

Armed Robbery Crackdown

DA 'Patrolmen' Offered to Cops

By JACK DEMPSEY
The District Attorney's office today put 22 armed assistant DAs and 12 investigators at the disposal of the police Department to beef up

patrols during peak armed robbery hours through the Christmas season.

Assistant District Attorney Charles Ward, who announced the stop-gap "war against

crime" today, said details are still being worked out with Supt. of Police Joseph I. Giarrusso, but patrolling may begin tonight or by tomorrow at latest.

"IN EFFECT, we really are policemen," Ward said, explaining that his men will perform the usual duties of patrolmen as well as give on-the-spot legal advice to police.

The announcement followed an appeal by Giarrusso to the City Council yesterday for

more money for the Police Department. He complained that the shortage of funds will hamper armed robbery investigations.

Ward said today the DA's office now has 101 armed robbery cases and 93 concealed weapons cases pending and feels that there is a direct relationship between the two crimes.

"IN THIS season, when many criminals are doing their 'shoplifting' with pistols, we have decided to offer as-

sistance to the department during the peak hours of armed robberies," he said.

Ward explained that his men will not do police work full time. They will patrol mainly from 8 to midnight and at other hours when the incidence of armed robbery is highest.

They will be on staggered shifts and will be assigned to all eight districts. Some will ride with patrolmen. Others will prowls in radio-equipped

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DA's cars, Ward said.

THIS WILL allow 20 more cars to patrol the streets and boost confidence of officers by providing handy legal advice on "probable cause" for arrests, Ward explained.

"This is not a solution nor is it a long-term arrangement," the assistant district attorney said. "It is a stop-gap measure."

He said his men will not receive overtime pay and some are not happy about that.

In his letter of protest yesterday to the City Council, Giarrusso complained about

the elimination of overtime pay for policemen, and said he could save \$300,000 by cutting out details of 15 officers given public assignments, including Charity Hospital and Municipal Court.

MAYOR VICTOR H. Schiro said this morning he agrees with Giarrusso that the cut in the police budget proposed by the City Council is dangerous.

Schiro said "the police superintendent is correct," that all of the money he recommended for the police department is needed.

"I can't argue with the chief of police," said Schiro. The mayor recommended a much larger budget than was approved by the City Council and some of the biggest cuts were made in expenditures for the police department.

COUNCILMAN JOHN J. Petre said today he would agree with Giarrusso that police officers ought to be taken out of assignments to courts, to the French Market, to the Taxi Cab Bureau and in other areas.

He said he believes the council will follow Giarrusso's recommendations when the budget is reconsidered following new hearings Friday.

"The police department has to replace more of its able-bodied, uniformed personnel now in clerical positions," said Petre.

"They ought to be out on the streets."

THE COUNCIL is scheduled to reconsider all of the mayor's recommendations for new revenues at a meeting Dec. 19.

New revenue measures that would place user taxes on telephone and gas electric bills will also be up for consideration.

These revenue measures were not recommended for implementation of the 1969 operating budget.