

Many complaints have been made to the Board of the inconveniences to which citizens are subjected by the strict enforcement of various city ordinances, when there is, in particular instances, no apparent necessity for requiring them to be literally observed, and where individuals are subjected to serious interruption and embarrassments in their business by being required rigidly to conform to them. It cannot be denied that cases have been presented in which the violation of an ordinance would seem not in any manner to affect either the public or any individual injuriously. For instance, whilst the ordinances respecting obstructions in streets are necessarily general in their provisions, there are some portions of streets, near ship-yards, and on the outskirts of the City, which are scarcely ever used except by the owners of property fronting upon them, who have long been in the habit of making use of such streets, in a manner prohibited by the ordinances, but without complaint being made from any quarter. In such cases, it has for many years past been the practice of successive Mayors of the City, to give directions to the Police not to enforce the ordinances, and sometimes to give permit to parties who applied for the privilege of acting contrary to their letter. If, at the instance of individuals, proceedings were instituted against such person to recover the penalties incurred, which it is believed has seldom or ever happened, the city's portion of the fine imposed would of course be remitted. Numerous applications have been made to the Board to give, in like manner, instructions to the police to refrain from enforcing the ordinances in special cases. But, whatever grounds there might have been for a Mayor of the city, as being a part of the Legislature, as well as the chief executive authority of the Corporation, assuming to exercise such powers, it seems very clear that the Board of Police can with no propriety undertake to do the same. It is made expressly their duty by the law creating the Board to "enforce all the ordinances of the city, which may be properly enforceable by a police force," and this they must do in all cases alike.

In the account of the disbursements of the Board, which accompanies this report, will be found a charge for "pay and expenses of detectives," whilst on the roll of the force no names appear of persons employed in that capacity. The Board have made no permanent appointments of detectives, but have, from time to time, temporarily engaged suitable persons to act as such. They respectfully submit that they deem it important for the detection and prevention of crime, that they should, as occasion may require, engage the services of confidential agents; but that the efficiency and use-