interested persons and businesses have contributed some amounts to the project, he said.

"UP TO THIS point, there has been an outpouring of sympathy on the city and state levels, but finally today we got some kind of assurances from the governor's office that we will get something done," Waters said. "We stand 30 days away from closing it down and forgetting about it."

Mayhew indicated that had the center been open and had the area's youth had a place to go, they might not have fallen victim to murder.

"If they had had a swimming pool to go to and had recreation to go to and had some place to go, they wouldn't have taken up with just anybody," he said of the victims, most of whom came from the Heights area. "When they have nothing to do and no place to go then they are going to find something to do."

HE INDICATED the Heights area is being neglected by design and because helping is not a politically correct thing to do.

"This is an election year, and nobody is going to do nothing or say nothing. After the election, it is going to be the same," Mayhew said.

"The City Council can't do anything because the city is run by Louie Welch," he said. "I hold him directly responsible for the lack of services."

Waters said a part of the reason the Heights is being neglected by city hall is that downtown business interests are

eyeing it for expansion as a commercial area and want residents out.

"It is the next close to downtown that is exploitable," said Abrahams. "It is within the 610 Loop, and it is very close to downtown. There are no traffic bottlenecks from there into downtown."

MAYHEW, WHO said he is a former constable, investigated allegations of "molestings" of children more than a year ago before the homosexually related murders became public in August. He said he documented a situation then and turned the information over to city officials who failed to follow through on it.

Since then and since the recent discovery of the murders, he said, parents in the area have been suggesting to suspected homosexuals and alcoholics that they move out of the area. He denied the formation of a vigilante group, however, but said the suspected persons were told "we would put the heat on" if they didn't move.

"Our streets are safe now," he said.

3512 TRAVIS ST.

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INTEGRITY/HOUSTON

Service/Fellowship

MEETING EACH THURSDAY 8:00 - 9:30 P.M.