

BEFORE THE HUNTSVILLE POLICE CITIZENS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

VIDEO-CONFERENCE INTERVIEW

OF

LATOYA PIPER

DECEMBER 30, 2020

11:00 A.M.

COURT REPORTER: Nancy Pannell, CCR

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2

3 [ALL APPEARING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE]

4

5 INDEPENDENT COUNSEL FOR HUNTSVILLE POLICE

6 CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL:

7 MR. JACKSON R. SHARMAN

8 MS. ELIZABETH H. HUNTLEY

9 LIGHTFOOT, FRANKLIN & WHITE, LLC

10 THE CLARK BUILDING

11 400 NORTH 20TH STREET

12 BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203

13

14 MEMBERS OF ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESENT:

15 Ms. Victoria Guerrieri, Chair

16 Mr. Willie Love

17 Mr. David Little

18 Ms. Shelly McCulley

19 Mr. Ruben Flores

20 Mr. Jonathan Rossow

21

22 ALSO PRESENT:

23 Ms. Susan Harper, White-Collar

1 Specialist Paralegal with Lightfoot,
2 Franklin & White
3 Ms. Nancy Pannell, Court Reporter
4 with Birmingham Reporting
5 Zoom Host, Birmingham Reporting

6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

1 I, Nancy W. Pannell, a
2 Certified Shorthand Reporter of
3 Birmingham, Alabama, and a Notary Public
4 for the State of Alabama at Large, acting
5 as Commissioner, certify that on this
6 date, there came before me VIA
7 VIDEO-CONFERENCE, commencing at
8 approximately 11:00 a.m. on
9 December 30, 2020, LATOYA PIPER, for oral
10 examination, whereupon the following
11 proceedings were had:

12

13

14 MS. HUNTLEY: It's
15 officially 11:00 a.m. so I'd like to say
16 good morning, everybody. I hope you all
17 had a great Christmas and Happy New Year
18 if we don't talk before the clock strikes
19 midnight tomorrow night, and being on
20 brand, I see that 2020 is going to go out
21 with a bang with a bunch of severe weather
22 and tornadoes and everything else, so how
23 fitting, right, for 2020?

1 MS. MCCULLEY: Very.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: So we are
3 ready for it to go.

4 So, Ms. Piper, I would like
5 to just so you know that there are others
6 on the Zoom call because myself, Liz
7 Huntley, and my partner, Jack Sharman --
8 Jack, if you would like to speak so she
9 can recognize your face because when you
10 speak it will go to your screen.

11 MR. SHARMAN: Good morning,
12 Ms. Piper. How are you? I'm Jack
13 Sharman.

14 MS. PIPER: Good morning.
15 How are you? I'm well.

16 MR. SHARMAN: I'm doing
17 okay.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: So the two of
19 us are the outside counsel, our law firm
20 and other members of our firm, to
21 represent the Huntsville Police Citizens
22 Advisory Council in their review of the
23 protests that occurred in the city of

1 Huntsville in June.

2 And you participated in one
3 of the public hearings that we had to get
4 testimony from the witnesses that were at
5 the events, and that's the purpose of us
6 following up and asking you for an
7 interview because you provided some
8 information that obviously piqued our
9 curiosity and the Council would like to
10 learn more from you.

11 MS. PIPER: Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Having said --
13 yes?

14 MS. PIPER: Oh, no,
15 continue. Sorry.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So
17 having said that, let's just sort of
18 formally start by I'm going to ask Vicki
19 to call roll of the CAC, because obviously
20 as their independent counsel although
21 we'll be primarily conducting this
22 interview, they certainly have a right to
23 participate in any kind of way in terms of

1 our interview, so some of them are on this
2 Zoom call and I just want you to be aware
3 of who's here, so, Vicki, if you will call
4 -- our chairwoman, Vicki, if you will call
5 roll, that would be great.

6 MS. GUERRIERI: Okay, okay.
7 Thank you, Liz. Thank you, Liz.

8 Good morning, Ms. Piper, and
9 thank you very much for joining us today
10 for this interview.

11 At this time, I'll call roll
12 of the members who were able to attend.
13 Willie Love?

14 MR. LOVE: Here.

15 MS. GUERRIERI: John
16 Olshefski?

17 (No response.)

18 MS. GUERRIERI: John
19 Reitzel?

20 (No response.)

21 MS. GUERRIERI: David
22 Little?

23 MR. LITTLE: Here.

1 MS. GUERRIERI: Ruben
2 Flores?
3 MR. FLORES: Here.
4 MS. GUERRIERI: Gregory
5 Bentley?
6 (No response.)
7 MS. GUERRIERI: Jon Rossow?
8 MR. ROSSOW: Here.
9 MS. HUNTLEY: Shelly
10 McCulley?
11 MS. MCCULLEY: Here.
12 MS. GUERRIERI: Wiley Day?
13 (No response.)
14 MS. GUERRIERI: Okay.
15 That's fine.
16 Thank you very much for
17 being able to join us today, and I'll hand
18 it back to Liz. Thank you.
19 MS. HUNTLEY: Thank you so
20 much.
21 And, Ms. Piper, just so you
22 know, I will primarily be asking you the
23 questions for this interview, along with

1 my law partner, Jack Sharman, so don't
2 feel like you're being subject to a firing
3 squad interrogation. These are pretty
4 nice folks on this call, so they wouldn't
5 bite anyway.

6 With that said, we'll get
7 right to business. Only one ground rule
8 and a request, if you will, not
9 necessarily ground rule.

10 As you know, Ms. Piper,
11 especially with your experience in a
12 number of things that we learned during
13 the course of your presentation, this
14 interview is a part of a larger
15 investigation.

16 And so we would respectfully
17 ask that you would not share this
18 interview with anyone at this time, since
19 this is an ongoing investigation, and so
20 I'm asking that request at this time.

21 MS. PIPER: Yes, ma'am, I
22 understand.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: Thank you so

1 much.

2 Okay. Well, you know,
3 obviously, you really bring a tremendous
4 amount of background to the table which it
5 was right out of the gate, I think it was
6 unanimous by the Council that we needed to
7 talk more with you and learn more from
8 you.

9 And so could you tell me a
10 little bit about your -- state your full
11 name for the record and kind of your
12 history in terms of what you do for a
13 living and your educational background.
14 Little short CV, if you will.

15 MS. PIPER: My name is
16 Latoya Marie Piper. I deployed to Iraq in
17 the years 2008 to 2009 with an infantry
18 unit as a truck driver.

19 Shortly after I got out of
20 the Army, I came to Huntsville and I
21 immediately started doing security with an
22 Army contractor. I've worked several
23 security jobs with different companies

1 since then.

2 I've been working club and
3 event security for approximately six
4 years. I have been doing it under my own
5 company for about a year.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So came
7 from Iraq to Huntsville. Worked with
8 government contractors, and then from that
9 into your private security business?

10 MS. PIPER: Pretty much,
11 yes.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. All
13 right. And what is your current address?

14 MS. PIPER: [REDACTED],
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED] Huntsville, Alabama,
17 [REDACTED].

18 MS. HUNTLEY: Great. And
19 has that been your address since you moved
20 to Huntsville -- well --

21 MS. PIPER: I've had a
22 couple of different addresses, but [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED],
2 and it's currently been my residence for
3 about three and a half years maybe.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. That's
5 interesting. I thought I recalled from
6 your testimony that you said you were from
7 Georgia, so your parents live in
8 Huntsville?

9 MS. PIPER: Oh, boy. Okay,
10 well, my folks were divorced when I was
11 very young, so I'm half military brat and
12 half from Georgia.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Got you.

14 MS. PIPER: So my folks were
15 mostly stationed in Texas and Germany, but
16 when they both were -- when my stepdad got
17 out of the military, they chose Huntsville
18 for the economy.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: Got you. And
20 so you moved [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]?

22 MS. PIPER: Yes.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: Great. All

1 right. And are there any other family or
2 children of your own or significant others
3 in the Huntsville area?

4 MS. PIPER: Not here right
5 now. I have a child but we have joint
6 custody. He lives [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay, great.
9 What about in terms of your -- and you
10 know the obvious reasons for this, trying
11 to get to know you and sort of who you're
12 connected to.

13 Is there any church or civic
14 organizations that you're involved in
15 there in Huntsville?

16 MS. PIPER: Not
17 specifically. As an organization, my
18 security company, we do try to keep
19 ourselves in the community as much as
20 possible.

21 Being in -- working in clubs
22 you kind of see folks at their worst and
23 most emotional at times, and we just kind

1 of see that a lot of these people, you
2 know, just need to see that somebody
3 cares, so we kind of go about things as a
4 different approach as to what most
5 bouncers would do, but other than that,
6 no, nothing specifically.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And
8 what about any personal relationships with
9 law enforcement in that area? And I mean
10 that would include, you know, Huntsville
11 PD, Madison city, Madison County,
12 troopers.

13 Obviously, you testified
14 that you worked regularly with those law
15 enforcement officers and a lot of times
16 when you work with folks, those blossom
17 into friendships, you know, outside of
18 work, so.

