On one recent visit to the memorial, I noticed someone had scrawled a note on the wall: “Malice Green—A Civilian Killed in the Line of Duty—That Duty of When.”

As this article went to press, a desperate and sickly-appearing mayor was proposing massive street sweeps and searches in another final solution against urban stress-like units, greater advanced computer access and shiny new patrol cars.

The prosecution would prefer to see a couple of more cops. The last Detroit police chief is doing time in a federal pen for some major racketeering and...