

Huntsville Police Citizens Advisory Council

HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 20-487

September 17, 2020



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BEFORE THE
HUNTSVILLE POLICE CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

IN RE:

Review Pursuant to the Huntsville City Council
Resolution No. 20-487
September 17, 2020
5:00 p.m.

The HPCAC public hearing was taken before
Kennedy Gibbs, CCR, on September 17, 2020,
commencing at approximately 5:00 p.m. at the
offices of Huntsville City Hall, in Huntsville,
Alabama.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Huntsville Police Citizens Advisory Council

Members Present:

Victoria Guerrieri

Willie Love

Shelly McCulley

Jonathan Rossow

Ruben Flores

John Reitzell

John Olshefski

David Little

Gregory Bentley

Wiley Day, Jr.

Counsel:

Trey Riley

Attorney at Law

City of Huntsville Office of City Attorney

308 Fountain Circle City Hall, 6th Floor

Huntsville, Alabama, 35801



1 I, Kennedy Gibbs, a Certified Court
2 Reporter, and a Notary Public for the State of
3 Alabama at Large, acting as Commissioner, certify
4 that on this date, there came before me at the
5 offices of the Huntsville City Hall, in
6 Huntsville, Alabama, commencing at approximately
7 5:00 p.m., on September 17, 2020, the HPCAC public
8 hearing, in the above clause, whereupon the
9 following proceedings were had:

10

11 MS. GUERRIERI: I'll go ahead and call the
12 meeting to order. It's 5:00 o'clock. My name is
13 Vicki Guerrieri. Appointed by Councilwoman
14 Robinson District 3. I am currently serving as
15 chairwoman. On behalf of The Huntsville Police
16 Citizens Advisory Council, I would like to welcome
17 you to the third public hearing regarding the
18 protest events of June 1st and June 3rd.

19 To get us started, I will call the roll of
20 the Advisory Council. When I call your name, I
21 would appreciate it if each member would announce
22 their presence.

23 Willy Love, appointed by the mayor,



1 serving as vice chair.

2 MR. LOVE: Here.

3 MS. GUERRIERI: John Olshefski, appointed
4 by the mayor. John is running a little late.
5 He'll be here. John Reitzel, appointed by the
6 chief of police.

7 MR. REITZEL: Here.

8 MS. GUERRIERI: Ruben Flores, appointed by
9 chief of police, serving as secretary.

10 MR. FLORES: Here.

11 MS. GUERRIERI: David Little, appointed by
12 chief of police, media communications.

13 MR. LITTLE: Here.

14 MS. GUERRIERI: Gregory Bentley, appointed
15 by Councilman Keith, District 1.

16 MR. BENTLEY: Here.

17 MS. GUERRIERI: Jonathan Rossow, appointed
18 by Councilman Akridge, District 2.

19 MR. ROSSOW: Here.

20 MS. GUERRIERI: Shelly McCulley, appointed
21 by Councilman Kling, District 4.

22 MS. MCCULLEY: Here.

23 MS. GUERRIERI: Warren Day Jr., appointed



1 by Councilman Culver, District 5.

2 MR. DAY: Present.

3 MS. GUERRIERI: The Advisory Council was
4 charged by city council resolution with conducting
5 that review. The public hearing is part of the
6 advisory council's fact-finding stage of the
7 ongoing review process. As part of that effort,
8 community input by electronic form was active from
9 July the 7th to August the 7th, with over 750
10 comments received. All correspondence was read
11 and is being considered by members of the advisory
12 council.

13 In addition, the advisory council retained
14 independent legal counsel to assist in the
15 discharge of its duties. Legal counsel created a
16 website, huntsvillepolicereview.com, through which
17 members of the public may upload video or
18 photographs or submit additional comments.

19 Two public hearings were held prior to
20 this group and organizational hearings. The first
21 hearing was August the 12th from 5:00 until
22 8:00 p.m. The second was held August 28th,
23 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This public hearing is



1 for groups and organizations. With the assistance
2 of Mr. Kenny Anderson, Multicultural Affairs
3 Officer for the city of Huntsville, and members of
4 the advisory council who were contacted,
5 invitations were sent to Interfaith Mission
6 Service; NAACP Oakwood University Chapter; Lyons
7 Security; Outreach Group Committee of 100; Dexter
8 Strong; Tennessee Valley Progressive Alliance;
9 NAACP Local Chapter; Citizens Coalition for
10 Criminal Justice Reform, Angela Curry; Essential
11 Nonviolent Uprising Force, ENUF, Jordan Steelman;
12 Reach Huntsville; Liberal Agenda for North
13 Alabama. We were unsuccessful finding an e-mail
14 address to contact them.

15 The presenters were instructed to e-mail
16 their presentations by September the 11th in order
17 to be loaded into the public system in advance, so
18 that it could be handled appropriately. CCCJR
19 requested additional time past the deadline and
20 was accommodated.

21 This evening each presenter has 15 minutes
22 to address the advisory council and to give
23 testimony relevant to the events of June 1 and



1 June 3. This is a listening session. One in
2 which the presenters' comments are the focus. For
3 that reason, and also to maximize the time for
4 public comment, Advisory Council members will not
5 make remarks this evening other than my efforts as
6 chair to guide the procedure.

7 This hearing is being broadcast live on
8 Comcast and also live streaming on Facebook and
9 the city of Huntsville website. It will also be
10 archived. Please keep your remarks civil. As
11 fellow citizens, we should express our views
12 vigorously but in a constructive matter. Foul
13 language that violates the FCC broadcast rules or
14 derogatory name calling of any individual will not
15 be tolerated. Again, decorum and clarity are
16 important here.

17 Each presenter will be given 15
18 uninterrupted minutes after stating their names.
19 Time cannot be given or shared with another
20 speaker.

21 I will call the presenters, beginning with
22 Ms. Angela Curry. Ms. Curry is with the Citizens
23 Coalition for Criminal Justice Reform. If you



1 will state your name, please, and then I'll start
2 the time -- and organization.

3 MS. CURRY: Angela Curry, along with
4 Claudia Mesnil, from Citizens Coalition for
5 Criminal Justice Reform.

6 MS. GUERRIERI: Welcome.

7 MS. CURRY: Thank you. Okay. So we are
8 here today to present information that we gathered
9 from members of our organization. We have Shad
10 Chavez who was going to present, but he's stayed
11 in Mobile due to the hurricane. And so Claudia
12 and I are going to go through the slides, so if
13 you could, go to the next slide -- and add
14 additional information with that. I'm supposed to
15 do that. Okay.

16 So if you can see up above, our vision is
17 to establish an authentic police model within
18 Madison County, to include the Huntsville Police
19 Department, the Madison County Sheriff, and the
20 Madison Police Department. And our goal is to
21 build partnerships in the community involving
22 local residents so that we can enact reform, do
23 continuous improvement as it relates to local law



1 enforcement agencies to the elimination of
2 institutionalized discriminatory policies and
3 practices. And so impartiality, accountability,
4 and transparency are key goals and also the focus
5 of this evaluation related to local protests.

6 We, as an organization or a group, we
7 asked the city council for an independent
8 third-party review related to the June 1st and 3rd
9 protest actions, and we still want to make it
10 clear that that is our preferred method, and the
11 reason that is, is due to the large amounts of
12 evidence and data which must be reviewed and
13 analyzed to draw any meaningful conclusions. We
14 feel like it would have been helpful, so we're
15 grateful for the attorney, but we just felt like a
16 third party who does this on a full-time basis,
17 such as an auditor or something of that effect,
18 would have been the most effective resolve.

