

**BOX  
15  
FOLDER  
166**

**Police, Dept.  
of-Assignments and  
Transfers**

**1910-1913**

Mar. 22, 1910. m

Sir:

Your favor of March 21st is at hand.

We are so short of police that I fear we could not assign uniformed policemen to the boats. The boats on the North River seem to be very well conducted without the aid of the police. We can, if you still advise it, have the mates made special policemen, but they now have the same power of arrest which they would have if they were made special officers. A citizen has the same power of arrest which an officer has, in the case of an offence committed in his view. If you think they should be made special officers please send a list of their names in to me.

Very truly yours,

*W. J. H. H. H.*  
Mayor.

Calvin Tomkins, Esq.,

Dock Commissioner.

Oct.31,1910.m

Sir:

I beg to enclose to you a letter of policeman Elias. It may be that he was treated in such a way for the good of the service.

I forgot to say to you that in this matter of transfers I have listened to no politicians whatever, and I am sure I need not caution you to act in the same manner. The great object is to absolutely disconnect the police force from politics, and also from the connections through which they collect graft.

Very truly yours,

  
Mayor.

James C. Cropsey, Esq.,  
Police Commissioner.

11-2-D

Nov. 5, 1910.m

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

You had no occasion to write exonerating yourself as I do not believe the statements. I am sorry to notice from your letter that any transfers whatever were made at the request of Calder or any politician. The fact that a policeman gets any such outside help is enough to show that he is not fit to be transferred, for they are all well informed that we want no outside recommendations whatever. As for the Ruddy place, there seems to be so much about it that there can be little doubt that it is an evil place, yet it is difficult to get evidence no doubt. I notice that Dillon and others talk of it as a poolroom. I do not know what they mean by that. There are no places in the city where pools are sold. Last winter I ordered the disuse of that false word. It makes people all over the state believe that we still sell pools on horse races here in this city, when as a matter of fact there has not been a pool sold or a poolroom kept since the constitution of 1894 went into effect. I suppose he means betting on horse races, but a police inspector who does not know that book-betting on horse races is not pool-selling is not fit to be on the force and you had better call Dillon in and tell him so and that I said so. Betting is one thing but pool-selling is an entirely different thing.

Very truly yours,

*W. J. Gaynor*  
Mayor.

Louis H. Reynolds, Esq.,

Fourth Deputy Police Commissioner.

Dec. 6, 1910.k

S i r :

I enclose to you a letter of Robert Ludlow Fowler. I am opposed to sending policemen around to weddings, and I see them at weddings and receptions where they have no right to be whatever. They occupy their time largely going into the kitchen and drinking. I have been to the simplest weddings where I have seen three policemen at the door. I tried to stop all of that under Baker. There are undoubtedly exceptional cases, however, where policemen are necessary on account of the traffic, and this seems to be such an occasion.

Very truly yours,

*W. L. Fowler*  
M a y o r.

James C. Cropsey, Esq.,  
Police Commissioner.

11-7-10

Jan. 31, 1911. m

Sir:

Mrs. Pendleton has called my attention to the fact that whenever any wounded person accused of a criminal offence comes into the city hospitals, a policeman is sent to the hospital to watch such person until he is able to be taken out. The policeman sits at the foot of the bed or nearby. This is so even in the wards for women, and is very embarrassing. She says that the number of days thus wasted by policemen is greater than if one policeman were detailed to each hospital to stay there all the time. I am enclosing to you a full memorandum of the matter signed by her. Will you be so good as to have it looked into thoroughly and let me have a report. It may be that instead of detailing policemen we could deputize some employee of the hospital, such as the clerk or secretary, not to allow a person so accused of crime to leave the hospital except in the custody of a policeman. Or it may be that you have some old policemen who could be ~~employed~~ detailed for

the purpose.

Very truly yours,

W. J. Gaynor  
Mayor.

James C. Cropsey, Esq.,

Police Commissioner.

11-2-7

*Police Department*  
*of the*  
*City of New York*  
*Office of The Commissioner*

*New York* March 3, 1911.

His Honor,  
The Mayor,  
City Hall,  
New York City.

S i r :

I am today revoking the designation of Inspector Hussey and placing him in charge of a precinct as a Captain; I am also transferring a few of the Captains, putting them where I think their services will be of greater value to the department. When these changes are made, the situation regarding Captains will be as follows:

Every precinct in the Greater City will be in charge of a Captain, except six. This statement does not include the Bridge, Traffic and Harbor precincts. A Captain will be in charge of every precinct in the Boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn; in every precinct but one (the 77th) in the Borough of the Bronx; in every precinct but three (279th, 290th and 292nd) in the Borough of Queens, and every precinct but two (89th and 99th) in the Borough of Richmond. Of the four Bridge precincts, only one will be in charge of a Captain, and even that, I think, is unnecessary. Of the four Traffic precincts only one will be in charge of a Captain, and that, I think, entirely sufficient. The Harbor precincts will not be in charge of a Captain, and I think it is unnecessary that they should.

