



# ST. PAUL RECORDER

827-4021

St. Paul, Minnesota, Thursday, December 13, 1990

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last Wednesday when it was knowledge of the events which continued to Page 12

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# Judge rules against public strip search

The District Court ruled against the propriety of the police conducting public strip searches. The case had gained notoriety as community leaders expressed outrage over stripping a man naked in the street to search for drugs. The police department had defended the actions of the officer, stating that there was nothing unusual in a public strip search.

Judge George Petersen ruled that a strip search "in a public place while illuminated by a police officer's flashlight was highly intrusive, offensive and unnecessary; ... and in violation of constitutional protections including the right of privacy."

"Why does it take community outcry and the courts to find that stripping a man naked in the street is unacceptable? Why didn't the police chief and county attorney stop this humiliating police procedure before? We expect a commitment from them to stop this practice immediately," stated Nick Davis, a Community Stabilization Project board member.

Judge Petersen ruled that the officer did have a right to make an investigative stop. Community leaders have ruling makes it essential that we get clear guidelines from the police on what they consider probable cause. We requested written guidelines from the police regarding

stopping and detaining citizens.

"We can't have a policy which states that any Black man in a high drug area can be stopped whenever the police feel like it. This would support a policy which includes money or substances passing hands, number of people coming and going, and other clear signs of drug trafficking. But the policy can not be walking down the street" stated Davis.

The Police Chief, Mayor, City and County attorney will be meeting with the community to respond to these issues on Wednesday, December 12th. The Meeting will be at 7 pm at the Martin Luther King Center.