19 This is a complex review, and currently
20 there are thousands of complaints to include civil
21 litigations across the country as a result of law
22 enforcement response to protesters that is similar
23 to the Huntsville area.



1 So at this point in time, I'm going to
2 turn it over to Claudia, and she's going to go
3 over the survey that we did in relation to our
4 individual residents who were current -- present
5 at the protests June 1st and 3rd.

6 MS. MESNIL: Thank you, Angela. As she
7 said, I'm Claudia Mesnil, and my portion is going
8 to discuss what the survey consisted of. So once
9 we agreed to do this presentation, we set out to
10 remain as unbiased as possible. So we sent out a
11 survey that remained live for 96 hours, and it was
12 answered by a community, and it was only sent out
13 through social media due to time constraints. Our
14 survey included factual questions and only
15 required respondents to choose the answer based on
16 each statement. All questions did not have to be
17 answered.

18 The number of people who saw small
19 children at the protests. We use Google forms to
20 collect the data. The forms could not be
21 duplicated or filled out twice by the same person.
22 The questions were all optional, so there's no
23 final count of the respondents of the survey,



1 however, there is a count for those who
2 participated in each question. And people could
3 not fill it out twice like I stated. Here we see
4 that 70 percent of those who responded that were
5 at the protests did see small children, once
6 police action escalated.

7 Police Communication. In regards to
8 police communication, we had difficulty itemizing,
9 so we decided to split it into these two
10 subtopics. Number one, police did not communicate
11 permit times. Number two, I did not hear an order
12 to disperse. So in regards to this, we had 73
13 percent of the respondents who said that they did
14 not communicate -- police didn't communicate
15 permit times, and 80 -- or 67 percent said that
16 they did not hear an order to disperse.

17 These are the accounts regarding those.
18 The first states: When announcements were being
19 made, we couldn't understand them. I asked an
20 officer what they were saying, and if we were
21 supposed to be following instructions. He replied
22 by telling me he had no idea because he couldn't
23 hear or understand whatever was being said. I



1 have quite a bit of video, including that
2 interaction with that officer, as was children on
3 the scene.

4 The second account states: The cops told
5 us that protest time was over. The third account
6 states: At around 7:20, I had asked two officers
7 if it was okay for my group to walk back up to the
8 square. Instead of letting me know the permit was
9 over and we needed to leave, he responded I don't
10 know. That's your decision. They did not
11 instruct us to leave or that within ten minutes
12 they would be dispersing the crowd, so we could at
13 least let other protesters know so we could all
14 spread the word. It seemed like they wanted us to
15 walk back into what would be the line of fire.

16 Police evacuation plans. So this one we
17 split it into five different categories. The
18 first was responded by -- or 72 percent of people
19 agreed with it, and they said that police were
20 blocking the roadways. The second one was agreed
21 upon by 83 percent, which stated that the police
22 was present on all sides of the protest like in a
23 fishbowl.



1 The third one was agreed upon by
2 42 percent of the respondents. And it stated,
3 police would not allow you to return to your
4 vehicle, and you had to find an alternate route.
5 And the fourth one states that police were not
6 directing traffic to get the attendants out of the
7 area in a safe and efficient manner, and
8 85 percent of the people who took the survey
9 agreed with this one. 11 percent responded,
10 other.

11 Citizen accounts that agreed with these or
12 that related to these say the following: I left
13 after the first smoke canister was released when
14 riot police started marching off. I'm pregnant
15 and felt unsafe. I was afraid I would be -- by
16 police if I stayed. Since they had started
17 blocking the roads with their vehicles. There was
18 no clear communication with the crowd, is what the
19 second one states.

20 And they were able to navigate out of the
21 fishbowl, but police made it difficult to leave.
22 Police forced a crowd down dangerous stairways. I
23 chose to include this one because we did have



1 senior citizens and small children present at the
2 protest. They used a force and violent agents.

3 I'm going to focus on the two main ones at
4 the very top. But I want to remind you that
5 respondents can choose all the situations which
6 apply or none. 47 percent of respondents checked,
7 I suffered from anxiety from the events,
8 56 percent said that they were affected by tear
9 gas.

10 The accounts that related to these were
11 the following: I was hit with some sort of
12 shrapnel, and I'm unsure if it was from smoke gas
13 cans or rubber bullets or possibly both. Also
14 LRAD was used, and I've had tinnitus issues since
15 them. The second one states, I was extremely
16 affected by the flash restraints or whatever they
17 were, more so than the tear gas. They were
18 extremely traumatizing.

19 Police used physical force or violent
20 agents to disperse the crowds. Respondents chose
21 all or none. 5.3 percent checked that they did
22 receive medical treatment, 27 percent checked they
23 witnessed someone being assaulted by a police



1 officer, and 90 percent checked, I witnessed
2 snipers set up on the roof of several buildings.

3 The accounts related to these are the
4 following: I was injured after falling because I
5 had been tear-gassed and couldn't see where I was
6 going. Lost my phone and scraped up pretty badly.
7 The second one states, they shot my boyfriend in
8 the back with a rubber bullet and that wound has
9 now become a scar. It tore through two articles
10 of clothing. Confiscation of personal property.

11 28.6 percent of respondents said that police tried
12 to take away or destroy medical supplies. None
13 said anything about other personal property.

14 Emergency management. Ten percent of
15 respondents checked officials were on the scene
16 and available to assist people with injuries. 71
17 percent of respondents said that police did not
18 allow medics to help those who were hurt. The
19 accounts that related to these state the
20 following: I was equipped with first aid supplies
21 and rendered first aid to people who had been
22 tear-gassed. While rendering aid, I was forced to
23 leave by a line of police officers.



1 Arrests. All of the respondents who were
2 arrested had two different officers. One that
3 showed up on their arrest report and one who
4 actually arrested them. Some of the individuals
5 were afraid to respond to the survey due to
6 possible implications in their investigation.

7 Use of weapons: Police menaced weapons
8 threateningly either to frighten or provoke
9 reaction. The second account states, I personally
10 witnessed a member of the police force ready
11 prepared with a grenade-launch-style weapons
12 earlier in the evening before it was even close to
13 the end time and before the riot team even showed
14 up, giving a feeling that the police were almost
15 hoping something happened. Another one states, I
16 was told there wasn't an officer that didn't have
17 their badge number concealed in duct tape. All
18 those I talked to who were arrested told me this
19 unanimously.

20 So these are independent accounts, and
21 they're not related to any of our categories. The
22 sheriff told us to get ready with a smile on his
23 face. Like, he was excited to tear-gas us. HPD



1 were making jokes about attacking protesters.
2 They even fist-bumped about the arrests. There
3 were senior citizens there. I'm a senior. I have
4 a terrifying story, and I will never be the same.

5 So for the last bit of our presentation
6 mine was focused on the factual findings of our
7 data and from our survey. Angela is going to
8 explain how that relates to our mission
9 specifically, the mission of the pack.

10 MS. CURRY: So in keeping with our desires
11 for transparency and expanding upon trust and a
12 relationship building within the community, which
13 is part of the mission or the aim of the CAC, we
14 were wondering or expecting that there would be an
15 official time line or progress about this
16 investigation slash review. And so some of the
17 things that we were expecting was that there were
18 going to be a time line of activities once you all
19 decided the process, percentage complete as far as
20 this review is concerned, any significant
21 milestones or findings.

22 Will this be done at some point, or are we
23 only to hear from the CAC when there is a public



1 request for information, or will we hear from the
2 CAC only at the conclusion of this process when
3 the official report is presented to city council?

