

# Police deny existence of ticket quotas

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duced the legislation to end what he calls "traffic ticket quotas," because he said police agencies are emphasizing ticket writing instead of fighting serious crime.

"Everyone is concerned with serious crime and its effects on communities, but the present productivity systems used by police management discourages patrol officers from performing the more crime-oriented aspects of police work," the Ann Arbor Democrat said April 27.

**FARMINGTON DEPARTMENT** of Public Safety director Frank Lauhoff said the word "quotas" is misleading. The word implies an "indiscriminate" writing of tickets, he said.

"If he (Bullard) asked, experts

would explain to him, and it can be documented . . . that there's a direct relation in traffic enforcement to the number of accidents," Lauhoff said.

"Without such controls, we would be negligent," he said. "One of the primary responsibilities of any manager, or police chief, is traffic safety."

More than 50,000 lives per year are lost in traffic-related fatalities, he said.

**ANOTHER LOCAL** chief said the bill would have little impact.

"It sounds ridiculous to me for Rep. Bullard to propose such a bill," Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said. "I think he's probably 20 years behind the times."

Years ago "there may have been quotas in place," but recent strides

to develop professionalism in law enforcement have eliminated such things, Dwyer said.

There are no quotas for any officers in the Farmington Hills Police Department, and never have been to my knowledge," he said.

**THE PRACTICE** of requiring officers to write four or five tickets a day began during belt-tightening, which forced departments to look for alternative sources of revenue, Bullard said.

"What does it say to an officer when a system awards 80 points for ticketing a speeder . . . and only 40 points for assisting an elderly person stranded on the side of the road with two flat tires?" Bullard asked.

Bullard's bill would prevent police departments from taking into account the number of tickets an officer writes as part of his job performance.

A spokeswoman for Bullard's office said Thursday she did not believe any one incident prompted Bullard to introduce his legislation.

But she said the legislator had received calls from officers who said they were terminated for not meeting their "ticket quota." She gave no further details.

**JACK BROWN**, head of the Fraternal Order of Police in Michigan, a police officers' union supporting the bill, said at least 90 percent of Michigan law enforcement agencies have ticket quotas in some form.

But spokesmen from the Michigan State Police and the police chiefs association denied the widespread use of quotas. They criticized Bullard's proposal for taking away a legitimate method of evaluating an officer's performance.

"The performance system is putting pressure on them to go out and do an honest day's work for the taxpayers' money . . . to get out of the coffee shops and get off their duffs," Jackson Police Chief Robert Johnson said.

Johnson, who opposes the legislation, denied his department uses quotas but said tickets are included with a number of other items that make up each officer's monthly efficiency report.

Lauhoff said his department looks at the number of tickets written, as it would look at any measure of an officer's performance.

"We measure production for a lot

of things," he said. "We not only look at how many violations they write, but where we write them. There's a level of expectation that any employer should expect."

The Farmington department bases such performance on community averages from years past, Lauhoff said.

"We look at a norm — we expect

that to be a (performance) average," he said.

**THOMAS HENDRICKSON**, executive director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, said Bullard's bill was not needed.

"I don't see . . . any undue emphasis on traffic performance," Hendrickson said.

Michigan State Police Major James Daut said the department's "total activity analysis system" rates officers on, among other factors, the number of tickets written, verbal warnings issued, arrests made and motorists assisted.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

## Focus: surrogate limits

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a maximum punishment of five years in prison and a \$50,000 fine.

Surrogate parents could be fined \$10,000 and jailed up to one year under the proposal.

The bill also would ban surrogate contracts involving compensation and specify that the surrogate and her spouse are the legal parents of a child born in a surrogate arrangement. To obtain custody, a couple would have to go through the usual adoption process.

Faxon said he would not support Binsfield's proposed legislation. "I think it is totally inappropriate for her to dictate how families procreate. It's a matter between couples and private parties. I don't see how you can make a person a felon for being infertile."

**BROTHERTON** is uncertain about the penalties in Binsfield's bill. "We need penalties, but they may be a little harsh. Maybe it should be a misdemeanor. People are committing pretty heinous crimes and are not being punished (to the law's full extent) for it."

Faxon said he would like to see legislation, similar to that in New York, legalizing surrogate parenting and outlining responsibilities and protections of parties entering surrogate agreements.

Binsfield's bill "is an attempt to

take away what the law would protect," said Faxon, adding, "There is a presumed aspect to (surrogate) law" that contracts are enforceable.

Dearborn attorney Noel Keane agrees. "These agreements are legal and they're constitutionally protected."

Keane has handled arrangements for more than 150 surrogate contracts, including the celebrated "Baby M" case in New Jersey.

The attorney said he would like to see court-approved agreements before a baby is conceived through artificial insemination. Keane, like Faxon, would like to see a version of the New York legislation proposed in Michigan.

**PROVISIONS FOR** hefty fines — not included in Binsfield's failed 1983 bill — were a response to Keane, Binsfield said.

Keane said Binsfield ignores the plight of childless couples frustrated by a dearth of babies available for adoption.

"If in fact there's a right to pro-

creation, I don't think a woman or man loses that right because they have a spouse unable to have a child," he said.

Associated Press contributed to this report.



Robert Densmore, Farmington Area YMCA is, YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit president, at Board of Directors chairman; Vernon Lunn, Y Thursday's groundbreaking, capital campaign chairman; and Robert Dav-

## Wellness Center is in works

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"We're all winners in this respect," Densmore said, on a chilly Thursday morning to a gathering of 50 Y boosters.

Bush sees the Wellness Center applying a new approach to the old philosophy of promoting the "well-being of the individual."

In 1991, Luther Gulick, an assistant instructor of the Springfield, Mass., YMCA Training School, delivered a national YMCA convention address advocating symmetry in developing a spirit, mind and body concept.

Out of this approach to the development of Christian character, Gulick created the idea of a triangular logo representing the unity of body, mind and spirit.

The logo is still in use today. "The Wellness Center is a modern vehicle by which we can embellish this philosophy," Bush said.

**THE ADDITION** will be paid for by tapping \$383,000 raised during the 1985 capital fund drive. Part of that money was used in 1986 to buy 1½ acres on the Y's west boundary

for future development. The Y reached 98 percent of its \$440,000 fund-raising goal.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit has 14 branches. Additions also are under way at the Birmingham, Wayne-Westland and South Oakland branches. Renovation has started at several others.

Robert Davis, YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit president, called the groundbreaking "a new beginning."

"But buildings are simply tools to make a difference in the lives of people," he reminded.

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