19 MS. PIPER: Most definitely.
20 We have a few officers who honestly whose
21 names I couldn't tell you. All I can tell
22 you is that, you know, if whoever knows
23 the zones and everything, it will be

1 whoever responds to the calls at 3208, but
2 we did develop a relationship with Officer
3 Bone at 32 -- via 3208, and Sergeant
4 Richards.

5 I know Tory Green isn't with
6 y'all anymore, but we got pretty good with
7 him as well.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And
9 just to be clear, you said "y'all", so I'm
10 just letting you know we're with the
11 Police Citizens Advisory Council which
12 isn't directly under the police
13 department. They're an independent group.

14 MS. PIPER: Okay, okay, I
15 understand.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: So, no
17 offense. Not saying I wouldn't want to be
18 affiliated, just a separate entity, just
19 for your clarity as you're responding to
20 any of the questions.

21 MS. PIPER: Right.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: And, of
23 course, you know that -- with your

1 experience you know I have to ask this.

2 Is there any criminal history in your
3 background?

4 MS. PIPER: Yes, there is.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Do you
6 care elaborate? I mean, it's up to you.
7 I mean, this is an interview.

8 MS. PIPER: There were some
9 issues before I joined the Army that never
10 made it to court, so it's not anything
11 that is on my record.

12 It was dropped completely
13 due to lack of evidence on my part. I
14 joined the military shortly after. When I
15 got back -- well, when I first got out of
16 the military, I did have some issues with
17 I guess rehabilitation or readjusting, I
18 guess if you'll say, and I did get in
19 trouble for DUI. Other than that, no
20 issues with the law.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Do you
22 know when that was, what year the DUI?

23 MS. PIPER: 2010.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: And that was
2 in Huntsville?

3 MS. PIPER: No, ma'am. That
4 was in Hawaii where I was stationed at.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: So what year
6 did you come to Huntsville?

7 MS. PIPER: 2012.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: All right.
9 And so you're not a member of a church
10 there in Huntsville or --

11 MS. PIPER: No, ma'am.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Are you
13 involved in any kind of sports group, like
14 league or anything like that?

15 MS. PIPER: Other than
16 training with my team, no, ma'am.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Well,
18 speaking of training, what's your
19 education background?

20 MS. PIPER: As far as actual
21 schooling or in regards to security?

22 MS. HUNTLEY: In being
23 actual experience, education.

1 MS. PIPER: Well, I went to
2 about six high schools due to being a half
3 military brat, half from Georgia so I
4 eventually got tired of everything.

5 I knew that I was
6 intelligent, so I just went ahead and
7 dropped out, got my GED, and started
8 working full time immediately. And I have
9 attended two semesters here at Drake.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Here at which
11 school?

12 MS. PIPER: At Drake.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And
14 then you talked about, you know, being
15 well-trained and well-versed in I believe
16 your testimony was in strategic tactical
17 issues or things like that?

18 MS. PIPER: Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: So can you
20 talk a little bit about that training to
21 us?

22 MS. PIPER: Well, not only
23 was I in sort of a unique unit when I was

1 in the Army. Unique being in that most
2 units get -- they send infantry guys to
3 provide security or support when they go
4 out on missions and things of that nature.

5 Ours we did it ourselves, so
6 we had to actually go, you know, hip to
7 hip and go and train with those guys in
8 the exact same things that they were
9 doing, regardless of the fact that we were
10 a support element.

11 So that's really where the
12 basics and the fundamentals come from as
13 far as my training goes. But on top of
14 that, I pretty much spent almost all last
15 year traveling around going to like the
16 most -- some of the most elite trainers in
17 the country for things like executive
18 protection, like high-risk dignitary
19 protection, different types of classes at
20 the range involving shooting and moving
21 and tactics and, you know, vehicle
22 dismounts and different things like that.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: And where did

1 you get that training?

2 MS. PIPER: So there is one
3 company in Texas named Dominion 126 that I
4 trained with. There is -- I trained with
5 Sig Sauer up in New Hampshire at their
6 high risk dignitary protection class that
7 was ran by Solutions Group International.

8 I trained in Smyrna at Glock for
9 their Glock operators course. And I also
10 began training with a certified firearms
11 trainer here in Huntsville at Range 351
12 named Matt Todd.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And you
14 said all of this training -- all of this
15 training happened over the course of a
16 year?

17 MS. PIPER: Yes, ma'am. And
18 I drove to all of those spots.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: You have been
20 busy, that's for sure.

21 MS. PIPER: Very.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: So can I ask
23 you have a security business. Was there a

1 particular reason for getting that level
2 of intense training?

3 MS. PIPER: I want to move
4 on, not only myself personally, but the
5 more elite dedicated guys on my squad, I
6 want to start moving into celebrity and
7 executive protection, dignitaries and
8 things of that nature, and even be able to
9 go ahead and bid for contracts if I see
10 something that I think that my team would
11 be interested.

12 So I really -- I want to be
13 positioned at a level not only to where --
14 because this is a business where lives are
15 at hand, but not only to where I can make
16 sure that I handle myself as responsibly
17 as possible, but also to where I'm
18 proficient enough to be able to train my
19 team and they can be proficient enough, so
20 that basically I'm not responsible for any
21 type of hiccups, especially something
22 involving someone's life.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: Right. So

1 let's talk a little about Lions Pride
2 Securities. When did you start it?

3 MS. PIPER: Last year.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So in
5 2020 -- or in 2019?

6 MS. PIPER: Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: And do you
8 have a partner or is it solo -- is it a
9 formal corporation?

10 MS. PIPER: It is a sole
11 proprietor LLC. I do -- my 2IC, my second
12 in command, has really, really stepped up
13 over the last year so I do consider him my
14 partner, but as far as the foundation and
15 the founding of it, that was just me.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: And what is
17 his name, your second in command?

18 MS. PIPER: Mike Robinson.
19 He's actually the gentleman that's in the
20 majority of the pictures that I sent to
21 your email shortly before this call.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Right. And
23 you talked about him at length as well

1 during your testimony --

2 MS. PIPER: --

3 MS. HUNTLEY: -- at the
4 hearing, so I was going to ask you about
5 him.

6 And so is he an actual
7 financial partner right now or a partner
8 to the extent that he helps you juggle the
9 business?

10 MS. PIPER: He's been
11 kicking in.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. All
13 right. And do y'all have -- how do you
14 have employees?

15 Are they independent
16 contractors or are they W-2 employees?
17 How does that work? Because you mentioned
18 six to eight people that work with you
19 with your security group.

20 MS. PIPER: Basically,
21 everyone is an independent contractor.
22 They're free to go and work security
23 whenever they please. Their license is

1 their own and it's not something that we
2 hold on to or that I hold on to.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: And so what --
4 do you have a particular requirement in
5 terms of training for them if they were to
6 come and work with you as an independent
7 contractor at your events?

8 MS. PIPER: Yes. You are
9 not allowed to be armed obviously unless
10 you have the specific paperwork. But on
11 top of that, I have to be able to qualify
12 you myself so that I know that you're
13 going to handle everything properly, but
14 we also do training as a team on Tuesdays
15 and Thursdays.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: And when you
17 say qualify, do you have a certain
18 certification that allows you to -- sort
19 of an expert certification that allows you
20 to qualify them as security?

21 MS. PIPER: I am a certified
22 range safety officer and certified in
23 pistol and shotgun.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: And so that's
2 the training that you would do for them in
3 terms of when you say qualify?

4 MS. PIPER: Yes.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: And is the --
6 and I know you're talking about evolving
7 and growing your business into other --
8 and diversifying somewhat, but right now
9 as it sits, it's 2019, is the business
10 mainly a security business for clubs or
11 events?

12 MS. PIPER: Yes. Mainly in
13 large part, yes.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: And you don't
15 have to if you don't want to, but, you
16 know, who are some of your customers like
17 clubs that you may have covered in terms
18 of security?

19 MS. PIPER: With only one
20 maybe one or two exceptions, just about
21 every hip-hop club in Huntsville.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Which
23 two don't you do?

1 MS. PIPER: Club 47 and
2 3208. We previously did 3208; however, we
3 are no longer with them. We've never been
4 at Club 47 though.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Is
6 there a reason to no longer do 3208?

7 MS. PIPER: Just a business
8 run-in, things just couldn't get worked
9 out so it was just best to go ahead and
10 step away before anything, you know, gets
11 confrontational with anyone.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Any issues
13 with security coverage by your company in
14 terms of, you know, arrest being made or
15 anybody running into any conflict, any
16 patron suing you guys or anything like,
17 any conflicts like that coming up since
18 you started in 2019?

19 MS. PIPER: There was an
20 issue, there was a shooting on New Year's
21 2019 turning in -- man, I always get this
22 messed up. If I'm not mistaken, it was
23 the 2019 turning into 2020, and there was

1 a shooting with a patron where I had to --
2 I ended up having to shoot him twice, and
3 he later on got arrested at the hospital
4 at Crestwood I believe.