The six precincts (other than Bridge, Traffic and Harbor) which will be without Captains have only a small number of men in each, and, in my judgment, it is entirely unnecessary to have Captains in charge of them. The force attached to each is as follows:

His Honor, The Mayor-2-

77TH PRECINCT (City Island):  
4 Lieuts.; 4 Sergts.; 18 Patrolmen; 2 Doormen;  
1 Acting Sergt.

89TH PRECINCT (New Dorp):  
4 Lieuts.; 3 Sergts.; 14 Patrolmen; 1 Doorman;

99TH PRECINCT (Tottenville):  
5 Lieuts.; 4 Sergts.; 25 Patrolmen; 1 Doorman;

279TH PRECINCT (Far Rockaway):  
5 Lieuts.; 4 Sergts.; 27 Patrolmen; 1 Doorman;

290TH PRECINCT (College Point):  
4 Lieuts.; 4 Sergts.; 25 Patrolmen; 1 Doorman;

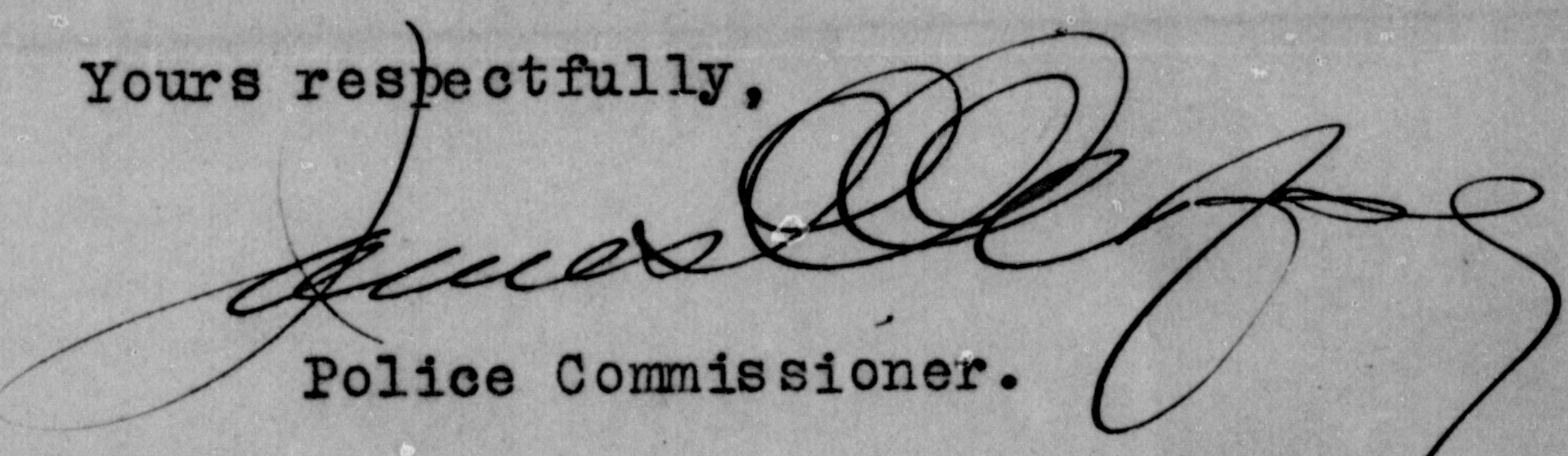
292ND PRECINCT (Whitestone):  
4 Lieuts.; 4 Sergts.; 17 Patrolmen; 1 Doorman.

It may be that in the Borough of Queens a less number of precincts would be desirable, especially in the Rockaway and Whitestone sections, but I have not as yet had an opportunity of investigating the matter sufficiently to have arrived at any opinion.

I am firmly convinced, however, that there is no need of Captains in any of the six precincts that are now without them, nor in the Bridge, Traffic or Harbor precincts; in fact, I think there is no need of having the Captain in the one Bridge precinct where he now is, but, as I do not know of any place where he is really needed, I am leaving him there for the present.

With the reduction of Inspector Hussey, there still remain thirteen Inspectors.

Yours respectfully,

  
Police Commissioner.

C/R

Mar. 3, 1911.

From the Police Commissioner  
revoking designation of In-  
spector Hussey and placing  
him in charge of a precinct  
as a Captain; also transferring  
a few Captains.

March 16th, 1911.

S i r :

Your favor of March 15th reporting on the waste of time of policemen in hospitals is at hand. The case is even worse than we thought it was when we spoke about it together. I am sending your letter to Mrs. Pendleton, one of the women who have charge of the hospitals, or who visit them from the outside, and when her letter of advice comes back we will talk the whole matter over. Her suggestion was that an old policeman be stationed at each hospital. On your figures that would be a great saving of time, but it may be better to appoint a special man in each hospital.