4 In keeping with impartiality and
5 accountability, we feel that the intent of the
6 decision makers that decided upon the actions
7 taken is vitally important, and they should not be
8 assumed but rather determined based on evidence.
9 So in this slide here, the intent -- was the
10 intent public safety or military exercise? And so
11 if you look at the slide above, you will see some
12 accounts from Chief McMurray's personal accounts
13 and some of the information that we gathered. So
14 on June 1st, in the chief's press release, he
15 denounced the actions of Officer Chauvin of
16 Minneapolis, yet during the protests, he didn't
17 show any signs of engagement or solidarity on
18 either the 1st or the 3rd.

19 But in comparison in 2016, Chief McMurray
20 walked in solidarity with the other protesters
21 rallying over the death of Freddie Gray while he
22 died in police custody in Baltimore.

23 So, yes, we agree that law enforcement



1 should have been prepared for violence just
2 because of what was going on, on the national
3 scene. However, had the sheriff and the chief
4 acted in alignment with their mission, which
5 include protecting life, property, and defending
6 the constitutional rights of all people with
7 compassion, fairness, and integrity, while
8 maintaining public peace and safety, we feel that
9 these incidents wouldn't have escalated to the
10 point that they did.

11 And so then the question is asked, why was
12 the public not forewarned about the dangers and
13 the actions to occur on both the 1st and the 3rd?
14 We know their businesses were informed, but why
15 not the citizens? So here as it relates to
16 transparency, we have heard of NAMAC, which is a
17 regional group that includes the FBI. On a
18 national level on June 1st and June 9th, the FBI
19 issued a press release seeking to identify actors
20 who are instigating violence during protests.

21 Chief McMurray mentioned in his report at
22 least three different persons who were instigating
23 violence prior to the protests. Were those



1 individuals submitted to the numbers provided by
2 the FBI? The Homeland Department of Security also
3 presented a report talking about individuals who
4 were inciting protests -- violence at protests,
5 who some were from right-wing organizations. We
6 also have had damage related to white supremacy in
7 our area. Has that been explored by NAMAC; will
8 there be any updates related to that? What
9 responsibility does NAMAC have in keeping the
10 local government or residents informed about these
11 investigations? If they arrest someone, would it
12 be processed through Jail View, and would it be
13 available for public knowledge.

14 In addition, we want to end with the ACOU
15 guidance for protesters' rights. We hope that you
16 are including that in your investigation, and
17 there are certain guidelines that they lay out.
18 Specifically, about time to give people time to
19 comply to requests, unobstructed exit paths, a
20 clear and detailed way to disperse. And, finally,
21 we leave you with the things that we expect to
22 adhere in this concluded review. Were there any
23 laws violated by law enforcement? What procedures



1 were violated by law enforcement agencies based on
2 their policy and procedure manuals? What will be
3 recompensed for any citizens injured during these
4 proceedings, if it is, in fact, that law
5 enforcement violated procedure? So we have given
6 you a list --

7 MS. GUERRIERI: I believe your time is up,
8 Ms. Curry.

9 MS. CURRY: -- and we hope that you will
10 include those items in your report based on
11 feedback from our group. Thank you.

12 MS. GUERRIERI: Thank you for coming,
13 Ms. Curry. Next, we have Essential Nonviolent
14 Uprising Force, ENUF, Mr. Jordan Steelman. If you
15 will state your name, please, and the organization
16 you represent.

17 MR. STEELMAN: My name is Jordan Steelman,
18 and I represent the ENUF organization, Essential
19 Nonviolent Uprising Force.

20 MS. GUERRIERI: Welcome.

21 MR. STILLMAN: Thank you. All right. So
22 real quick, we are going to go through this. We
23 have a lot of stuff to cover. Basically, the



1 summation of our organization believes that
2 excessive force was used at the protests of June
3 1st and 3rd, and this is how we're going to try
4 and attempt to show this to you.

5 While we are going to focus on the force,
6 so this is quick outline. We're going to examine
7 the force of display that was shown, we're going
8 to examine the actual use of force on both days
9 and then what we think are misuses of force on
10 those days. And we'll conclude it with a brief
11 thought.

12 And real quickly, the use of force during
13 this protest has garnered international attention
14 for Huntsville. This has been on the Internet.
15 We don't want to be seen as a city that violates
16 citizens' constitutional rights, and that's why
17 we're here, that's why we're speaking, so...

18 All right. So brief introduction. On May
19 -- in late May, demonstrations against police
20 brutality began all across the nation after the
21 death of George Floyd. June 1st and 3rd happened
22 here, and they were prime examples of
23 disproportionate and dangerous police uses of



1 force. We also that week had two other protests
2 on May 30th and June 5th that went off without a
3 hitch. No escalation by police. Very much in the
4 same theme as what happened on the 1st and the
5 3rd. There was marches. There was chanting.
6 There was yelling. So we're going to examine what
7 went wrong on the 1st and the 3rd.

8 So this is not the full report. The rest
9 of the report is in the remainder of this
10 document. I just don't have time to present it in
11 15 minutes, so...

12 So move right into it. And, again, all
13 these pictures you're going to see are from June
14 1st and 3rd that citizens captured. So this is
15 the NCSO standing outside on June 3rd. This was
16 the show of force that protesters were met with on
17 June 3rd. Let's get into it.

18 All right. So on June 1st -- let's start
19 with June 1st. I want to start this quote by
20 McMurray -- Chief McMurray. The first thing an
21 officer does when he gets to scene, you better
22 have your boots shined, you better have your
23 uniform clean, and if you're a Huntsville Police



1 Officer, you better look neat and you better look
2 in control. Because an officer's appearance has
3 more force. That's the key. The officer's
4 appearance has more force if you know what you're
5 doing. If you look like a professional, they will
6 treat you like a professional. So that's why the
7 appearance of force is very important. Chief
8 McMurray understands this. We understand this as
9 protesters and citizens. It's important what
10 you're showing.

11 So let's look at what HPD showed on the
12 1st. So immediately out of the gate, HPD and NCSO
13 were all over the courthouse and the courthouse
14 area. HPD SUVs blocked the roads around the
15 courthouse. Initially there were five to ten
16 officers on the courthouse steps. By 6:00 p.m.,
17 there were 20 to 25 officers. Some in light riot
18 gear.

19 After the mayor left around 6:45, SWAT
20 arrived, and by that point and a little after,
21 there were 50 plus officers on the scene. As the
22 disperse order was issued -- or executed -- sorry
23 -- at 7:48 p.m. So these units that were there,



1 we had standard uniformed officers. You had K9
2 units, ones pictured there in the middle, bottom
3 middle. You had full riot-gearred officers;
4 facials, helmets, gas masks.

5 And then weaponry there were batons, less
6 lethal ammunition shotguns, there were some AR-15
7 style platform rifles there, and 40-millimeter gas
8 canister launchers. Those were all there on day
9 one, June 1 very benign incident. That's an
10 extreme show of force for people who are
11 peacefully protesting in our opinions.

12 So real quick just to emphasize, we'll
13 show you some pictures. This is HPD on the left
14 in the full riot gear. We have protesters getting
15 pushed around just a little bit. With some --
16 it's hard to see, but in that top right picture,
17 there are some of those rifles that I was
18 mentioning. And then you can see just at various
19 stages of the night how many officers were
20 actually there. It's excessive.

21 On June 3rd, it was even worse. What HPD
22 lacked in firepower on the 1st, they made up for
23 on the 3rd. And McMurray said it himself, he



1 equates his officers to preparing for war against
2 enemies in combat, saying that they stood the line
3 in talking about protesters, and they wanted
4 confrontation with us. That we were gearing up --
5 protesters were gearing up for war.