5 Other than that, any actual
6 arrests, not to my recollection. There's
7 been plenty of times where they've sat
8 someone in the back of the car and let
9 them sweat it out, you know, to kind of
10 get them to act right and then just went
11 ahead and, you know, said all right, next
12 time, you know, it's the real thing, but
13 actual arrests, bookings, no, not to my
14 recollection.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: So were there
16 any charges associated with that shooting
17 that you talked about at New Year's?

18 MS. PIPER: You know, I
19 honestly don't know what happened to that
20 young man. I know that he went to court
21 over it and I would assume that he is in
22 jail right now, because no one's really
23 heard anything from him so other than

1 that, I really don't know.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: And because
3 you were involved, were there any charges
4 brought against you?

5 MS. PIPER: Oh, no, not at
6 all. My report matched up with the
7 forensics and everyone else's accounts of
8 it so well that I really think that on my
9 end it was kind of just opened and closed.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: And no
11 incidents with the other individuals that
12 worked with you in Lions Pride?

13 MS. PIPER: No, not to my
14 knowledge, not unless somebody's been
15 hiding something from me, but not to my
16 knowledge.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: So at least at
18 the time of the June 3rd protest that you
19 testified about, who would have been there
20 as in a role with being there with Lions
21 Pride Securities that day?

22 MS. PIPER: That was myself
23 and Mike and then we have Carlos Turney

1 that was out there with me. Rich -- oh,
2 man, I'm having a brain fart. What is
3 Richard's last name? I'm going to have to
4 find you Richard's last name because I'm
5 having a brain fart.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: Sure.

7 MS. PIPER: And then who
8 else came out with us? Me and Mike and
9 Carlos and Rich. You know what, I have a
10 picture.

11 And then there was a friend
12 of mine who he came out representing
13 myself and my company, however he doesn't
14 actually work with us. I train with him
15 at the range sometimes. His name is Chuck
16 Rainey, or I guess Charles Rainey.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: All right.

18 And you'll get me Richard's name?

19 MS. PIPER: Yes.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Now, like you
21 said, about six to eight people working
22 with you. Was there anybody that worked
23 for your security company or that works

1 with you to cover events that did not go
2 to the protest with you as a group?

3 MS. PIPER: Honestly, at the
4 time I really can't remember who was not
5 there. We've grown a little bit since I
6 said six to eight, so shoot, I mean, I
7 really think at the time I think that was
8 just about my whole squad.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. All
10 right. And let's step back just a little
11 bit before we go to leading up to
12 June 3rd.

13 You mentioned that you had
14 developed a relationship with Officer
15 Bone, Sergeant Richards, Tory Green. When
16 you say relationship, is that we hang out
17 and have drinks after work or --

18 MS. PIPER: Never hung out.
19 We just -- we get along very well when
20 we're at work. We always make sure that
21 we each other's backs.

22 You know, just because we're
23 Lions Pride and they're the police, if we

1 didn't have on different uniforms, you
2 would barely even know it because we
3 worked so well together when we're out
4 there and we move together and always make
5 sure we've got each other covered.

6 So, you know, anyone,
7 especially that's been in, you know, a
8 line of work where your life is sometimes
9 on the line, you kind of just are
10 instantly friends.

11 Even if y'all have
12 different, you know, political views,
13 religious views, background, whatever,
14 whatever, you just -- you know, you have
15 each other's backs so you're just
16 instantly friends.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: So let's talk
18 about that in terms of not the protest but
19 your security event. Do you have a
20 process by which you work with law
21 enforcement if an event is upcoming that
22 you're going to cover, or, you know, or is
23 it just a regular routine thing?

1 Is there some sort of line
2 of communication you have with law
3 enforcement?

4 MS. PIPER: Yes, definitely.
5 So we always do a safety briefing at the
6 beginning of any event that we have that's
7 irregular.

8 Any type of regular club
9 night everyone already knows the deal.
10 They already know what's going on. But
11 any time we have an event that's irregular
12 for some reason or it's a bigger event
13 than a normal night, we always make sure
14 that we have a safety briefing.

15 We always include the
16 officers in our safety briefing. We
17 identify whoever the first and the second
18 person of contact is for any medical
19 emergencies.

20 We make sure that everyone
21 knows where the medical supplies are,
22 where the vehicle is going to be parked
23 at, wherever the medical supplies is going

1 to be at.

2 We make sure that everyone
3 knows who all of the officers are. They
4 all go up and, you know, introduce
5 themselves and speak. We identify
6 entrances and exits and basically just
7 kind of go over the game plan of what
8 we're going to do for the day.

9 Who's going to be posted
10 where. Who's going to be roaming. And
11 that's just about it in a nutshell, but
12 yes, we do have a little powwow at the
13 beginning.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And so
15 when you say a safety briefing, is that
16 right before the club opens and the event
17 starts, or is this something you go down
18 to the PD and sit down with the officers
19 in a conference room and have a meeting?
20 How does this safety briefing occur?

21 MS. PIPER: No, it's just
22 something that we do right before the
23 event. We go ahead and gather everybody

1 up before we open doors or gates or
2 whatever it may be, and we just stand in a
3 circle and just go over it real quick and
4 make sure everyone's nodding their heads
5 and understanding, and then we go on about
6 our event.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: And who is
8 your contact at Huntsville PD to identify
9 whoever will be covering these events so
10 that you can include them in the safety
11 briefing?

12 MS. PIPER: Now, that I
13 don't know. If I see an officer out there
14 at an event that I'm working and I don't
15 know him, I just go up and introduce
16 myself and start talking.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So the
18 connection with law enforcement is very
19 informal? It's whoever happens to show up
20 --

21 MS. PIPER: Yes.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: -- at that
23 particular time?

1 MS. PIPER: Now, we do have
2 a pretty regular rotation to where
3 typically it's going to be the same
4 officers, like at the Joe Davis Stadium we
5 pretty much almost knew everybody that was
6 out there when we had an event out there.

7 And then the clubs normally if
8 they do have an officer, it's normally
9 either the same one officer or the same
10 one or two every time.

11 So normally we already know
12 them, but we do have events sometimes
13 where, you know, we just look around for
14 the officer because we know that they're
15 there somewhere and then we just go and
16 introduce ourselves.

17 But it's not something where
18 we coordinate ahead of time with HPD, you
19 know, hey, I want such-and-such and
20 such-and-such out here, or hey, who are
21 y'all sending me. We just will make
22 whatever work.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: So have you

1 ever had a meeting with anybody, the chief
2 or otherwise, at HPD just about your
3 business and your security and y'all
4 working together?

5 MS. PIPER: No.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: Outside of the
7 safety briefings that take place the night
8 of the event?

9 MS. PIPER: I would very,
10 very much like to, but no, I have not as
11 of yet.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Okay.
13 Well, I think that's a good segue leading
14 up to June 3rd because, first of all, let
15 me just ask you you testified that you
16 felt compelled to be there for the event.

17 Can you articulate that for
18 me, why you felt compelled to be there
19 June 3rd, because I assume-- and this is a
20 very compound question, if this were a
21 deposition I would be in trouble-- because
22 I assume that you were not at the protest
23 that occurred on the 1st; correct?

1 MS. PIPER: I wasn't. Some
2 friends of mine were there and I heard
3 about, you know, how it happened. For
4 some reason every time, you know,
5 something that surrounds law enforcement
6 or security or military, my friends just
7 automatically call me.

8 So they called me while they
9 were still emotional and basically were
10 talking about what happened, and I was
11 seeing it on social media, and I was just
12 like, man, that's crazy.

13 And I was just wondering,
14 you know, if we were hearing about the
15 outside agitators, people coming
16 supposedly bussing in, and like there were
17 actual alerts going around saying be
18 careful, there's a bus full of people
19 coming in.

20 And basically our intent was
21 to be a buffer of some sort to basically
22 kind of assist the protesters and the
23 police at the same time, so that if some

1 of these guys came out to get things
2 started between the protesters who
3 actually did want to peacefully protest
4 and the police, that we could help them
5 out in to getting that stopped before it
6 started up so that people could exercise
7 their right to protest like they were out
8 there doing.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So
10 these protesters that reached out and
11 communicated with you that participated in
12 the protest prior to June 3rd, did they
13 indicate to you that there were outside
14 agitators at that first protest?

15 MS. PIPER: It kind of
16 seemed like nobody really knew what went
17 on. It seems like the way that it
18 escalated shook everyone up so badly that,
19 you know, the way that folks' minds
20 worked, especially when they've never gone
21 through something like that and to them
22 something like that looks like a war zone,
23 somebody could have seen something that

1 they didn't really see.

2 So people were just up and
3 down about it, like, yeah, I saw this guy
4 do this, and then other people are like
5 well no, nobody in the crowd was doing
6 anything, so it really just seemed up and
7 down.