Please also consider whether the special patrolmen who patrol blocks and are paid by the people of the block may not be left alone until we get some suitable legislation on the whole subject. I have written to them all that the man they hire can do his patrol duty just as well as though he had a patrolman's badge and make arrests.

Very truly yours,

*J. Maynor*  
Mayor.

James C. Cropsey, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
City of New York.

*Police Department*  
*of the*  
*City of New York*  
*Office of The Commissioner*

*Please Return*

*New York* April 5, 1911.

9

His Honor,  
The Mayor,  
City Hall,  
New York City.

S i r :

Your letter of the 4th inst., transmitting communication from Mr. Justice McCall relating to patrolman Michael Griffin whom I have transferred from the New York County Court House, has been received.

This officer had been in the Court House for many years and has been on the Force for many more years, but his removal by me was directed for cause. However, realizing that he had been many years in the service, I assigned him to very easy work at one of the public baths in the City where he is not even obliged to stand, but may sit if he wishes.

When I was appointed there were two officers in the County Court House in New York, Griffin being one of them -- his assignment, however, was to the County Clerk's office and the other officer was supposed to cover the Court House. When I attempted to reduce the number of men in detailed positions, I looked up the ages and terms of service of these two men and found that Griffin had been so many years on the Force that I decided to leave him in the Court House, requiring him, however, to cover the entire Court House as well as to attend at the Naturalization Bureau in the County Clerk's office. That was done. However, a month or two thereafter, I received a complaint against Griffin stating that his conduct towards persons who presented themselves for naturalization was not civil and polite, and that his conduct was especially objectionable to the Hebrews. After receiving this

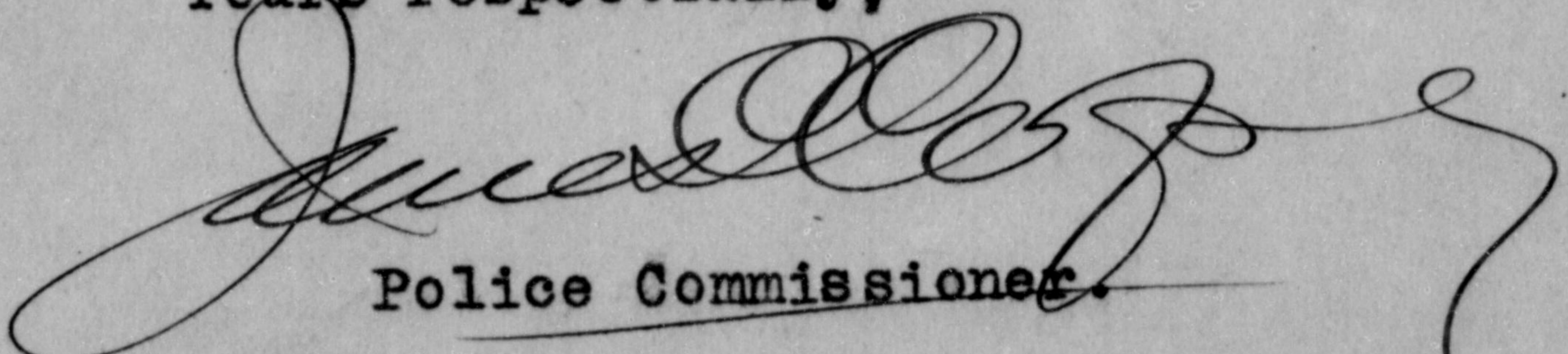
His Honor, The Mayor-2-

complaint, I detailed a careful man to watch Griffin for several days and he reported to me that Griffin was very loquacious and talked to the prospective citizens in an improper and offensive way, giving them directions and handling them generally in a way which was quite unnecessary. I felt that his services should be dispensed with in that position, and, for that reason, ordered the transfer to be made by which he was put in one of the interior baths. In his place I have put another old man who has served in the department some thing over forty years, but who is still well able to perform properly, and I hope satisfactorily, all the duties that are required of a man in the Court House.

The day after I had ordered this transfer to be made, Mr. Crowell was here on some matter and said that Mr. Justice Hendrick had spoken about the matter and asked to have the man retained, and I told him in substance what I have written you and he said he would explain the matter to Judge Hendrick.

With this, I am returning Judge McCall's letter.

Yours respectfully,



Police Commissioner.

(Enclosure)  
C/R

Apr 5/1911

Re. to Apr 4/1911

App and Letter of  
Judge McCall  
Re. to Patrolman  
Griffen

*Police Department*  
*of the*  
*City of New York*  
*Office of The Commissioner*

*New York* April 14, 1911.

9

His Honor,  
The Mayor,  
City Hall,  
New York City.

S i r :

I have your letter of the 12th inst., enclosing communication from Commissioner Stover with regard to the lack of police in Central Park.