6 So let's look again at the show of force
7 that was there. HPD and NCSO again stationed all
8 around the courthouse, including on the roofs, and
9 they were blocking streets. The HPD SUVs again
10 blocked the roads around the courthouse. On the
11 3rd, there were snipers on the courthouse. I
12 think it's already been mentioned tonight, and
13 they were actively aiming at the crowd.

14 I want to be very clear about that. We
15 actually have photos of that that are coming up.
16 That's a very unnerving thing to see as you show
17 up to your courthouse to protest. That same night
18 a hundred plus officers in riot gear SWAT, IRT,
19 state troopers, Madison County Sheriff's Office
20 came in. It was the whole shebang. Everyone was
21 there in terms of law enforcement agencies.

22 So let's look at some gear. Again, you
23 had full-riot gear officers. This was



1 interesting. There were actually MP5s there,
2 fully-automatic submachine guns. Not quite sure
3 why that's needed at peaceful protests. Those are
4 very dangerous weapons that are designed for war,
5 and I understand SWAT has them for extreme
6 situations that they're in, but we don't
7 personally believe they're needed at protests.

8 That weapon by itself can kill a lot of
9 people. Same with AR-15s or these M4A1 style
10 rifles they have. We aren't really sure which
11 ones they are. They are very dangerous weapons.
12 They are high-powered high-caliber rifles intended
13 to kill people. And that's the message you're
14 sending out of the gate to protesters. Not ideal.
15 So there are also less lethal munitions. Again,
16 stick batons and the normal chemical agents you
17 have, such as CS gas, pepper spray, and the
18 launchers you have associated with those.

19 So just to emphasize, here's some
20 pictures. On the left, you can see an officer
21 gearing up with gas masks, and you have the
22 snipers on the roof. Two pictured there actively
23 aiming, again, might I add. And on the right you



1 can see some of the various things that the
2 sheriff's office had. And not to be outdone,
3 here's some more pictures from HPD. The MP5s and
4 the ARs are pointed out on the left there.

5 And you can see just the excessive amount
6 of officers. It was a very intimidating event.
7 You did not feel welcome if you were a protester.
8 Just due to the show of force. And that was -- I
9 want to reiterate that was on June 3rd the minute
10 you walked up to the courthouse. Some of these
11 officers were already here in full gear, ready to
12 go.

13 So let's move on to the use of force.
14 Nice shot here from one of our local
15 photographers. So June 1st in terms of use of
16 force, was definitely the less severe of the two
17 days in question, but it was interesting given how
18 the force was used. The protest was largely
19 dispersing by itself by many accounts. And some
20 of these -- some of the ineptitudes, if not
21 handled, really could have resulted in serious
22 injury to protesters.

23 So I have two bullets here that are very



1 similar, on the top right. But there's one
2 difference, and that is, it's worded, unknowingly.
3 So let's look at it. Starting at 7:48, smoke
4 grenades and tear gas were used to funnel most
5 protesters to Big Spring Park stairs. Both ends
6 of Jefferson Street were blocked by the police,
7 and then another unit of police was stationed
8 across the square to force exit routes by blocking
9 roads.

10 So if you look at the second bullet,
11 you'll see in the middle, tear gas used to funnel
12 most protesters. It will have, in other words,
13 unknowingly -- and that's a big key there.
14 Protesters had no idea what was going to happen
15 and what was going on. There were no audible
16 dispersal orders. And Claudia and Angela touched
17 on that. Two-thirds of people did not hear it, by
18 their survey. We have other statistics to back
19 that up. If you don't know what's going on in
20 extreme situations, that will incite panic.
21 Straight, plain, and simple. So this is a big
22 deal to unknowingly do this to protesters.

23 Also some of the protesters experienced a



1 situation where a young man pulled a firearm,
2 brandished it at an officer. I just want to
3 briefly look at that response by the officer.
4 Obviously that man should not have pulled his
5 firearm, should not have brandished it. But the
6 officer's response put a lot of people in danger.

7 He pulled his handgun right back at that
8 man with a whole crowd of people behind that
9 individual. That's a high-collateral risk. And,
10 again, the crowd is at a high-panic risk again
11 because now there's actual deadly force that could
12 be used against them. So fortunately, the citizen
13 complied, and no one was hurt.

14 So let's look at June 3rd. June 1st
15 definitely set the stage for June 3rd. There were
16 three law enforcement agencies in downtown, all
17 working simultaneously to disperse this crowd or
18 maintain the crowd, whatever you'd like to say.
19 So, again, HPD used chemical dispersal agents
20 including CS gas and pepper spray.

21 And, again, panic ensued due to the clear
22 lack of direction by HPD. It's how protesters
23 were supposed to disperse. Some of the HPD



1 officers exhibited indiscriminate use of dispersal
2 agent ammunitions. Officers were seen pepper
3 spraying arbitrarily into protesters that were
4 dispersing. Using less lethal rounds without
5 following manufacturer or range recommendations,
6 or skipping the rounds against the grounds, and
7 less lethal rounds were used on unarmed protesters
8 who had their hands in the air. Credentialed
9 media were also shot and herded in and out of CS
10 gas arbitrarily.

11 So we have a couple videos. I'll start
12 with this one. Actually, let's do this one. This
13 was a member of the media. You can hear, right
14 here, he yells, media. If you were able to listen
15 to this video, and he's just being sprayed for no
16 reason. He's filming, he's doing his job, and
17 he's been sprayed. And, again, to emphasize the
18 media points, this is another scenario where a
19 group of media had congregated in front of Cotton
20 Row. They are right next to the line of officers.

21 As you see, a tear gas canister gets
22 administered. And then skip ahead just a little
23 so I can do this, in interest of time. So now the



1 media is forced to move off the square by the tear
2 gas that was thrown, and they're going to get
3 herded back into the tear gas just here in a
4 second by another line of officers.

5 This is clearly not good communication,
6 and this is exactly what the protesters were
7 experiencing. We did not -- protesters did not
8 know where to go. They had no idea what to do
9 because of the inaudible or insufficient
10 communication.

11 Again, in interest of time, I'm going to
12 move ahead. If it will let me advance. There we
13 go.

14 So let's talk about what we perceive as
15 misuse of force. Just real quickly, these are
16 only some of the injury photos that we gathered
17 from protesters. And I'd like to highlight
18 especially the one of calves and the back of the
19 elbow. Those kind of injuries are sustained
20 either when you're not facing who's shooting you
21 or you're guarding yourself with your hands or
22 your arms.

23 So these are defenses for protesters that



1 actually were complying that were shot and had
2 force used against them. And the bottom right we
3 again have some of the ammunitions that were
4 recovered by our organization.

5 So the summary here is, we think on both
6 June 1st and 3rd, excessive force was used by the
7 police, by Huntsville Police Department, and it
8 was very poorly managed and has led to confusion,
9 panic, and lasting psychological trauma, and
10 definitely physical injury, as is clear on the
11 last slide. We think that the weaponry that was
12 brandished by the police was wholeheartedly
13 excessive.

14 That combat equipment was brought to a
15 protest against police brutality, and that just
16 sends a bad message. We think there is blatant
17 disregard for protesters' safety and improper use
18 of less lethal ammunitions. Again, we've already
19 talked about how those were misused, and, again,
20 keying on the protesters facing away. That's
21 really, really important.

22 They were shot while they were actually
23 complying in certain cases. Again, rifles aimed



1 at the crowd, quantity of dispersal agents used.
2 These things are just outrageous offenses in terms
3 of our organizational stance, that's how we think
4 about it. And then also we think it was handled
5 very ineptly.

6 The crowd was unnecessarily aggravated,
7 police escalated, and then it definitely did not
8 fall in line with the ACLU protesters' rights as
9 defined by them. And it was poor planning that
10 led to all of this, and it could have been much
11 worse things that happened. Please see the rest
12 of the presentation attached.