8 The fact that no one could
9 really clear it up and then the fact that
10 there were actually alerts going around
11 telling people if you're going to do the
12 protest, be careful there's a bus full of
13 people coming from North Carolina, and we
14 saw people -- there's pallets of bricks
15 around the square -- around the square
16 downtown.

17 And we just weren't really
18 sure what was going to happen. We were
19 hoping for the best, but we were prepared
20 to assist in whatever way necessary.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: So when you
22 say alerts about these outside agitators,
23 can you describe that for us?

1 MS. PIPER: So like chain
2 messages. Basically, you know, they send
3 it to one person and then they tell you to
4 send it to all your friends and they were
5 just texting it around. And we have a
6 group text from our security so more than
7 one person was sending them saying y'all
8 be careful.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: And were these
10 groups texts from law enforcement or lay
11 people saying they had heard that this
12 could happen?

13 MS. PIPER: It was just lay
14 people, just folks just sending it around
15 so that folks could be careful.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Which,
17 you know, sort of brings me to June 3rd.
18 Had you ever been involved in a protest
19 prior to being involved in the one on
20 June 3rd?

21 MS. PIPER: No.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So but
23 in your role as a security head, had you

1 ever been involved with dispersing a large
2 crowd where there was some hostile element
3 going on?

4 MS. PIPER: Yes, more times
5 than I could possibly ever count.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And was
7 law enforcement involved with that
8 dispersement?

9 MS. PIPER: Yes.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. What
11 was your -- what was your strategy? How
12 did you handle it?

13 MS. PIPER: Well, I'm not
14 going to lie. It kind of took me a while
15 to get it together to really think of what
16 is the best approach for something like
17 that because drunk unruly crowds are just
18 that, drunk and unruly.

19 But basically, we kind of
20 try to form a line now. We try to make
21 sure that no one ever goes anywhere alone,
22 that you've always got someone with you so
23 you can handle stuff together, but always

1 head on a swivel and always looking around
2 for where is your battle buddy basically
3 to make sure that everyone is good, but we
4 try to form a line and kind of get
5 everyone pushed out. It just seldom works
6 that way.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: And when you
8 say form a line, are you talking with the
9 six to eight people you have that were
10 with you or does that include law
11 enforcement as well?

12 MS. PIPER: It can include
13 law enforcement. Most times yes, he is or
14 well used to be out there with us. I'm
15 specifically speaking about us working
16 along with Officer Bone at 3208.

17 That's the most experience
18 that I have working side by side with an
19 officer at a club.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: And so did you
21 have an opportunity to work with Officer
22 Bone in an encounter with an unruly crowd
23 that needed to be dispersed?

1 MS. PIPER: Several times;
2 more times than I could count.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Can you sort
4 of walk me through like how are they
5 notified? Who does that? Do the officers
6 do it?

7 I'm asking you a lot of
8 questions but I'm just giving you some
9 questions to give you an idea of sort of
10 the amount of detail I would like to hear
11 about working with those officers to
12 disperse an unruly crowd.

13 MS. PIPER: So, we've worked
14 with Bone long enough now to where we
15 don't really have to speak too much to one
16 another when something happens. We kind
17 of just go into action, and especially me
18 and Bone together, we've pretty much got
19 more training than all of the rest of my
20 guys, so me and -- he and myself we flow
21 pretty well out there.

22 We don't have to communicate
23 very much. But anything that I need to

1 tell him, if I've had to take a firearm
2 off of someone or if -- I mean, anything.
3 If I just have to clothesline some girl
4 onto the ground or something like that, if
5 there's something that's necessary for me
6 to go back and report to him after
7 everything is said and done, then I do
8 that.

9 But other than that, we move
10 together very well to where we don't have
11 to have much verbal communication. Now,
12 with me guys I have to delegate quite
13 often in the midst of physically handling
14 someone myself.

15 I basically just have to
16 look around, assess the situation, see
17 where everyone's positions are at, what
18 kind of mishap or what kind of patron,
19 what is going on that they're dealing with
20 and give instructions if, in my opinion,
21 they're not handling it as efficiently as
22 possible.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: So I want to

1 go back to what would happen -- can you
2 give me an example of what would happen
3 that would cause your security to stand up
4 with law enforcement to form a line and
5 make the crowd disperse?

6 MS. PIPER: If people were
7 getting in loud verbal confrontations and
8 it just feels like -- that's something
9 that me and Bone always talk about, you
10 can feel the shift in the air of when
11 there's about to be a fight.

12 I hope that doesn't sound
13 crazy or weird, but it's a real thing, I
14 promise. You can feel the shift in the
15 air and we almost always feel it at the
16 same time.

17 And we'll just go ahead and
18 start moving forward. And, you know,
19 normally he'll raise his voice and, you
20 know, use his officer authority, and we'll
21 start walking forward out to their
22 vehicles, figure out where they're parked
23 and basically just walk with them all the

1 way out there.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: So -- and this
3 would be the whole crowd? I'm talking
4 about dispersing, not just two individuals
5 that might be having an altercation, but
6 the entire group.

7 Let's say things have gotten
8 out of hand and the owner wants everybody
9 out, like let's shut it down, let's get
10 everybody out of there, what would that
11 look like?

12 MS. PIPER: Now, as far as
13 getting everyone out of the actual
14 building, the form a line worked very well
15 because it's an enclosed space. But once
16 you get out into the parking lot is kind
17 where the forming a line falls apart
18 because you need a large amount of people
19 to expand that line in the necessary
20 direction for everyone to go ahead and
21 disperse to their vehicles.

22 To be honest with you, the
23 parking lot is where it turns into chaos

1 because people start going different
2 directions. We've had situations where
3 there have been six fights at once in the
4 parking lot and, you know, you just look
5 around to check on your security and make
6 sure that everyone is handling whatever
7 they need to properly and make sure no one
8 is out there unsafely, like they're
9 getting beat up or something like that or
10 someone's grabbing guns.

11 But the parking lot is
12 definitely where it's much more of a
13 challenge to keep that line and that group
14 together.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: So you said
16 that Officer Bone would raise his voice.
17 What types of things would he say to let
18 the people know it's time to go?

19 MS. PIPER: Say that, you
20 know, basically a warning system. This is
21 a warning. I need you to go to your
22 vehicle and go ahead and leave now. He
23 tries to work with people as much as

1 possible.

2 He's very respectful. He
3 never -- I mean I've never had any
4 complaints about Bone the way that he
5 works or the way that he interacts with
6 people at all.

7 I mean, if anything, I kind
8 of wish he would beat people up a little
9 bit more often, but I know you can't just
10 do that, but yeah, no, he would basically
11 just give a warning system and walk them
12 to their car.

13 Anything that they're
14 saying, you know, just kind of respond but
15 deflect at the same time. Okay, I
16 understand but I just need you to go to
17 your car. Go ahead and get in your
18 vehicle. This is the last time I'm going
19 to ask you. Basically like that.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So
21 other than forming a line and pushing the
22 crowd to disperse them, has there been any
23 escalation beyond that? Like say the use

1 of tear gas or any other assistance to
2 move the crowd?

3 MS. PIPER: Not from myself
4 and Officer Bone. Mike has had to pepper
5 spray someone before that basically left
6 the parking lot after causing a huge scene
7 and then came back to the parking lot to
8 cause a huge scene, and we just -- the
9 club had been closed and we just had to
10 get them up out of there and they were not
11 complying whatsoever.

12 But other than that, no,
13 myself and him are very hands on. We try
14 to make sure folks leave the same way that
15 they came.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: So having said
17 all of that, you testified that you
18 decided you wanted to participate in the
19 June 3rd and you thought you could offer
20 assistance, your team could.

21 MS. PIPER: Yes.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you reach
23 out to law enforcement to let them know or

1 have any meetings with them about wanting
2 to participate and offer help?

3 MS. PIPER: Yes. We
4 contacted Officer Bone and asked him to go
5 ahead and put the word out and let them
6 know what type of uniform we would be in
7 and that everyone would be very clearly
8 marked as security, and also that despite
9 myself and Mike having our plate carriers
10 on and looking as if we may be armed, that
11 we are in no way armed whatsoever.

12 I would also have to get
13 this information for you from Richard, but
14 he also emailed an officer whose name I
15 could get for you. I possibly could get a
16 copy of the email, but I would have to get
17 that from him but we also emailed as well.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So when
19 you say you reached out to Officer Bone to
20 get the word out, was there a formal way
21 or you just felt like telling him was your
22 way of telling the rest of HPD?

23 MS. PIPER: No, we -- there

1 was no formal way in regards of I never
2 put in a request on any type of form, any
3 paper or anything like that, but we called
4 him specifically to tell him to get the
5 word out to the officers that were going
6 to be out there that we would be out there
7 with him.

8 We re-called when we got
9 there just to make sure that we were all
10 good and confirmed. And when we went out
11 there we -- I feel like, in my opinion, we
12 tried to make it physically obvious that
13 we were there as a buffer.

14 You know, someone asked us
15 to take a picture and they want us to put
16 the black power fist up, and I have no
17 issues with that; however, right now this
18 is not what we're here for.