This is a matter to which I have given some personal attention, and a reduction of the force, to which Commissioner Stover refers, was by my direction. I do not agree with him that the present force is inadequate, but, even if that be so, I am convinced that Central Park has more than its equitable and fair proportion of the entire available force; <sup>in the city</sup> in fact, I think the present number in the park is too great, or at least more in proportion than the other precincts of the City have, all conditions considered.

When I made the reduction in the force, I wrote to Commissioner Stover explaining to him what I was doing and adding that I wanted in every way to co-operate with him in caring for the park, and that if it was found necessary to have more men during the Summer months I would be glad to consider adding to the force at that time. When you consider that the park is only two and one-half miles long and about one-half mile wide, it seems to me that there are ample men in it to give reasonable protection -- especially as the bulk of the men are on duty in the day time when they are most needed.

I can understand, of course, Commissioner Stover's wish to have many more policemen on duty, but I have to consider the needs of the entire City

His Honor, The Mayor-2-

and not merely the park, and I am firmly convinced that the park even now has more than its fair share of police protection.

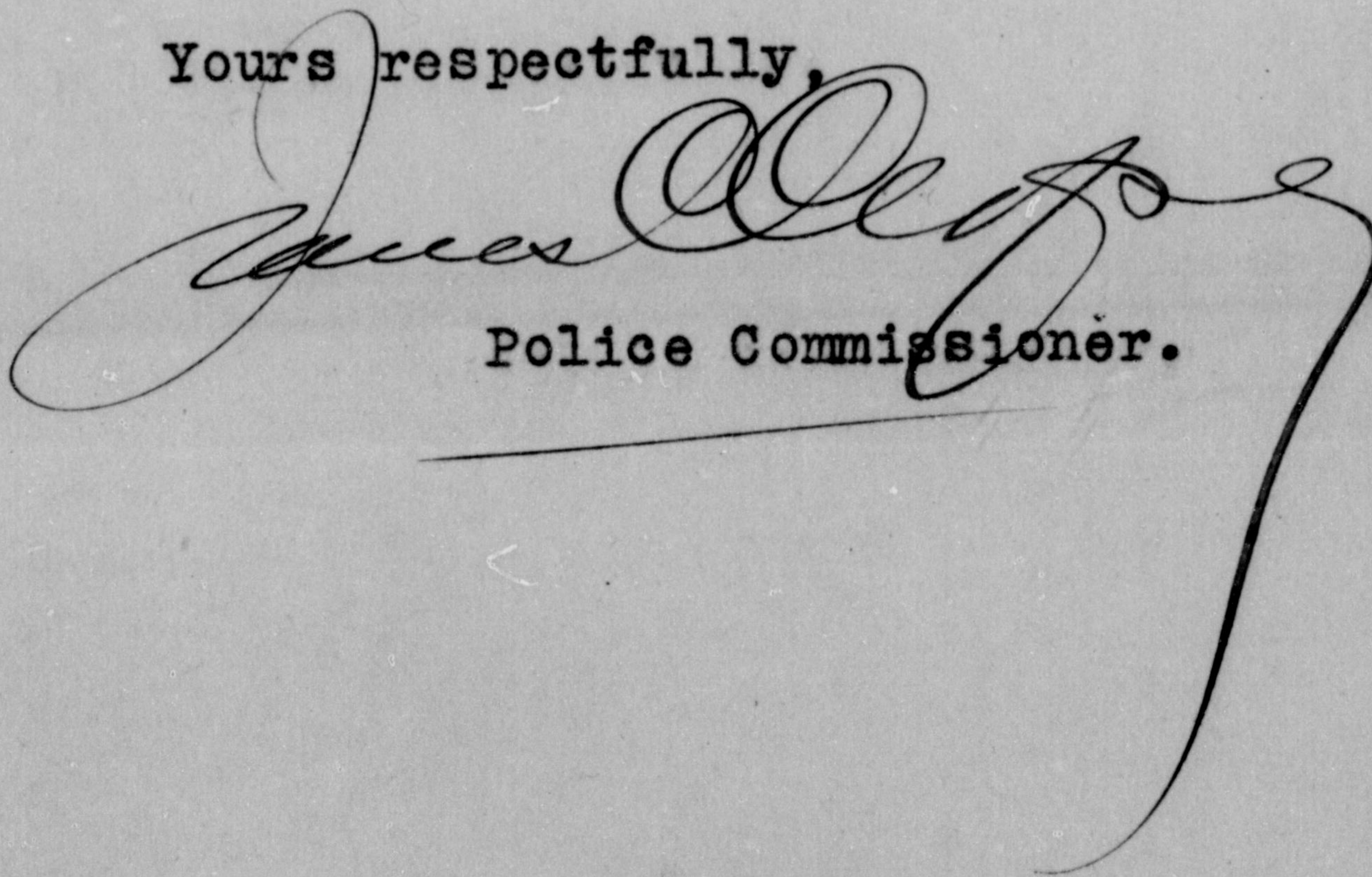
I understand that it is a fact that during a few hours of the morning, once a week, the mounted men are out of the park drilling. This, however, I am told is not an innovation, but that the same course has been followed in previous years. You will see, of course, that even had mounted men been on the bridle-path at the time referred to in Commissioner Stover's letter the accident of which Mr. Oppenheim complains might have still happened.