13 MS. GUERRIERI: Thank you very much for
14 coming, Mr. Steelman.

15 MR. STEELMAN: Thank you.

16 MS. GUERRIERI: We have representatives of
17 city associations and groups that have come to
18 sign in to speak tonight. And the first person to
19 sign is Lyle Voyles, and he is representing the
20 Chaffee Neighborhood Association.

21 If you'll state your name, please.

22 MR. VOYLES: Chairmen Guerrieri, advisory
23 council members, my name is Lyle Voyles. I serve



1 as the community watch coordinator and president
2 of the Chafee Neighborhood Association that is
3 comprised of 864 homes.

4 MS. GUERRIERI: Welcome.

5 MR. VOYLES: Thank you. And I have lived
6 there since leaving the service in 1986, and since
7 that time, I've been involved in both of these
8 community organizations that has provided me the
9 opportunity to interact with the dedicated
10 personnel in our various city covenants, who make
11 Huntsville one of very finest cities in the United
12 States, and certainly one of safest.

13 The positive presence and influence of our
14 police department is not only visually evident on
15 our community streets but also in the programs,
16 meetings, and social events affecting our
17 neighborhood. All of our precinct members have
18 been very in tune with the community and emphasize
19 the need for information flow and cooperation
20 between the police department and community. The
21 availability of an active citizen observer program
22 is encouraged, and I can personally attest riding
23 with an officer particularly at night, would leave



1 a citizen with astounded appreciation for our line
2 officers and what they put up with to protect the
3 citizen.

4 I strongly encourage every citizen who's
5 planning to criticize our police force to take
6 advantage of the citizens of the program before
7 making public comments about our police leadership
8 or officer conduct. Our precinct and their
9 relationships officers are always responsive to
10 issues brought to their attention, and when
11 appropriate, provide feedback on actions taken.

12 The police chief, precinct manager,
13 community relationship officers, and other police
14 department representatives are frequent guest
15 speakers in our civic association meetings. Their
16 presence and participation in providing
17 information and answering questions at these
18 meetings enhances our confidence in the police
19 force and provides calm and stability within the
20 community. Requests for routine patrols and
21 occasional requests for radar for speed control
22 are very supported as quickly as possible.
23 Responses to calls from community watch members



1 are immediate. A community picnic for the police
2 department provides special displays and
3 activities that are beneficial and interesting,
4 not only to the adults, but to the children as
5 well, such as the K9 demonstrations.

6 The Huntsville Police Department website
7 contains a treasure of critical information that
8 each citizen should take the time to read; the
9 total involvement of the police department in all
10 of the above areas and activities directly
11 contributes toward maintaining my older community
12 as one of the very finest communities within the
13 city of Huntsville.

14 I submit the state with sincere pride and
15 respect and gratefulness for the men and women of
16 the Huntsville Police Department, and all other
17 law enforcement agencies, for the security and
18 safety they provide for my family, community, and
19 the great city of Huntsville. Thank you.

20 MS. GUERRIERI: Thank you for coming,
21 Mr. Voyles. At this time, we're going take a
22 brief recess. We will be back in five to seven
23 minutes.



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(Break.)

MS. GUERRIERI: We will now continue. Our second speaker to sign in this evening in Mr. Aladin Beshir with the Interfaith Mission Service.

MR. BESHIR: Good evening. Thank you for your service to the community.

MS. GUERRIERI: Welcome, Mr. Beshir.

MR. BESHIR: Here we are standing for solidarity against racism of every kind, color, shape, or form. Our faith organization is over 50 years old. Started during the Civil Rights era. I'm standing here on the paved road that you paved and sacrificed for, so thank you for that.

Our faith called us to obey the law of the land and protect private property. We must understand that the basis of the outrage and the protests initially responded with real change. We call upon all government and the Constitution to realize that the status quo cannot be maintained simply because it normalizes oppression.

1 What we're looking at for the 1st and 3rd
2 is looking through a needle hole. We're looking
3 for symptoms of existing disease. It will flare.
4 It will go away. The symptoms will go away, but
5 the disease is still, and it will flare, and it
6 will come back again.

7 Shooting is not a way of building peace.
8 Shooting at the protesters is not teaching our
9 children that when they come to protest we are
10 protected under constitution. It's teaching them
11 when you get to the age of carrying a bullet or
12 carrying a gun you just bring it with yourself to
13 protect yourself in a protest. An eye for an eye
14 until everybody goes blind. And that's why you do
15 what you do. We can't establish peace with a
16 bullet. We can't establish it by snipers on top
17 of the courthouse and did anyone not supposed to
18 show their guns. They were just supposed to use
19 the code. Excuse me. I'm over 25 by years and
20 years and years. You don't need a sniper to go
21 through this code. You can do it with your
22 iPhone.

23 I was talking to somebody close to my



1 heart, and she told me, I don't want to listen, I
2 don't want to listen, and I know her from the
3 bottom of my heart. I said, what do you mean.
4 She said because it will not make a difference. I
5 hear that in a meeting that we have 47 different
6 representatives from the congregations of MSHRC
7 and other concerned citizens.

8 Dr. Oscar looked at me and said Aladin,
9 this is -- is that going to be another exercise or
10 let's talk kumbaya and feel good. I hope that's
11 not the case. That's not for me. And at the end
12 of the line, I'm talking about my grandchild and
13 your grandchildren and great grandchildren in the
14 future. God willing. I had it good, and I hope I
15 do, and I hope your children will have it better
16 than I do. I had better than I deserve.

17 Obviously, there is a problem with
18 training and miscommunication. With the federal
19 and the false intelligence and all these beautiful
20 buzz words, and this is my sandbox and this is
21 your sandbox, and you stand here and I stand here.
22 There's a citizen in the middle. Dr. Pepper,
23 which I worked with her for years in homeless



1 cause. Beautiful soul. She was in Huntsville
2 here in Alabama during the constitution. I didn't
3 see anybody saying okay, Dr. Pepper, come, let's
4 talk about it and see what you observed. But that
5 from June 1st to now. I'm not complaining. I'm
6 sorry. I'm blaming myself. I'm blaming myself.

7 From June, if I'm running a nonprofit or
8 if I'm running profit for profit business, people
9 would kick me out. They tell me to sleep on the
10 wheel. I'm also involved in HRC. We all saw --
11 nobody saw it coming, but when it did, it came and
12 hit us hard. I hope next time is not going to hit
13 us harder.

14 There is young man who wrote me and said
15 that I'm talking about truth and reconciliation
16 commission. That's what I'm talking about.
17 Talking about people really that can sit and do
18 root cause analysis and come up with solutions and
19 come up also of what the gaps that you work on
20 hard for four or five months -- and thank you for
21 that.

22 I'm sure it wasn't easy for you to come
23 find out who did what, when, where. If it's going



1 to take Aladin to come and get on his knees and
2 say I did a mistake. I'm sorry. Forgive me. I'm
3 not bigger than a position or anybody. Everybody
4 get on his knees in front of God. And I'm getting
5 on my knees for cause.

6 I'm getting on my knees for peace. For
7 peace. If that was the cause, God as my witness,
8 I will stand on my knees in the courthouse -- in
9 front of the courthouse for a month begging for
10 forgiveness.

11 Racism exists in my opinion. Not only my
12 opinion. They young ones don't have pacts. They
13 see each other. They see each other no color,
14 majority of them. That's why you see them
15 standing in the line. Community concerns in the
16 African American community. Community is still
17 segregated. I don't have to tell you that. You
18 accommodated me here. Go to any church on Sunday.
19 I'm sorry. I'm speaking from the heart. And I'm
20 talking to myself. I'm not talking to you. I'm
21 talking to myself. There is a lot of work to be
22 done. Community is still segregated and not all
23 citizens have opportunities, quality of life.