19 So we tried to make sure
20 that we maintained our professionalism and
21 maintained our neutrality.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: And what was
23 Officer Bone's response to you informing

1 him that you guys would be there to play
2 that role --

3 MS. PIPER: He said he would
4 let them know.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Did he
6 ever reach out to you and say that he had
7 talked to someone and didn't think it was
8 appropriate for you to be there in that
9 role?

10 MS. PIPER: No.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: And you said
12 you actually spoke with him on day of the
13 incident once you guys got on the scene?

14 MS. PIPER: Yes. As soon as
15 we got there we went ahead and called him
16 just to re-verify.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: And what did
18 you take with you in terms of playing this
19 role?

20 MS. PIPER: We brought
21 medical supplies such as gauze and
22 band-aids, water, like tape for the gauze
23 and we brought milk. We had milk as well.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: And do you
2 have medical training or any of the -- or
3 I think Michael was with you. Mike was
4 with you, Carlos, Richard, Chuck. Do any
5 of those guys have medical training to
6 assist in a first aid situation?

7 MS. PIPER: Mike has been
8 informally trained by myself. I am not
9 any type of master trainer as far as
10 medical-wise goes. He since then has had
11 some training, some formal training, a
12 class that both of us took, a TCCC class,
13 but that was not at the time of the
14 protest.

15 I've had a combat lifesaving
16 certification from when I was in the
17 military, and then I've had a Stop the
18 Bleed class since I've been out.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So some
20 combination of classes that you've taken
21 and your experience --

22 MS. PIPER: Yes.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: -- led you to

1 package up the things that you packaged up
2 to take to the protest?

3 MS. PIPER: Yes.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: And what was
5 the purpose of the milk?

6 MS. PIPER: The milk
7 sometimes helps to I guess -- I don't know
8 if this is the right word or not, but blot
9 out the burn from the gas.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And
11 what about any knowledge about any outside
12 agitators planning to be a part of this
13 June 3rd event? Any direct knowledge
14 either from Officer Bone or anybody that
15 there was a real threat from outside
16 agitators?

17 MS. PIPER: We didn't have
18 anything that was, you know, certified
19 100 percent they're going to be here, this
20 is when they're going to be here.

21 We just heard so much and it
22 just -- it hurt to hear the people talking
23 the way that they did about the ones on

1 the 1st, that we were like, you know,
2 we're a part of this community and it
3 shouldn't be -- no one should be able to
4 come and cause disruptions in our
5 community that they don't even live here
6 with us, so when everything blows up they
7 can just pack up and leave and they don't
8 care about the businesses, the people that
9 live here or anyone, so we really came
10 down there to stop any potentials.

11 We were hoping for the best,
12 hoping that there was no one was going to
13 come and that all of the chain messages
14 that people had been sending out were
15 false. We just wanted to be there just in
16 case.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: So you talked
18 about the medical supplies you brought.
19 You talked about wearing the certain
20 clothing that was uniform to give them
21 appearance as security detail and you said
22 that you weren't armed. Were any of your
23 folks armed? You said you weren't.

1 MS. PIPER: No, no, I made
2 sure of that myself.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: And you also
4 testified about body camera. Were you
5 wearing a body camera?

6 MS. PIPER: Myself and Mike
7 was wearing -- well, I was wearing a body
8 camera. He was wearing a Go Pro on his
9 chest. Mine lasted through the entire
10 protest until we left. His died probably
11 like about an hour and a half in.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: And is that
13 something you usually do when you're even
14 on your regular security detail at clubs?

15 MS. PIPER: Yes. I broke my
16 camera in a fight a few months ago, but
17 yes, normally, yes.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: Have you been
19 involved in any other protest -- we'll get
20 into the details of June 3rd and what
21 happened when you got there, but just a
22 quick question.

23 Have you been involved in

1 any other protests since June 3rd,
2 anywhere, even outside of Huntsville?

3 MS. PIPER: We went to one
4 -- shoot, I don't know if I even have
5 anything in my phone to where I could find
6 the date, but we went to one a few days
7 after that, it was much, much smaller in
8 comparison, pretty much absolutely nothing
9 happened. We just walked around with them
10 as they walked around and chanted, just
11 made sure that they were safe.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: And where was
13 that one at?

14 MS. PIPER: It was the same
15 spot. They marched around the square
16 where the courthouse is.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Was law
18 enforcement there?

19 MS. PIPER: Loosely. Not
20 anywhere as near as much of a presence as
21 the one on the 3rd.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: And was there
23 any encounter with law enforcement at that

1 event?

2 MS. PIPER: Nothing like an
3 altercation or anything like that. I saw
4 an officer out there that I knew and I
5 stopped and spoke, but other than that
6 nothing.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Any
8 yelling at those officers --

9 MS. PIPER: No.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: -- or throwing
11 anything or verbal exchanges between the
12 protesters and the officers at that event?

13 MS. PIPER: Nothing at all.
14 Not that I saw at least.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: Was that city
16 or county? Do you recall what law
17 enforcement group was there at that
18 smaller group?

19 MS. PIPER: That was city.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you
21 recognize any of the officers at that
22 particular event?

23 MS. PIPER: Officer Gambino.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Is that the
2 one you stopped to speak to?

3 MS. PIPER: Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Do you know
5 what group held that event?

6 MS. PIPER: No, ma'am, no
7 clue.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: How did you
9 learn about it?

10 MS. PIPER: It was either my
11 accountant or a friend sent me a screen
12 shot of one that they saw on social media.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: And do you
14 know if this was an event where they
15 received a permit for the --

16 MS. PIPER: That I have no
17 clue.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

19 MS. PIPER: I mean there was
20 no one there to make sure that we
21 dispersed at the time that was on the
22 permit so I would assume not, but I don't
23 know for sure.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: And what was
2 the timeframe of that event, do you
3 recall?

4 MS. PIPER: No clue. I know
5 it went until after the sun went down.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And
7 when they dispersed at that smaller event,
8 how did they disperse? Was it at the
9 prompting of law enforcement or was it
10 just someone who made an announcement that
11 they were done and they left?

12 MS. PIPER: Yeah, it pretty
13 much just cleared out and thinned out. We
14 weren't there until everyone left. It was
15 just me and Mike and we had to go ahead
16 and get on to our night jobs, but it was a
17 pretty thin crowd when we left.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: And when you
19 say night jobs, you means Lions Pride --

20 MS. PIPER: Yes, to the
21 club.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: So do you have
23 any other job outside of Lions Pride or is

1 that your sole source of employment?

2 MS. PIPER: This is it.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. I
4 didn't ask you that question earlier, so
5 that made me think of that.

6 Do you recall if any media
7 was covering that small assembly that took
8 place after June 3rd in the square?

9 MS. PIPER: I don't think
10 that there were any at that one.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. All
12 right. So other than the testimony that
13 you provided at the public hearing for the
14 CAC in August, have you shared your
15 account of the June 3rd events with any
16 other groups or media?

17 MS. PIPER: No.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Let's
19 go to the -- first of all, do you need a
20 break? We've been going a little while.
21 It's been going almost an hour. Do you
22 need a break?

23 MS. PIPER: No, ma'am, I'm

1 fine.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. All
3 right, great. If you do, just let me
4 though and we can pause and stop and take
5 a break.

6 So let's talk about the
7 protest on June 3rd. Where did you-all
8 arrive there within the area of the
9 protest, like what was your location?

10 MS. PIPER: Whoo, I'm going
11 to be honest with you, I have no sense of
12 direction. I had to use GPS to get out of
13 there, like walking at the end of the
14 whole thing to find out where my car was.
15 That would be a question I would have to
16 ask one of my guys, I'm sorry.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Do you recall
18 a landmark? Like what building were y'all
19 in front of? Sort of where were you in
20 the square when you first arrived?

21 MS. PIPER: If I'm not
22 mistaken, and I very well could be wrong,
23 but if I'm not mistaken, we may have

1 walked up two or three intersections and
2 then went left and then we found the
3 protesters. I don't know if that helps or
4 not.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: You went left
6 and you found what?

7 MS. PIPER: Found the
8 protesters. I'm saying I don't know if
9 that helps or not, but I'm sorry.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And so
11 when you say found the protesters, did you
12 find the group where they actually had
13 somebody at a microphone giving testimony?
14 I understand there was lots of testimony
15 going on that day as a part of the
16 protest.

17 MS. PIPER: There were a
18 bunch of people that were walking and it
19 just -- people were converging from a
20 bunch of different areas, and on one
21 street there was so many of them that we
22 just knew to follow the line.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So were

1 you ever at the spot where the folks that
2 were participating in the formal protest
3 were giving testimony and making speeches
4 and those types of things?

5 MS. PIPER: Yes. We came
6 and we walked through there and we stood
7 up close to the podium and we made sure
8 that, you know, that we had a presence and
9 that anyone trying to blend in with the
10 crowd, made sure that basically they could
11 see us up there. I looked one way, Mike
12 took my back and looked the other way.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Had you
14 coordinated you establishing a presence
15 with the group organizers? Had you spoken
16 with them at all prior to the protest?