As the work in the park is considered easier than the work in the regular precincts, I have adopted the policy of giving the men who have been longer in the service the preference of doing duty there and have taken out the men who have been on the force but a few years and who should be doing the harder work which is required of men in busy precincts. On the other hand, I have tried not to put in the parks any men who are so old or disabled as to be unfit to do properly the duty that is required of them there.

A similar change and reduction in the force has been made in Prospect Park.

With this, I am returning Commissioner Stover's letter.

Yours respectfully,

  
Police Commissioner.

(Enclosure)  
C/R

Apr 14/1911

Re. to Apr 12/11

Up on Tom Fovers  
Letter - re. to Police  
in Central Paris

a  
7/27/11

July 25, 1911.k

S i r :

I enclose to you a letter from Mr. Denavan claiming that policemen are doing clerical and other work in different places in the city. Can we not get a complete list of these people and call them in? I know you are engaged in it already, but while we are at it we might as well make a complete job of it. I understand there are altogether too many policemen in the Comptroller's office. There is also one in the office of the Commissioner of Accounts who should be withdrawn, and there is one in the office of the President of the Board of Aldermen concerning which I wish to speak to you when I see you next. He is being used for purposes which are not proper.

Very truly yours,

*W. J. Maynor*  
M a y o r.

Rhinelanders Waldo, Esq.,

Commissioner of Police.

R  
1/6/12  
✓ January 5, 1912. b

S i r :

My attention is called to the statement in several newspapers here that policemen, and even a large number of policemen -- some newspapers saying as many as 69 -- attended the Peace Dinner by your direction last Saturday night at the Waldorf Astoria. Were any policemen sent to this dinner?

I also saw it reported recently that the President was given no police protection when he came to the city. Is this true, or did you furnish the head of the United States detective force the usual number of men? I have no doubt that both of these newspaper statements are false, but I prefer to have a record made of the matter. I particularly do not wish to have it belled all over this country that we sent policemen to stand over a dinner of gentlemen.

Very truly yours,

*W. J. Ryan*  
Mayor.

Rhinelander Waldo, Esq.,  
Commissioner Department  
of Police.

April 15th, 1912. s

Sir:

At the opening day of the Brooklyn baseball season the management in their eagerness to get rich permitted the field to be covered with spectators to such an extent that the game could not go on. Being appealed to I allowed the police to come in to try to put the crowd back. Of course they did not succeed in getting them back far enough not to interfere with the game. I desire to say that what I did I do not wish to have taken for a precedent. The police cannot be used by business people for such purposes. The crowd was perfectly orderly and needed no police supervision. The trouble was in allowing them to come upon the grounds in such great numbers if at all.

Very truly yours,

*W. J. Quinn*  
Mayor.

Rhinelanders Waldo, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
New York City.

