

Currently, citizens are required to file complaints with the Winston-Salem Police Department Internal Affairs Division, where an investigation is conducted. If they are not satisfied at that level, they can then also file their complaint with the city manager's office and the public safety committee.

Eversley said, "The fact of the matter is that (Northington) is elected to serve all the people. Whether or not he has heard it before, he should have sat, listened and learned and not wallow in ignorance."

Many citizens who spoke said the Rodney King verdict and the recent secrecy on the details of the Carlos Stoner murder has left a distrust between the department and the community.

Rasheed Bey, president of the Awakening Giants, said there was a distrust between the community and the police department. "You need to consider the fact that there is a basic distrust by the community for the police... for the sake of harmony and peace in this community," Bey said.

The crowd blasted Chief George Sweat and aldermen Nancy Pleasants, after they both said they were not in favor of a citizen's police review board.

"Your attitude reflects the problem that we have (stated). You have not listened to a word we've said, but you have already made up your mind," said the Rev. John Mendez.

Pleasant said, "We are the duly elected body of citizens who are authorized and appointed to represent you," adding that the three steps to filing complaints were sufficient.

Eversley then asked, "How can you say that when 25 percent of your committee walked out of here?"

Sweat listened attentively to



More than 40 people packed the committee room Monday to ask the Public Safety Committee to make a recommendation for a citizen's police review board.

citizens' concerns, but said he was still not in favor of a citizen's police review board. "I still think the process that we have is working fine," he commented.

Following the three-hour meeting, Alderman Vivian Burke, committee chairman and Alderman Nelson Malloy, who have been long-time advocates of a review board, voted to send it to the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Nancy Pleasants voted against it. The full board will vote on the citizen's police review board Monday.

The Human Relations Commission released a summary of its 1991 complaints against the police department. A total of 37 complaints were made: Thirteen were found to be false, nine allegations were supported by evidence; seven

allegations were disproven and seven were exonerated. There is still one complaint pending.

Message to the aldermen

Concerned Citizens and Citizens United for Justice — two grassroots organizations — met Tuesday night to make an appeal to the aldermen and Mayor Martha Wood, who have not openly supported the citizen's police review board. Dr. Waymon McLaughlin, representing both groups, said the groups are in support of a review board at the entry level of the complaint process.

Eversley said the review board would be "more objective and less intimidating" to the citizens.

"It will enable a democratic process of people having something to say about their government," he said, following the meeting.

So far, aldermen Nelson Malloy, Vivian Burke and Larry Womble have openly stated their support of the review board.

Aldermen Virginia Newell said she does not know how she will vote on the issue. "I don't see a need for it anyway. What can a review board do? It won't have any power," she said Tuesday night. Newell said she was looking into an alternative solution to the complaint process, which could possibly require a professional group to conduct a study. Mayor Wood could not be reached for comment.

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N-A-T-I-O-N-A-L NEWS

Walker: Life for black women not improved

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker told alumnae of Radcliffe College that the state of black women is not much better now than when she last addressed the school two decades ago.

"I wish I could tell you things have truly improved for most young women of color on the planet," said Walker, who received the Radcliffe College Alumnae Association medal for her literary contributions. "However, many things I have learned about the lives of women and girls since that day of public grief 20 years ago have taken me beyond tears."

Radcliffe is an all-women's college whose students are enrolled jointly at Harvard University. Walker also read passages from her new book, "Possessing the Secret of Joy," about a woman who has suffered genital mutilation. The author of 18 books in all, Walker won the 1983 American Book Award for "The Color Purple," later made into a film.

Arthur Ashe rebukes Harvard grads

BOSTON (AP) — Tennis star Arthur Ashe, who has the AIDS virus, rallied and rebuked Harvard Medical School graduates Thursday as he warned of the enormity of their impending battles with the disease. "Some of you graduating today wouldn't treat me if I came to you," Ashe said.

"By what moral principle would you refuse treatment to an AIDS patient?" Ashe asked. "Many of you might answer with nature's first law of self-preservation. This AIDS thing, as I refer to it, will test your resolve, your ingenuity and creativity, and your patience."

Ashe, the first black man to win one of tennis' Grand Slam tournaments, announced in April that he had contracted HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, from a blood transfusion during heart bypass surgery in 1983.

Skinheads, anti-racism group to march

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Birmingham officials will permit a June 13 march by a group of neo-Nazi skinheads and an anti-racism group, but not at the same hour.

The city issued parade permits for both the Aryan National Front and the Coalition Against Hate Crimes for marches to end at Linn Park. The skinheads plan to lay a wreath at the park's Confederate Memorial at 1 p.m.

The coalition will march at 4 p.m. to protest the April stabbing death of Benny Rembert, 36, a homeless black man. Three Aryan National Front members and a teen-age girl have been charged in connection with Rembert's death.

Skinhead organizer Bill Riccio, a former Ku Klux Klan leader, said police feared a violent confrontation and asked the group not to march. He said the skinheads refused the offer.

"We're not backing down," Riccio said. "We plan to march regardless of whatever dangers face us." Rodney Max, a spokesman for the coalition, said some members of his group had wanted to rally in the park when the skinheads were there.

"It was agreed that we would avoid that as a group," Max said. "So as a group it is not our intention and we will not be there. As a group, we will be at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church at 4 p.m. As a group, we will march over to Linn Park."

The church, where four black girls were killed by a white racist bombing in 1963, is about four blocks from the park.

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