17 MS. PIPER: No, and we made
18 sure that when we did come up to a vantage
19 point we stayed off to the side where
20 people could see us, but we weren't, you
21 know, in view -- like blocking anyone's
22 view or disturbing the view or anything
23 like that.

1 We made sure that we didn't
2 cause any disruptions while we were there.
3 We basically just stood at a good point
4 and observed.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: And what time
6 did you arrive?

7 MS. PIPER: I think maybe
8 around like four.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: So had the
10 program, for lack of a better way to
11 describe it since you had multiple
12 speakers, had it been going for some time
13 by the time you arrived at four?

14 MS. PIPER: Yes, it looked
15 like it had already been in the process
16 for a minute.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And
18 what did you observe during the actual
19 protest, the program itself, when people
20 were speaking and giving testimony? What
21 did you observe around you?

22 MS. PIPER: It was very
23 docile. It was actually -- I don't know

1 if strange is the word or not, but there
2 were actually people coming up to us, hey,
3 there's a guy over here, he looks sketchy,
4 he's doing this, that, and the third. And
5 they were actually reporting people to us
6 without us even ever saying anything to
7 anyone, people that we had never seen in
8 the clubs or anything like that.

9 They just started coming and
10 reporting stuff to us. So we just, you
11 know, we just moved through the crowd and
12 spoke to people, but it was extremely
13 docile. Nothing really happened at all.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you
15 approach anybody that any of these folks
16 that came up to you pointed out, did you
17 approach them or do anything to
18 investigate further?

19 MS. PIPER: There was a guy
20 who he had, he had on like a hockey jersey
21 kind of, and he was -- he had his hand in
22 the front pocket and he was holding it
23 like this so it made a print that looked

1 like I needed to go and look at it real
2 quick.

3 I didn't say anything to him
4 or ask him anything or touch him. I just
5 basically came and stood close by and
6 monitored him, and I think he kind of got
7 the gist because he pulled his hands out
8 of his pocket and just showed that it was
9 water and he walked away.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: And was he
11 white or black?

12 MS. PIPER: He was white.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: And other than
14 that incident were there any other
15 characters that created any level of
16 concern for you or anybody in your group
17 that you felt like you needed to approach?

18 MS. PIPER: I didn't know
19 that there were civilian medics out there,
20 so seeing a couple of guys with duffels, I
21 kind of kept my eye out for those guys.

22 A couple of them I guess
23 were military veterans so they came up and

1 spoke, and basically just we all kind of
2 looked out for each other the whole time
3 as far as like -- like I said about the
4 parking lot and the club, you know, just
5 you look up every now and then and make
6 sure you see everybody and then just go
7 back to what you're doing.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Did you
9 ever witness any buses or large groups of
10 people that may have fit this sort of
11 profile based on these emails and alerts
12 of outside folks coming into the protest?

13 MS. PIPER: I mean, visually
14 as far as someone's appearance, it was
15 hard to do because people did have -- they
16 did come prepared. Some people had gas
17 masks on. People had their faces covered.
18 They had goggles on, all types of stuff,
19 so kind of everyone fit the profile.

20 There were people that
21 looked like we made them nervous, but as
22 far as seeing someone that actually threw
23 something before the police started

1 gassing us, no, we didn't see anything
2 like that.

3 There was a random pallet of
4 bricks that someone suggested that they
5 should go and grab and I advised them not
6 and she didn't, but other than that, no.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Why did the
8 person think they needed to go grab
9 bricks?

10 MS. PIPER: Because this --
11 this was after they had gassed and shot at
12 us and she was upset.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: All right,
14 fair enough.

15 So tell me about the
16 conclusion, if you will, of the formal
17 program for this protest. What happened?

18 Oh, before I move there,
19 what was -- we talked about the crowd.
20 What was law enforcement doing during the
21 actual program itself and the testimony?

22 MS. PIPER: There really
23 weren't many there. There were just a

1 couple that was standing in the crowd and
2 most of them had someone next to them that
3 they were having friendly conversation
4 with, and they were pretty much just doing
5 like we were doing, just keeping their
6 heads on a swivel and just making sure
7 that, you know, one or two people weren't
8 about to come and do something crazy and
9 ruin it for the whole bunch.

10 There were a lot driving
11 around the perimeter and just basically, I
12 mean, setting a perimeter really, just
13 driving around not staying in one spot.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: What about on
15 the rooftops of the buildings surrounding
16 the gathering spot?

17 MS. PIPER: Now, the actual
18 walking around the square and all of that
19 they -- I couldn't tell you how many
20 officers were out there. They were on the
21 rooftops with what appeared to be real M4s
22 to me, not the ones that shoot out rubber
23 bullets.

1 They were down at every
2 staircase entrance to the courthouse.
3 They had people lined up from the place
4 where like the trees and all that are
5 planted to the other spot where the trees
6 are planted. They filled the whole
7 stairway entryway.

8 And then they were down on
9 the streets in lines as well in formation
10 preventing folks from walking, basically,
11 containing the entire thing to the square.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: And when you
13 say formation, is this a formation you're
14 familiar with?

15 MS. PIPER: Yeah, they had
16 their lines basically like fortified. I
17 want to say they had three lines but I
18 could be wrong, but they basically they
19 had stacks so that their line wouldn't
20 just be one line of people, it would be
21 fortified if anyone were to try something.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: So the
23 gathering comes to a close.

1 MS. PIPER: Uh-huh

2 (affirmative).

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Were you and
4 your crew still up near where the speakers
5 were off to the side? Were you still in
6 that location?

7 MS. PIPER: We basically
8 just started walking the square. We just
9 started walking the square, and excuse me,
10 we started to hear -- I couldn't tell you
11 who it was on the microphone, I mean on
12 the megaphone, but we started to hear
13 someone giving the orders to disperse, but
14 it wasn't very loud, so we were walking
15 around and trying to echo it to everyone
16 so that they were prepared.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: How far away
18 from the area where the person at the
19 microphone calling for the crowd to
20 disperse, how far away were you from that
21 person?

22 MS. PIPER: Just a few feet,
23 right across the street.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So
2 across the street that's more than a few
3 feet. Would you say --

4 MS. PIPER: No, I mean like
5 I'm standing in the street and he's on the
6 sidewalk of the street, so not -- I
7 apologize. Not from sidewalk to sidewalk
8 but --

9 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

10 MS. PIPER: -- he was on the
11 other side. He was on the sidewalk.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: And was he
13 using any type of voice enhancer,
14 megaphone or something along -- a
15 bullhorn, something like that?

16 MS. PIPER: Yes, he was
17 using a megaphone. It wasn't very loud
18 but he was using one.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And how
20 was the crowd responding to his call to
21 disperse?

22 MS. PIPER: They didn't do
23 anything. They weren't really yelling

1 anything, but they did not leave.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. What
3 happened next? Just walk us through what
4 happened.

5 MS. PIPER: Well, he gave
6 plenty of time. It went on for quite some
7 time, at least -- at the very least half
8 an hour they let us stay out afterwards.

9 They started kind of closing
10 in together a little bit. Like you could
11 see that they were starting to basically
12 prepare themselves to get us ready to
13 disperse.

14 They were, you know,
15 standing up straighter. Some of them took
16 a knee and put their gas masks on. So
17 some of the people did start yelling at
18 that point. There was kind of -- it
19 basically formed like a standoff.

20 It went from a lot of people
21 being more scattered to they kind of got
22 up into a line across the intersection
23 from where the police were at.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Do you recall
2 what intersection that was or what
3 buildings were in that intersection?

4 MS. PIPER: There are --
5 man, there's a picture that they posted
6 where he was -- it was either the mayor or
7 the chief of the police was sitting on the
8 steps. There's a building with white
9 steps and big columns on one side and then
10 there's the courthouse on this side.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: Uh-huh
12 (affirmative).

13 MS. PIPER: I'm not sure.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: So it's at
15 that intersection where the courthouse is?

16 MS. PIPER: Yes.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And so
18 what happened next? You said that they --
19 some of them started to put on gas masks.
20 Did they put on any other gear or how were
21 they -- let me step back.

22 How were they geared up at
23 that point?

1 MS. PIPER: Well, they were
2 already pretty much geared up when we got
3 there. They did have their riot stuff
4 ready. They had on their helmets. I mean
5 they had their gas masks nearby. There
6 were a couple with shields, but that was
7 as far as HPD.

8 It was the sheriff's
9 department that was on the courthouse
10 steps and then there were sheriff's
11 deputies at the end of the line of the
12 police, if that makes sense.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Uh-huh
14 (affirmative). So the HPD formed --

15 MS. PIPER: And they were
16 the ones that had the rifles with the
17 orange on them that were for the rubber
18 bullets.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: The sheriff's
20 department?

