

Ohio patrol helps quell Elyria violence

ELYRIA, Ohio (AP) — Ohio Highway Patrolmen helped Elyria authorities maintain order in this northeastern Ohio city today following a second night of disorders triggered by the police shooting of a black youth.

Gov. James A. Rhodes ordered 90 patrolmen to the city late Wednesday night in answer to a call for assistance from Elyria Mayor Leonard P. Reichlin.

Policemen and firemen answered repeated calls of firebombings, looting, rock-throwing and assaults, Wednesday evening before patrolmen were called to help.

As outside help was on the way, residents of the city's trouble-plagued, predominantly black southwest side aided firemen and police by talking with youths, asking them to end the disorders and go home.

Police Chief Maurice Flood said 400 to 500 persons were involved in the disturbances, mostly young blacks.

At one point Wednesday night youthful hands ran uncontrolled in a 30-block area in the southwest side, police said.

Flood said another crowd of about 200 was dispersed in the downtown area.

Police said several motorists had objects hurled at their cars.

Firemen reported blazes in at least three buildings.

Fire Chief Lyle Scott said the worst fire was at a bar on the southwest side that did an estimated \$10,000 damage after firebombs were thrown inside. He said firemen had to withdraw from the area after the initial call because youths were throwing rocks and cutting hoses.

Gunfire also was heard in the area, police said.

Scott said that when firemen returned they were surrounded by neighborhood residents who attempted to pacify the youths.

The disturbances followed the shooting Tuesday night of Daryl Maxwell, 19, by Patrolman Michael Killian. Police said Killian fired after the youth was seen climbing out of another southwest bar Tuesday night. Maxwell ignored an order to halt and began to flee, police said.

City Safety-Service Director James T. Tracey said Killian has been suspended and the shooting is being investigated.

After the shooting Tuesday night Tracey said he met with black leaders and a crowd of about 400 blacks at a school parking lot in the neighborhood.

"They (the crowd) wanted retaliation (for Maxwell's death) and I told them it

was going to be handled by the prosecutor's office, the coroner and legal procedures," Tracey said.

Mayor Reichlin also met with groups of blacks before violence erupted Wednesday night. He said an agreement was reached that blacks could monitor the investigation of the shooting.

After disruptions broke out anew during the night, Reichlin said he was "surprised, very surprised."

After meeting with blacks earlier in the day he said, "I feel some regret that I had not in the past paid more attention to the problems of the black community."

The Lorain County sheriff's office reported that 25 deputies were assigned to help with the disturbances.

A spokesman for the sheriff's office said 27 persons arrested during the disorders

were being held in the county jail. Most were charged with inciting to riot.

About three-fourths of those being held in the jail were white, he said.

Elyria Memorial Hospital reported treating 16 persons for minor injuries related to the disturbances. None of those treated was admitted, a hospital spokesman said.

Similar roving disturbances and firebombings occurred sporadically in 1969 in this city of about 53,000, located about 15 miles west of Cleveland.

Police were on strike at the time of those disturbances, but returned to their jobs when the trouble broke out.

City officials attributed the 1969 disturbance to a conflict between a white youth gang and a black youth gang.

U.S. Census figures show Elyria's population as about 13 per cent black.