✓

✓  
May 15th, 1912. s

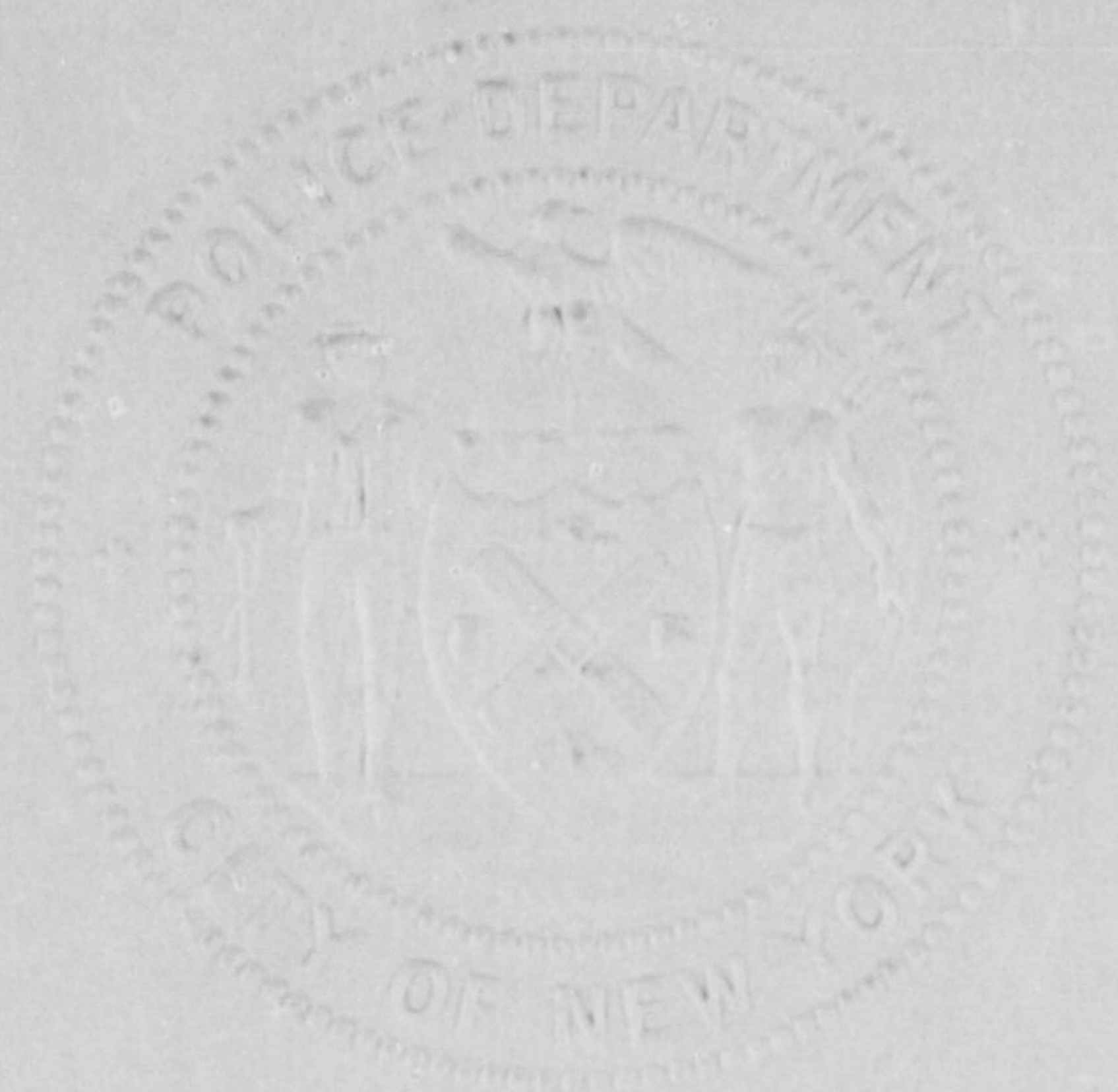
Sir:

Please see that the police assigned to the Corporation Counsel's office as investigators are not withdrawn, but when the next budget is being made up I wish you would remind me of the matter, and have the question considered whether it would not be better to have civilian investigators instead of the police in the Corporation Counsel's office. We can do nothing about it until the next budget is made up, and as you knew such investigators are absolutely necessary.

Very truly yours,

  
Mayor.

Rhinelanders Waldo, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
New York City.



OFFICE OF  
THE COMMISSIONER

October 1, 1912.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,  
Mayor, City of New York,  
City Hall,  
New York City.

S i r:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 30th, enclosing communication from Mr. Ernest Harvier.

Captain Lantry was transferred from the East 51st Street Police Station to Sheepshead Bay during the time Mr. Mitchell was Acting Mayor. Captain Lantry is a brother of Mr. Francis J. Lantry, the former Democratic District leader, and now the Progressive Party District leader, in the District in which his brother was a Police Captain. I transferred Captain Lantry from Sheepshead Bay to Butler Street, Brooklyn, July 2d last. I offered to transfer him to The Bronx, which, however, he said he did not care for. I was inclined to transfer Captain Lantry to a Manhattan precinct, but his mentality and abilities, in my opinion, do not render him a suitable man to command a busy precinct. The next time that a precinct becomes vacant in Manhattan which I think can be handled by Captain Lantry I intend to transfer him to it.

Very respectfully,

  
Police Commissioner

✓ Nov. 15, 1912.k

*a*  
*11/16/12*  
S i r :

Policeman Short has been again removed from the Charities Department in Brooklyn. He was put back there for the reason that an investigation shows that a permanent policeman is necessary to serve bastardy warrants and the like. These people conceal themselves, and the woman has to go along with the policeman often to identify them. I do not think the work can be efficiently done by the department generally. Sometimes the case is an emergency one and the man has to be caught quick before he goes aboard ship or train. They seem to have the same difficulty also in the Court of Special Sessions. The clerk of that court has laid it before me. These emergency arrests have to be made by a trained hand who will go night or day, continuously, bringing the party along with him, if necessary. It might be well for you to have a talk with the clerk, Mr. Smith, on the subject.

Very truly yours,

*W. J. Gaynor*  
Mayor.

Raineland Waldo, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police.

✓ Nov. 15, 1912.k

*a*  
*11/16/12*  
S i r :

Policeman Short has been again removed from the Charities Department in Brooklyn. He was put back there for the reason that an investigation shows that a permanent policeman is necessary to serve bastardy warrants and the like. These people conceal themselves, and the woman has to go along with the policeman often to identify them. I do not think the work can be efficiently done by the department generally. Sometimes the case is an emergency one and the man has to be caught quick before he goes aboard ship or train. They seem to have the same difficulty also in the Court of Special Sessions. The clerk of that court has laid it before me. These emergency arrests have to be made by a trained hand who will go night or day, continuously, bringing the party along with him, if necessary. It might be well for you to have a talk with the clerk, Mr. Smith, on the subject.

