

Giarrusso Calls on Kohn to Identify Report Source

'Completely Dismayed at Latest Development'

Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso has called on Metropolitan Crime Commission managing director Aaron Kohn to identify the person through whom

Kohn received copies of police intelligence reports.

Giarrusso told Kohn in a letter dated Aug. 1: "I am completely dismayed at this latest development wherein you have seen fit to release, publicly, an official confidential police document without checking with the

people in authority as to its authenticity or as to the propriety of releasing information of this type publicly."

The official reports are those used by incumbent Traffic Court Judge David MacHauer in accusing his opponent, Thomas Giraud, of fixing a traffic ticket

for Nofio S. Pecora. Giraud is opposing the judge in the Aug. 15 Democratic primary.

MacHauer made the statement last Friday before the Press Club of New Orleans and brandished the police documents as proof of Giraud's fixing the ticket.

Giarrusso said that inquiries by Capt. Thomas Drake, commander of the police department's Intelligence Division, revealed that MacHauer secured the police reports through Kohn.

TWO AUTHORIZED

The police chief said only himself and Capt. Drake have authority to disseminate information from the intelligence division.

"You allegedly stated to Capt. Drake that no member of the New Orleans Police Department or Intelligence Division had given you the two reports and further you would not, under any circumstances, identify your source," Giarrusso continued.

He said his letter to Kohn was aimed primarily at expressing "our very strong views to you for being responsible for getting the Department of Police involved in a political campaign."

Giarrusso added: "I wonder what your position would be, as well as the Crime Commission members, if the New Orleans Police Department were to come into possession of one of your confidential memorandums or reports?"

DECISION ASKED

"Would you demand that the person or persons responsible be charged with theft, burglary or some type of crime? Or would this just be a breach of ethics and propriety?"

The letter continued:

"I ask you quite candidly — how does the Department of Police extricate itself in the public's eye regarding its involvement in a political campaign?"

"I respectfully say to you and

members of the Crime Commission that I have the utmost regard for Judge MacHauer and personally think that he has been a highly competent and dedicated public official.

"By the same token, I would have to say that I hold Mr. Giraud in equal high regard.

EXTREME CONCERN

"I am extremely concerned in getting to the source within the department that is responsible for pilfering police documents, because it is conceivable that this individual, or individuals, are taking other police confidential documents from the Department and passing them on to

many individuals who should not be in possession of them.

"It is most important that we identify this person because certainly he is not trustworthy, nor is he loyal to the department; nor should he be trusted or be in a highly sensitive position and one that requires the utmost integrity.

"Therefore, Mr. Kohn, being a man that has always sought the truth, I am confident that you understand the position I have taken in this matter and will assist us in this serious breach of trust."

Giarrusso said Capt. Drake spoke to Judge MacHauer regarding the documents and reported that MacHauer said he no longer has them in his possession.