

## Clement Alexander Price

Remarks given at the unveiling of a Commemorative Plaque at the Old Fourth Precinct,  
July 23, 2008

We all know that Newark is the third oldest major American city. Charles Cummings reminded us of that again and again. Such a city, such an assemblage of communities, should have a long memory given its age. Certainly, such a city should respect those who have sought to keep their memories alive.

We assemble this afternoon to dignify the collective and conflicted memory of the disturbances that wracked this old American community, and this old American city, beginning on July 12th in 1967.

Over the forty-one years that separate us from those days, Newark as a city, Newark as a form of memory, and Newark as a community has sought to remember what led to the breakdown of civic order and civic discipline. What must be remembered about that must be passed on to our young citizens and to others who need to be reminded of the perils of injustice, the power of memory, and the power of place.

Last year, on July 12<sup>th</sup>, we assembled here to acknowledge the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Newark's Summer of Discontent. The Mayor was here. He spoke of Newark's past. He spoke of the days that made this old American ground ground zero for a generation of Newarkers. He spoke of our City's bright future. He also spoke of a commemorative symbol that would be placed here.

Mayor Booker's words draws us back to the Old Fourth Precinct.

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