1 When I first came to Huntsville, there was
2 a dream above and a dream below. That was 23
3 years ago. Authority does not want black too
4 close -- too close to them to get close to them,
5 neither do the poor next to them. Look at our
6 neighborhoods. That's not our -- that's --
7 somebody lives in this neighborhood. And I'm
8 repeating it because I believe it. I believe it.
9 What has Huntsville done to require if race is
10 even an issue.

11 There's a lot of good people like you are
12 doing, but we need to communicate outside these
13 four walls. People need to know that we came.
14 People want know that we're working toward a
15 better future because some of them don't have an
16 idea. They don't, and we are sitting on this
17 chair. This little phone, one text, one tweet,
18 goes to million. One thank you will go to a
19 million. There is concern that people are
20 comfortable and they're ignorant from this point
21 of view.

22 The police officer get out of his car
23 every day. Every time they get out of the car, he



1 doesn't know if he's coming back or not. He
2 doesn't know me from Adam. He doesn't know if I'm
3 going to kill him. If I'm a nice guy, if I'm a
4 bad guy. Who knows? But this man need to be
5 appreciated. These men -- and also need to be
6 trained to protect themselves and to protect
7 others.

8 If I am 6'2, 280 pounds and I get out of
9 car, why are you stopping me, I'm -- we need to
10 teach the police officer the different caution and
11 perspective and how to handle stress. His job is
12 stressful enough. Especially if somebody has
13 mental disability. And there is plenty of that.

14 Huntsville inquire racists exist or not.
15 There is concern that people are comfortable in
16 their ignorance. There is a lack of courtesy
17 toward those who look and behave differently from
18 them. We all been training -- in -- the national
19 buy as -- not all of us, but there are a lot of
20 good people, and that's why I'm here. Given a
21 voice to the scarce of minority within a different
22 -- with defective -- an effective area of the
23 majority. Let's go. We are God bless --



1 I have privilege to work with a lot of
2 you. I'm appreciative for that. I'll call
3 somebody and say, hey, I'm going to Oakwood
4 tomorrow. Would you come with me. I'll drive
5 you. Let's go. We'll go. We'll go once a month.
6 It's very hard to hate from far -- from close up.
7 It's very hard to hate from close up. I would
8 like to take this opportunity to thank you for
9 what you do and offer a unity in establishing --
10 don't throw it on yourself. Please don't through
11 it on yourself. Please don't. If you do, that's
12 your problem. God bless you.

13 No matter what we do, it has to be coming
14 to hold people accountable, not for the needle
15 hole, but for the whole picture. What was before
16 it, what happened to cause this type of action and
17 reaction. I'm 60 plus years old. I can't run
18 down these steps anymore. If I have gas grenades
19 here and bullets, I don't care what they call it
20 -- if it's in bags -- I'm just sending flowers
21 with a gun.

22 It doesn't matter because I'm going to
23 fall over this chair or these steps, and some of



1 us are on blood thinner, and if we hit the floor,
2 they're dead. I don't think any of us want that
3 in our conscience. I know that the courthouse --
4 I am ex-military and I'm privileged to be
5 ex-military. I looked at the courthouse.

6 I have 16 community members who were
7 driving to downtown Huntsville. I call them, I
8 said make a U-turn. This is a trap. This is a
9 trap. Make a U-turn -- I'm not trained military.
10 It doesn't take people with a machine gun and
11 trucks to protect downtown Huntsville. You can do
12 it with eight guys. Old as I am, we can do it
13 with eight guys.

14 I want to ask you one question. Have you
15 seen a bullet? Have you seen the rock that the
16 courthouse -- one rock. Okay. One windshield.
17 I'm not for political. This is life matter and
18 this life matter. No. I'm not here to make a
19 point. I'm talking about humanity. Do you see
20 anybody hurt anybody?

21 Did you see somebody calling a police name
22 in the middle of all that? I did not. I haven't
23 seen that for over 90 days. Did you hear the



1 police officer getting called a name? They all
2 like my kids -- I love them to death. I love them
3 to death.

4 Please protect everybody. May God bless
5 you, and thank you for listening to me.

6 MS. GUERRIERI: Thank you, Mr. Beshir, for
7 coming. Our next speaker is Ms. Latoya Piper with
8 Lions Pride Securities. Ms. Piper, if you would
9 use the other speaker, please. Just give us your
10 name and the organization you represent.

11 MS. PIPER: My name is Latoya Piper. I'm
12 the owner and chief security of Lions Pride
13 Securities.

14 MS. GUERRIERI: Welcome.

15 MS. PIPER: We do security throughout the
16 community in several different areas. We do event
17 security. We do club security for several
18 different places throughout Huntsville, so we do
19 feel very deeply connected to this community.

20 Due to what happened at the first protest,
21 we decided to go on June 3rd as an organization to
22 go and assist the protesters and try to weed out
23 anyone who may have been an outside agitator so



1 that the people who wanted to exercise their
2 rights and go on peaceful protests could do so
3 without someone who doesn't even share their
4 community coming in and hindering that and causing
5 problems between them and law enforcement. What
6 we didn't exactly expect was to be attacked by law
7 enforcement.

8 Please let me be clear when I say this
9 that I am completely unbiased. I'm very, very
10 close working relationship with HPD here. I see
11 some of them also every single night, get along
12 with them. No issues whatsoever. I've never --
13 other than this incident -- ever been treated
14 unfairly by them, so please understand when I say
15 this, I have no bias whatsoever.

16 I am trained to the teeth -- better than
17 some of them probably as far as tactics,
18 strategies, things of that nature. I'm also a
19 combat veteran. I saw it getting ready to happen.
20 I saw it getting ready to happen. We were warned,
21 not very loudly. We were warned. I was somewhat
22 of a barrier between law enforcement and the
23 protesters at very many points. He did have a



1 megaphone. It was not very loud. We were warned.
2 I tried to echo that, but of course, I can't echo
3 that to everyone.

4 So, yes, there were a lot of people who
5 did not know that what was about to happen was
6 about to happen. We saw them coming down onto a
7 knee, some of them, with crazy looking smirks on
8 their face as they started to gear up, put their
9 gear on. I went around, I tried to warn people,
10 you know, CS gas is coming. Based on what
11 happened at the last protest, CS gas is coming.
12 If you are not prepared for that, leave now. If
13 you are prepared for that and you are going to
14 stay here, we will be here to give you-all aid.

15 So we did that. We were a very visible
16 barrier between the law enforcement and the
17 civilians out there as well. Everyone was clearly
18 marked as security, and we actually called law --
19 HPD and put it out what we would be doing, that we
20 would be unarmed and that we would be out there to
21 help everyone in the situation including law
22 enforcement so that everything could go out
23 without a hitch. And if things did get bad, we



1 were out there to give aid as well. Myself and my
2 second in command had first aid kits on them.

3 So when everything hit the fan, basically,
4 it kind of happened at the drop of a hat. The
5 area that I was in, I saw no officers being
6 attacked. I saw no one throwing anything. When I
7 did see things being thrown, it was after the gas
8 already started, and they were at vehicles that
9 were passing by -- the law enforcement vehicles
10 that were passing by that their windows were up.
11 I do not believe that throwing water bottles at
12 vehicles merits the response that was given.

13 Our largest complaint, myself personally
14 and as an organization, is that on more than one
15 occasion we attempted to give aid to people as we
16 previously told law enforcement that we were out
17 there to do. Not only was I shot with a rubber
18 bullet while my back was turned, and I do have a
19 scar, and you can clearly see the trajectory of
20 it. But we were gassed.