21 MS. PIPER: Yes.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And did
23 you see any other law enforcement agencies

1 out there? You said HPD formed their line
2 and they were putting on the gas masks --

3 MR. PIPER: Uh-huh
4 (affirmative).

5 MS. HUNTLEY: -- they had on
6 riot gear. And then at the end of them
7 were the sheriff's department with what
8 appeared to you to be the guns that
9 contained the rubber bullets.

10 And were there any other law
11 enforcement groups that you identified,
12 whether it be Madison city, the troopers,
13 anybody?

14 MS. PIPER: Yes, the state
15 troopers were out there. They were more
16 so on the outside of the square, like the
17 next larger square around it, if that
18 makes sense. They weren't really right
19 there in the thick of it the whole time.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: And how was
21 the -- were the troopers geared up?

22 MS. PIPER: To my
23 recollection they were not geared up like

1 as much riot gear. They had spray. They
2 had very large cans of spray, but other
3 than that, I don't recall any of them
4 having on any type of specific gear.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Now, did you
6 see the spray on their waist or were they
7 holding it their hands in ready position?

8 MS. PIPER: They were we
9 wielding it and just walking around saying
10 y'all need to get out of here pointing it
11 directly at people.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: And what were
13 in their canisters?

14 MS. PIPER: Now, that I
15 don't know. Being that they're law
16 enforcement, I would assume that it would
17 be the Sabre Red brand, but I could be
18 wrong. I really have no clue.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you
20 observe anybody being sprayed directly
21 with what they were spraying?

22 MS. PIPER: I saw a video of
23 it where being that I was there and the

1 scenery of the video, you could tell that
2 I was definitely when that happened but in
3 person, no.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And did
5 you or your team treat anybody after they
6 had an encounter with the troopers with
7 the spray?

8 MS. PIPER: Not the
9 troopers.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So what
11 happened next? We went back to the
12 timelines. So we've got them sort of
13 closing in, going down to one knee.

14 You've got the sheriff's
15 department folks at the edge of the line
16 with what appeared to be rifles with
17 rubber bullets. So walk me through what
18 happened next.

19 MS. PIPER: So about
20 30 minutes after the time had expired and
21 we were supposed to leave, the yelling
22 from the protesters' side started to get
23 just a little bit more intense. They were

1 saying that, you know, we weren't leaving.

2 As I seen them start to take
3 -- as I saw HPD, excuse me, start to take
4 knees one by one and don their gas masks,
5 I started to walk around to everyone and
6 just let them know, you know, they're
7 about to gas and if you're not prepared
8 for this, you need to go ahead and go
9 home. You know, if you've got asthma,
10 anything like that you need to go ahead
11 and go home.

12 And the folks that chose to
13 stay, which was a large number of them
14 chose to stay, and the gas started first
15 and it sort of started to disperse people
16 a little bit.

17 When they really start the
18 rubber bullets, you can see on the
19 recording most people were walking away
20 from the line of police and they started
21 to advance and walk us down.

22 There were people who were
23 very visibly, you know, having panic

1 attacks or either a breathing attack of
2 some sort. You don't really have to have
3 asthma to freak out when that stuff hits
4 you, if you've never experienced it before
5 especially.

6 There were people that were
7 injured and actually bleeding from the
8 rubber bullets. We attempted to give aid
9 to everyone that we can as far as helping
10 them flush out with water or just calming
11 them down and helping them stop breathing
12 so hard and panicking themselves.

13 There was one girl that we
14 actually had to pick up and get out of
15 there because as we knelt to assist her
16 and help her find her Albuterol, her
17 inhaler, a canister actually landed right
18 next to us and went off so we had to just
19 go ahead and pick her up and get her out
20 of there.

21 There was a woman that's
22 shown in photos that got hit in both calf
23 muscles with rubber bullets, and if I'm

1 not mistaken, the bullets were stuck in
2 there, like they were just lodged into her
3 skin. And Mike, my 2IC, actually had to
4 drop a bandage that he was in the process
5 of putting on because they would not let
6 us stop and give anyone aid.

7 You can see that they come
8 up in the line and they basically don't
9 care what we're stopped there doing. They
10 just are like get up and go right now.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: And, again, I
12 hate to interrupt you, but can you tell me
13 when you say they, who is they that
14 wouldn't allow y'all to -- that told you
15 to keep going when you were trying to stop
16 and provide assistance, medical
17 assistance, to people?

18 MS. PIPER: So that was
19 actually a mixture of HPD and the
20 sheriff's deputies. They maintained that
21 same line that they had as they were
22 walking down, so it was still one
23 sheriff's deputy or one or two sheriff's

1 deputies and then a line of HPD and then
2 sheriff's deputies on the end.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So HPD
4 main line with sheriffs on either end of
5 the line?

6 MS. PIPER: Yes.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Did you
8 recognize any of the law enforcement
9 officers that were a part of the line that
10 was moving your area of the crowd?

11 MS. PIPER: No, they all had
12 masks on.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Gas masks?

14 MS. PIPER: Yes.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: Did the
16 sheriff's department have on gas masks as
17 well?

18 MS. PIPER: Yes.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you
20 recognize -- you said you saw them get to
21 a knee and start to put the gas masks on.
22 Did you recognize anybody before they
23 masked up?

1 MS. PIPER: No.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you have
3 any discussions with any of the law
4 enforcement officers about being there to
5 try to offer assistance and asking for
6 their permission to help someone?

7 MS. PIPER: No, they were
8 already geared up and in their line when
9 we got there, as far as being out on the
10 square, and I just -- I did not feel that
11 that was the appropriate time to try and
12 stop and ask questions of anyone.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: So you said
14 you observed injuries to individuals from
15 the rubber bullets. Any other injuries?
16 Did you observe any other injuries occur
17 to people?

18 MS. PIPER: Other than from
19 the rubber bullets, no.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: And what about
21 you? Did you receive any injuries?

22 MS. PIPER: It wasn't major
23 but I was shot as well. It just -- at the

1 angle that it came from, it skimmed across
2 my shoulder right here, so luckily it
3 didn't dig in, it just left a mark. Left
4 a scratch from where you can kind of see
5 the trajectory. It was like a few
6 scratches moving that way.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Is that mark
8 still visible today?

9 MS. PIPER: It's a little
10 bit white like, you know, after something
11 has healed, it's not pink anymore, it
12 starts to turn white a little bit, but for
13 the most part it's gone.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: And did you
15 receive any treatment for that injury?

16 MS. PIPER: No, I treated
17 myself.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: And you talked
19 about there being some guys with duffel
20 bags that were medics on site. Was it
21 your belief that these were medics there
22 on behalf of the city or on behalf of a
23 formal institution?

1 MS. PIPER: Oh, no. It was
2 very obvious from their appearance that
3 they were just out there on behalf of --
4 basically doing the same thing that we
5 were doing, trying to be of service so
6 that people didn't get hurt out there.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: And did you
8 witness them trying to assist people once,
9 you know, rubber bullets started flying
10 and the force was being used to move the
11 crowd?

12 MS. PIPER: Yes, there was
13 actually one guy who, and I never
14 connected or reconnected with him after
15 this, so I really couldn't even tell you
16 who he was, but there was one guy that
17 without saying anything we could tell that
18 he was kind of sticking on our coattails
19 and every time we turned around we saw him
20 nearby with us, and he did help people
21 flush out their faces a little bit.

22 But as far as actually
23 giving aid as far as bandaging or

1 something like that, anything that took
2 longer than a little while to douse
3 someone's face with water, we were not
4 permitted to be able to even do that.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: So how did all
6 of this come to a conclusion for you, at
7 least in the group that you were with, in
8 terms of being led out of the area?

9 MS. PIPER: Once it got dark
10 I think that everyone, you know, had
11 basically been tired of getting gassed and
12 eventually the crowd just really, really
13 thinned out.

14 We sort of got pushed -- I'm
15 not sure what the tactics were exactly for
16 the direction that they were pushing us
17 out towards, but we sort of got pushed to
18 an area where I didn't really know where
19 we were, and we just sort of got turned
20 around and we were kind of walking and
21 just checking on any people, any
22 stragglers that we saw walking who looked
23 like they might have been having a hard

1 time with the gas.

2 But basically everyone just
3 thinned out and it didn't seem like we
4 really needed to be there anymore, but
5 then also we had to go ahead and get onto
6 the club because we were already late.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Because you
8 had an event that night that you had to
9 cover?

10 MS. PIPER: Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: So how long do
12 you think from the time of the
13 announcement that it was over to the time
14 of being sort of pushed by the line, by
15 law enforcement to move out from the site
16 of the protest, how long, how long of a
17 space of time was that?

18 MS. PIPER: I think it was
19 about three hours.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: And do you
21 know how far you traveled now that you can
22 look back on it? You said you didn't know
23 where you ended up being pushed out, but

1 at some point did you go back to your car?
2 Like how far out had you been pushed from
3 where you originally started?

4 MS. PIPER: It was pretty
5 far. I would probably definitely say that
6 it was at least maybe two, maybe a little
7 over two miles. I mean I could be wrong,
8 but Mike definitely had to get us home,
9 but he had marked the position of where
10 the car was so we GPS'd and walked home.
11 I mean, not home, I'm sorry, to the
12 vehicle.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: How long did
14 it take you to get from sort of your
15 ending site to the vehicle?