Very truly yours,

*W. J. May*  
Mayor.

Rhineland Waldo, Esq.,

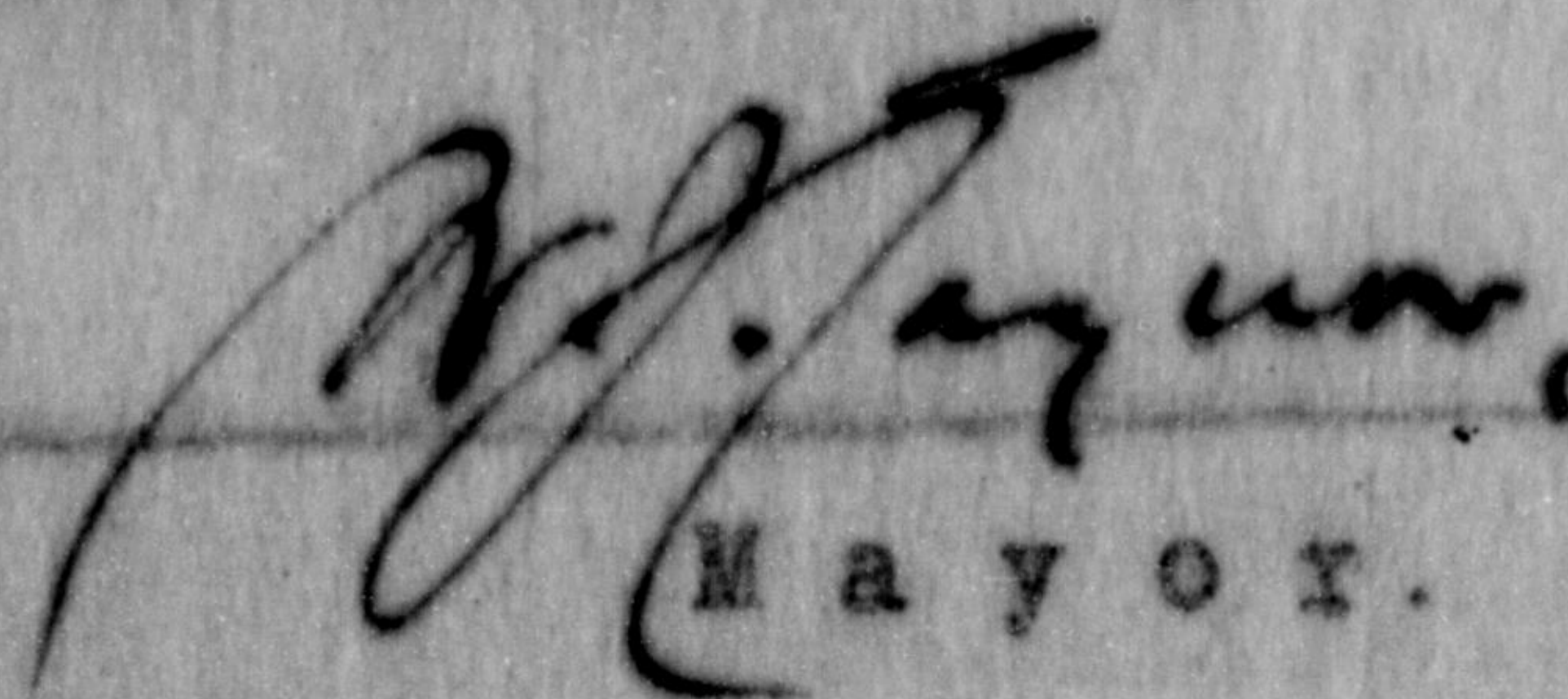
Commissioner of Police.

January 3, 1913. s

Dear Mr. Comptroller:

I will attend to the matter about the policeman. We had to withdraw a large number of policemen who were stationed here and there about the city in public offices and elsewhere. You concurred in that, although some of the departments made a great to-do about it. I do not see why the Police Commissioner keeps removing this particular policeman, and I will see him.

Very truly yours,

  
M a y o r.

Hon. William A. Prendergast,  
Comptroller,  
New York City.

January 8th, 1913.M

Dear Mr. Comptroller:

Commissioner Waldo informs me that he has put the night policeman back as you requested, but he gives it as his opinion that the place ought to be filled by an employe of your department. If he is right about this, then it will be necessary for you to create a new place in your department. If he is wrong, then a policeman will be permanently assigned to the place. Of course you know that my notion is strongly against these special assignments of policemen, and I should be glad to have you create a new place of watchman. But if that should not be done, or if there are difficulties in the way (which I submit to your judgment and discretion), then I will give orders that the policeman remain there permanently.

Very truly yours,

*W. L. Gaynor*  
Mayor.

Hon. William A. Prendergast,  
Comptroller,  
280, Broadway,  
New York City.