21 Thank goodness that I'm a combat veteran,
22 so I was prepared for that. My second in command
23 took it a little bit hard. There was one female



1 having a very severe asthma. And one of the
2 pictures were actually on the slide that one of
3 the gentleman before showed. My security actually
4 had to physically pick her up and carry her as if
5 she was a wounded casualty of war to get her out
6 of the area. We had to move her three different
7 times.

8 I apologize. Due to me being a one-woman
9 show as far as my business, I'm very busy, so I
10 wasn't able to get anything properly uploaded. I
11 have issues doing it. But I've got four hours of
12 body cam that shows the entire thing clear as day.
13 You can see the sheriff's officers on the side of
14 the line, who really my bigger gripe is with
15 because they were the ones with the rubber
16 bullets.

17 You could see them on the side of the line
18 coming out, deploying rubber bullets, and coming
19 back. My second in command -- if you saw the
20 woman on the one slide that had a rubber bullet in
21 each of her calves, we attempted to give her aid
22 right then and there. But my second in command
23 had to actually drop the bandage that he was in



1 progress of wrapping around her to move her to
2 another area.

3 And this is all clearly on camera if you
4 will allow me to get this to you-all on another
5 date. But a sheriff's deputy comes forward and
6 says we will not move this line, you will not come
7 behind this line. Now, strategically I understand
8 that. However, once you take that oath, you have
9 to give aid.

10 This woman is standing here bleeding, and
11 we have to walk to another area. These are
12 civilians who don't -- this is not their
13 playground. Chaos is my home. Chaos is officers'
14 home. We have to be able to function in things
15 like that; however, this was civilians that this
16 was happening to. They were being gassed. At one
17 point, I saw a canister come down from some
18 vantage point. I don't really know where. But we
19 were being gassed from high. We were being gassed
20 from low. We were being shot. We were being
21 aimed at.

22 I don't have all of the gripes that
23 everyone else came up and had a problem with



1 because I do understand being in -- directly in
2 danger's way, in harm's way and having to be
3 ready. I do understand why you need to already
4 have your gun out if someone is pointing a gun at
5 you.

6 I understand that you're not going to
7 approach someone with an AR15 or anything of the
8 like without a weapon in your hand. So please
9 understand when I'm saying this. I get why a lot
10 of things that happened with the police happened.
11 I understand better than most.

12 However, I also operate in the same type
13 of stomping grounds. And I'm sorry to sound like
14 I'm tooting my horn, but I hold myself
15 exceptionally well. I don't understand why if I
16 can do this, and I can get my team to implement my
17 same practices with people who are far more unruly
18 than those people who were at that protest. Why
19 can't we do this in our law enforcement as well?
20 Why is there such a big barrier between the way
21 that we relate to one another.

22 I mean, I'm going to be honest with you.
23 At a protest where we're talking about racial



1 injustice, where were all the black officers? Why
2 would you not, you know, put someone there -- of
3 course, I'm not saying why would you no -- but why
4 would they not put someone there that's going to
5 be a little bit more sympathetic?

6 The ones that are not going to go down on
7 a knee, and when we're out sitting there, and the
8 people thought they were going to a knee, taking a
9 knee with them, and they started clapping saying
10 march with us. I knew that wasn't what was
11 happening. But I'm thinking maybe if we say march
12 with us, everyone does it, maybe they'll march
13 with us.

14 And you've got people laughing, the
15 officers laughing, like, while they're putting
16 their stuff on, like, wow, you guys just don't
17 even know what we're about to do to you. It was
18 almost sadistic. I believe that the answer to
19 this -- I'm going to be honest with you. I don't
20 think Huntsville Police knew to retrain. They are
21 some of the most well-trained officers we have in
22 the city.

23 I think that when you get orders from up



1 top, you follow orders from up top especially if
2 you believe in the organization that you work for.
3 So I believe that the problem here is not
4 necessarily all of the officers or Huntsville PD
5 as a whole. I think that the orders that came
6 down were wrong, and I believe that they tried to
7 set into play something -- a game plan based on a
8 violence that hadn't even happened yet.

9 Like I said, we were there. We were there
10 to give aid. We had six to eight people out there
11 to give aid to help along with officers. Honestly
12 if that had been played correctly, anyone that was
13 outside agitating and going to ruin things for the
14 people who actually did want to peacefully protest
15 and get their voices heard, if the police really
16 wanted to do things properly, they could have
17 basically gotten with us and had us helping them
18 take people, hand them over to them so that
19 everyone could have continued doing what they were
20 doing.

21 Everything that happened was completely
22 uncalled for. We weren't allowed to give aid. We
23 were just pushed in random place. I obviously



1 have no idea where we ended up. We had to use GPS
2 just to get back to our vehicle. There was no
3 clear-cut directions. Everything was just move,
4 go, move, go, move, go.

5 And basically we don't care who's hurt,
6 who's bleeding, who can't read, y'all are going to
7 get out of here right now, and we don't care about
8 your safety. Based on the social media response
9 after this happened, the people are hurt. Like,
10 the people are hurt. The people have lost their
11 faith in the police department.

12 And it's awful because these are people
13 that have to go out in their communities every day
14 and police and interact with people who now don't
15 trust them. Or for the people who already didn't
16 trust them, now they trust them even less because
17 of what happened. The response that I saw from
18 the people really showed that something has to
19 change in regards to that.

20 Thank goodness that there was not another
21 incident where the protests got that out of hand
22 in Huntsville. But they're right, we did garner
23 national attention for this. We were all over



1 social media for what happened. And it wasn't a
2 good thing, and I've always held Huntsville up as
3 one of the most progressive cities in the south.
4 In that, you know, I'm from southeast Georgia.
5 We're nothing like down there.

6 And after what happened, I just don't
7 quite feel the same way anymore. I am a little
8 bit more weary when I deal with police on the
9 scene. You know, I make sure that they understand
10 who I am. I make sure that they understand our
11 working relationship because I don't want
12 something like that to happen at one of clubs that
13 I secure where everything is just going to go to
14 hell really quickly.

15 It's just -- that's all I really have to
16 say. It was a really unfortunate situation. It
17 was completely mishandled. I don't think that a
18 retrain is in order. I think that different
19 leadership is in order, and that's all.

20 MS. GUERRIERI: Thank you very much for
21 coming, Ms. Piper.

22 MS. PIPER: Thank you.

23 MS. GUERRIERI: The next person who signed



1 up to speak, Mr. Mark Prill with the Green
2 Mountain Civic Group. Mr. Prill, if you'll state
3 your name and the organization you represent for
4 the record.

5 MR. PRILL: Yes. I'm Mark the current
6 president of the Green Mountain City Association
7 Committee.

8 MS. GUERRIERI: Welcome.

9 MR. PRILL: I'm representing the larger
10 Green Mountain Community. On behalf of our
11 mountaintop residents, I'd like to express our
12 sincere appreciation for our Huntsville Police
13 Force. With a special thanks to the commander and
14 members of the South Huntsville Precinct for their
15 direct support of our Southeast Huntsville
16 community.

17 First and foremost, we owe a personal debt
18 of thanks to all the men and women of the police
19 force who exercise a personal career choice to
20 voluntarily step up on a daily basis putting
21 themselves in harm's way to make this a great city
22 to live and work in, keeping us safe around the
23 clock. Thank you.



1 As a personal representative of the Green
2 Mountain community, I have had the opportunity to
3 engage with multiple southeast Huntsville Precinct
4 Commanders, and they have been, without exception,
5 outstanding individuals who have demonstrated
6 passion and care for our Southeast Huntsville
7 community. They have been very cooperative to
8 engage in and emphasize public outrage and
9 positive dialogue to ensure robust information
10 flow and cooperation between the police department
11 and our respective community members.

12 From a neighborhood-specific perspective,
13 requests for routine patrols and requests for
14 radar speed control are always supported as
15 resource availability allows the police across the
16 area. The police have been responsive to the
17 reports of theft and other criminal activities,
18 and we have nothing but the highest regard for
19 their support for our local community.

20 While there's always an opportunity for
21 improvement, we believe we've got to err on the
22 side of law and order. Proactively robust
23 training in advance of realistic scenarios is



1 needed to ensure minimal risk for misjudgment and
2 missteps.

3 However, where peaceful protests
4 demonstrate -- I'm sorry -- degenerates to
5 demonstration of threatening behavior, where
6 malicious activity threatens law abiding citizenry
7 or businesses and individual behaviors clearly
8 devolve with obvious intent and motivation to
9 incite violence, it has crossed the line of
10 reasonableness, good order, and discipline from
11 the average citizen.

12 Unfortunately, what we saw in the protests
13 in downtown Huntsville seemed to be a good
14 instance of this particular problem. Unfortunate,
15 because it underlines the credibility for the
16 legitimate protest. Under the extremes of the
17 circumstance -- under those circumstances, we must
18 defer to the police judgment for appropriate
19 response to safeguard the greater community and
20 cannot find fault for incidents in the intensity
21 in the moment that we saw under these
22 circumstances.

23 Where there are confirmed abuses, those



1 need to be appropriate -- we need to be have
2 appropriate accountability for wrongful actions
3 and ask this advisory council to dually consider
4 guidance to local police. In all instances, we
5 ask for equitable treatment, protection, and
6 service for all citizens.

7 However, again, in our instance, we
8 provide support for the local police department.
9 We believe they're doing a great job and request
10 that you find again for equitable treatment for
11 all citizens and do due diligence as far as
12 accessing the protest and the demonstration of the
13 activity that we saw at the time. Thank you.

14 MS. GUERRIERI: Thank you for coming,
15 Mr. Prill.

16 Do we have anyone else in the audience who
17 signed up to speak? At this time, we will take a
18 short recess and see if anyone comes in to sign up
19 to speak. Thank you. We will be available here
20 until 8:00 p.m.

21

22

(Break.)

23



1 MS. GUERRIERI: Go ahead and call the
2 meeting back to order. We've had an extensive
3 break. I'd like to now -- we do have another
4 speaker representing a group, and we will
5 continue.

6 Ms. Lindsey Louque. If you will state
7 your name and the name of the group you're with.

8 MS. LOUQUE: My name is Lindsey Louque,
9 and I run a support group for arrested protesters
10 or people who were brutalized by police on June
11 1st and June 3rd. And the thing I'm about to say
12 I think I said at some of the prior meetings, but
13 they're worth repeating.

14 First of all, it is just things that are
15 basically I feel alarmed by and thought everyone
16 else would be as well. Every person who was
17 arrested that day that I talked to or just people
18 in general to me, all the cops they saw had their
19 badge numbers duct taped. I have not had a single
20 person who said that wasn't a case. They didn't
21 see an officer that had their badge number
22 displayed, which really hurts transparency.

23 And all the rest of the persons I talked



1 to that got to see their arrest report, the
2 physical officer who arrested them is nowhere on
3 there. I know a couple of them told me that they
4 overheard officers, while they were being
5 arrested, having conversations about who -- which
6 of them wasn't on the arrest form. What I can
7 gather, three or four of the same officers are on
8 all these reports, maybe a bit less.

9 And I know a number of them -- this one in
10 particular caught on footage, they were trying to
11 go to their vehicle -- and I know y'all have --
12 upon them trying to open their car door, they were
13 tackled, and then arrested. So they were trying
14 to take that opportunity to leave, and right when
15 they were about to leave, that's when officers
16 decided to arrest them.

17 And then a lot of people trying to get to
18 their cars were blocked from doing so. I was
19 trying to help walk somebody to their car on
20 Church Street. There is a parking lot right
21 there. Her car was, I don't know, within three
22 yards of her, and an officer ran up over, no you
23 have to go elsewhere. That's literally where her



1 vehicle was.

2 That's probably the worst of what I saw of
3 it. I didn't see anybody so close to a vehicle
4 that they -- that they were just directed away
5 going to have to wait until the police were done
6 to have a chance to, like, drive away.

7 Myself and many others tried to provide
8 aid. I had EMT training, and I saw that the NAACP
9 had left some medical supplies near the bottom
10 steps of Fountain Circle. So me and another girl
11 who was involved with the NAACP ended up carrying
12 the medical supply. And there's a sign that
13 indicated medical supplies here.

14 And as we're heading to Church Street
15 where the crowd had been pushed, an officer looks
16 at us and starts yelling, and I hold up the sign
17 and say, you can see we're just trying to find
18 people that need help. He was probably directing
19 his aim with a rubber bullet at my stomach. Go,
20 go, back up.

21 It ended up -- that was just my
22 experience. I can't imagine all the other people.
23 What if he had fired that? That would have went



1 in my stomach. You know, I had talked about this
2 just a few minutes ago. I mentioned last time I
3 was here, body cam footage. That's why -- county
4 related.

5 I understand y'all are directly working
6 with HPD, but I would like to go ahead and say
7 that here so if any word gets out. That's really
8 disturbing that the county, for whatever reason,
9 they didn't have body cams on or they're just
10 withholding and acting like they don't have
11 footage. It's not available. I learned that from
12 a lawyer. Those are all the points I have to say.
13 Thank you for your time.

14 MS. GUERRIERI: Thank you for coming,
15 Ms. Louque.

16 At this time, I'd like to ask if anyone
17 else in the audience is coming -- is going to
18 speak tonight on behalf of a group or if anyone
19 knows if anyone has held -- has texted anyone to
20 ask them to hold time. Hearing none, we have
21 committed to be here until 8:00 o'clock, but
22 there's no one coming in to speak to us. So at
23 this time, I will say my ending remarks.



1 Although this meeting concludes our public
2 listening sessions, please note that this is an
3 ongoing review, and comments, input, is and will
4 remain available through our website
5 huntsvillepolicereview.com. And let me spell that
6 for members of the listening audience, H-U-T --
7 I'm sorry --
8 H-U-N-T-S-V-I-L-L-E-P-O-L-I-C-E-R-E-V-I-E-W.com.
9 That website is available to upload video,
10 photographs, and comments.

11 And with that, I would like to take this
12 opportunity to thank all members of the public who
13 took the time out of their day to come and speak
14 to us during the past three public hearings. Do I
15 have a motion to adjourn?

16 MR. DAY: Motion.

17 MS. GUERRIERI: We are adjourned.

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19 MEETING ADJOURNED

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ALABAMA
AT LARGE

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing hearing of the HPCAC was taken down by me in stenotype and the questions and answers thereto were transcribed by means of computer-aided transcription; transcribed by me or overseen by me, and that the foregoing represents a true and correct transcript of the testimony given by said witness upon said hearing.

I further certify that I am neither of council, nor of kin to the parties to the action, nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said cause.

I further certify that I am duly licensed by the Alabama Board of Court Reporting as a Certified Court Reporter as evidenced by the ACCR number following my name found below.

So certified on this date, September 17, 2020.



/s/Kennedy B. Gibbs
Kennedy B. Gibbs, CCR
ACCR #679, Expires 09/30/20
Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large
My Commission Expire 5/24/22