2/5/13 ✓  
February 4th, 1913. s

S i r:

Please see that the Court of Special Sessions is given the necessary number of policemen to look after bastardy cases and serve warrants. Experience shows that unless the same man is kept on these cases the work is not done. In the case of bastardy warrants the officer has to act promptly, and go with the woman very often, and hunt up the culprit. Please send for the Clerk of the court Mr. Smith and arrange the matter with him.

Very truly yours,

*W. H. Murray*  
M y o r.

R. Waldo, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Police,  
New York City.

COPY

P O L I C E   D E P A R T M E N T  
FOURTH DISTRICT

March 25, 1913.

The POLICE COMMISSIONER.

S i r:

In view of the newspaper articles on the recent transfer of some of the members of the Force attached to this District and the false impression created thereby, I respectfully request permission to give to the press the following facts in connection therewith:

That prior to the transfer I had consulted with you on its advisability, as the efficiency of the men transferred had been seriously impaired; some, by charges made against them in the press; others, by being so well known in the District that it was hard for them to get a case against the regular violators of law in this locality.

I assume responsibility for the propriety of above request.

Respectfully,

(Signed) JOHN F. DWYER,

Inspector, 4th District.



OFFICE OF  
THE COMMISSIONER

March 26, 1913.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,  
Mayor, City of New York,  
New York.

S i r:

It has been alleged in some of the papers that a recent transfer of plainclothes men from the office of the Inspector of the Fourth Inspection District was due in some way to the fact that the Inspector some days previously had been sent for by the District Attorney of the County. While it is true that this statement is in fact so absurd that it requires no denial, I deem it proper to report the matter to you.

It has been the policy of the Department to continually change the men assigned to plainclothes duty and used for the enforcement of the vice laws. The men in the District in question had been detailed to this duty longer than any others in New York County. Recently one of them was dismissed the Department for endeavoring to induce a prostitute to employ a lawyer in whom he was interested. Another was tried for perjury, but acquitted for lack of evidence. Two had been accused with abuse of power and indecent conduct with women against whom they were supposed to be operating. Two were repeatedly mentioned in the press in connection with the Goode scandal and had been the subject of several accusations made to the Third Deputy Police Commissioner.

March 26, 1913.

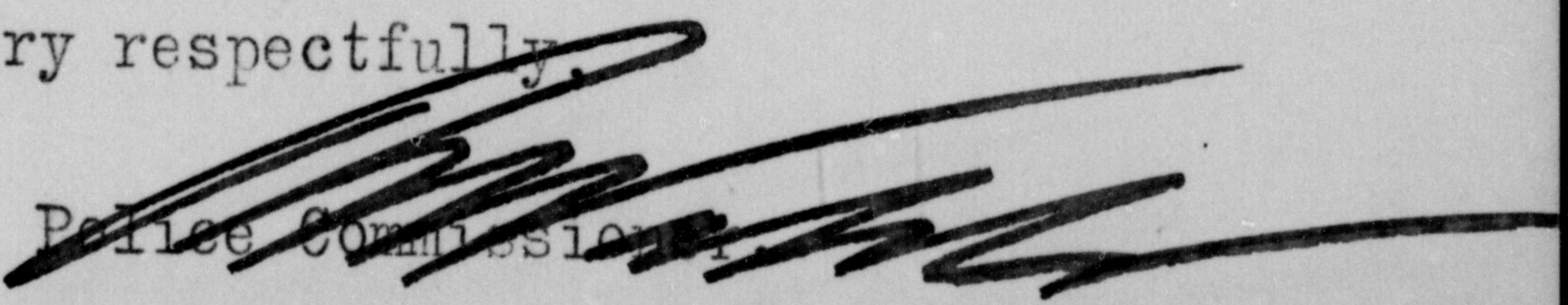
Two more had been accused in the press by an Assistant District Attorney of drinking and carousing with well known characters of the underworld whose establishments they were supposed to be endeavoring to close. Allegations had become so frequent that it was deemed advisable not to allow them to remain longer on duty connected with the enforcement of the vice laws. No possible reason could be seen for not transferring them on account of the fact that the Inspector with whom they were operating had been requested to visit a District Attorney. Since the beginning of the present administration hundreds of men on similar duty have been transferred in like manner without any comment on the part of any one.

The services of these men, or any others, are always entirely at the disposition of the District Attorney for any investigation for which he may desire to use them.

It is the earnest desire of the Police Commissioner at all times to heartily co-operate with the District Attorneys of all the Counties in this City. Lack of co-operation between a District Attorney and the Police Commissioner cannot but operate to the benefit of the law-breaker and to the detriment of the public service. I have and shall continue at all times to co-operate with all of the District Attorneys in any manner that any of them may desire.

I enclose copy of a letter from the Inspector of the Fourth Inspection District, dated March 25, 1913, with reference to this incident.

Very respectfully,

  
Police Commissioner