16 MS. PIPER: Probably about
17 15 minutes.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: So take us
19 there to -- I'm trying to envision sort of
20 what the closure was like. You know,
21 where there was sort of a point, like did
22 law enforcement retreat after a certain
23 point? Did they hold a line and people

1 felt like they couldn't go?

2 I'm just trying to get you
3 to put us there as to what sort of -- you
4 described this pushing that started
5 occurring about 30 minutes after the
6 announcement and now you're telling me the
7 pushing took you out a couple of miles
8 maybe and it went on over about a
9 three-hour period of time, because what
10 time did -- you said you got to the club
11 late. What time -- do you remember what
12 you got to the club?

13 MS. PIPER: I mean, it was
14 probably maybe like 9:15, 9:30.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: And you went
16 straight from Mike's car when y'all got to
17 his car to the club?

18 MS. PIPER: Yes.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: How long did
20 it take you to travel to the club from his
21 car?

22 MS. PIPER: It's probably
23 about seven or eight minutes away I think.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: So --

2 MS. PIPER: It's not too
3 far.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: -- let's just
5 say ten minutes from when y'all got to his
6 car to get to your assignment at the club
7 you had to be at that night?

8 MS. PIPER: I'm sorry, could
9 you say that one more time please?

10 MS. HUNTLEY: So about ten
11 minutes once you got to Mike's car, about
12 ten additional minutes to get to the club
13 that you were covering security for that
14 night; correct?

15 MS. PIPER: Something like
16 that. That's -- I'm going to just be
17 honest with you, it's not very exact at
18 all. My mind at the time just wasn't
19 really on timeline at all, but it was
20 about that, yes.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: So would you
22 have sent a text to the club owner or
23 anybody where you could --

1 MS. PIPER: That's actually
2 exactly what I was looking for.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Thank God for
4 text; right?

5 MS. PIPER: I know.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: You can go
7 back and reconstruct a timeline.

8 MS. PIPER: Right.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: And while
10 you're looking for that when you-all --
11 did you find it?

12 MS. PIPER: I did.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Do you
14 know now?

15 MS. PIPER: So June 3rd
16 8:48 p.m. I said, I'm going to be late, we
17 got kind of lost giving aid to folks out
18 here. And then at -- oh, shoot, no, we
19 was late, late.

20 At 9:37 I said, Mike is
21 going to pull up any minute now. So,
22 yeah, we were late, late because I mean
23 the club opens at nine.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: So that takes
2 me back to -- so that's good, that gives
3 us sort of a timeframe of when you got to
4 your sort of stopping place, but what I
5 would like to understand is what did law
6 enforcement do?

7 Like, you described this
8 sort of method of pushing you guys out to
9 disperse --

10 MR. PIPER: Uh-huh
11 (affirmative).

12 MS. HUNTLEY: -- pushing you
13 away from the square. What did they do?
14 Did they stop? Did they leave? Did they
15 -- could you describe that for us?

16 MS. PIPER: You know, it's
17 kind of odd. I don't really remember how
18 exactly it stopped, but I will say I've
19 got it on camera, but it just seemed to
20 have stopped, like we ended up on a street
21 that was so far from the square that I
22 really -- I don't remember now that you
23 mention it really when they stopped

1 exactly. But I could definitely get you
2 that footage, though.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: And can you
4 and can we follow up with our paralegal
5 Susan to make sure that we capture that?
6 I mean, that's so important and we really
7 appreciate you willing to share that body
8 cam video with us. It's going to be
9 really critical to help fill a lot of
10 holes --

11 MS. PIPER: Yes.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: -- and help
13 this Council be able to sort of understand
14 what it was like to be in the moment as a
15 protester.

16 MS. PIPER: It's very, very
17 clear. You know, y'all will definitely
18 get a lot out of that footage. It shows a
19 lot.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Is it
21 time-stamped as well?

22 MS. PIPER: I couldn't tell
23 you if the time is right on it or not,

1 because I had just gotten it as a birthday
2 gift from my mother, but that was actually
3 the first time that I had used it but
4 there is a stamp on there. I would have
5 to look at it to remember if it's right or
6 not.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Also
8 along the way as the push was occurring,
9 did you observe any what I'm going to
10 characterize, for lack of a better term as
11 rioting, meaning damaging any structures
12 or anything, any kind of activity like
13 that along the way?

14 MS. PIPER: No, no damage to
15 any businesses whatsoever that I saw being
16 -- that I saw happening. I don't know --
17 to my knowledge there were no reports of
18 any damage to any buildings.

19 We did see people that
20 decided to throw water bottles at the
21 police vehicles as they drove through, and
22 you can see that very clearly on the
23 footage as well. Other than that, we

1 didn't see anything.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: Did the people
3 have verbal altercations, meaning shouting
4 at law enforcement, maybe using bad
5 language? You know, was that going on?

6 MS. PIPER: Not back and
7 forth as far as HPD responding, but, yes,
8 people were saying things, or yelling
9 things I mean.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: So is there
11 anything that I've missed? You were there
12 and I've tried to get you to walk us
13 through sort of what you observed when you
14 were there, and before I open the floor,
15 I'm going to turn it over to partner if he
16 wants to ask questions and also check to
17 see if any of the Council members have any
18 questions, but before I get there when
19 you-all were sort of walking down through
20 the street or whatever pathway you were
21 taking that I'm sure will show up on your
22 body cam, were people pretty much moving
23 or were they some trying to stop and

1 engage with law enforcement?

2 MS. PIPER: Everyone was for
3 the most part -- for the vast majority
4 everyone was moving. People's backs were
5 turned when we were being launched at.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you
7 witness anyone refusing to move, refusing
8 to go forward and move as law enforcement
9 was instructing them to do?

10 MS. PIPER: Not that I can
11 recall, no. I do remember seeing one
12 young man pick up one of the gas cans that
13 was deployed and grabbing it and tossing
14 it back, but other than that, not that I
15 can recall.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: And then last
17 question and I'll turn it over to Jack,
18 did you guys put out any information
19 before you went to the protest to sort of
20 instruct people on how to prepare
21 themselves, what they might want to have
22 with them, anything of that nature?

23 MS. PIPER: Unfortunately we

1 didn't do that. I honestly was not
2 expecting it to -- well, I guess I'll say
3 I was hoping it wasn't going to get as bad
4 as the one on the 1st.

5 We did however get on our
6 company Instagram page and we made a post
7 that instructed anyone who was out there
8 attending, if they saw us out there and
9 they saw anyone doing any crazy that would
10 cause the peaceful protest to turn out the
11 way that it ended up turning out anyways,
12 but if they saw anything going on to just
13 yell security because that would be the
14 first thing that we would automatically
15 turn our heads to.

16 So we did do that, but as
17 far as preparing people as far as personal
18 protective equipment, no, we did not do
19 that unfortunately.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Well,
21 thank you. I know it's a tough thing to
22 talk about. It was obviously a bad
23 experience, you know, for you, and

1 regardless of what happened, it just
2 wasn't a positive experience for anybody,
3 so I know it's difficult to talk about and
4 I appreciate.

5 Do you need a break now?
6 Checking in on you again. Otherwise --

7 MS. PIPER: I'm fine.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: -- I'll pass
9 to my partner, Jack, to see if he has any
10 additional follow-up questions.

11 MR. SHARMAN: Thank you,
12 Liz.

13 Ms. Piper, again, I'm Jack
14 Sharman, and along with Liz, I am one of
15 the independent counsel to the CAC and I
16 appreciate your time here, and I just have
17 a few hopefully narrow questions just so I
18 understand a little bit better some of
19 your testimony.

20 And I'll jump around a
21 little bit in the interest of trying to be
22 efficient, so if I make a transition
23 between questions that makes no sense, be

1 sure to let me know. Is that okay?

2 MS. PIPER: Yes.

3 MR. SHARMAN: You mentioned
4 the state troopers. So I think when we're
5 talking about state troopers, we're
6 talking about ALEA officers, the Alabama
7 Law Enforcement Agency; is that right?

8 MS. PIPER: Yes.

9 MR. SHARMAN: And you said
10 you saw them with cans of spray. Did I
11 understand you right?

12 MS. PIPER: Yes.

13 MR. SHARMAN: And when you
14 say spray, you understood that to be some
15 sort of non-lethal crowd-control material,
16 whether OC or something else; is that
17 right?

18 MS. PIPER: Yes, correct.

19 MR. SHARMAN: Okay. And
20 were they deploying that? Were they
21 actually using it or did they just have
22 that in their possession?

23 MS. PIPER: They were

1 holding it out as a Level 1, I guess if
2 you'll say escalation of force, I'm
3 prepared to use this, but I did not
4 visually see anyone there get sprayed, no.

5 MR. SHARMAN: Did you see
6 state troopers do anything else with
7 regard to crowd control or interaction
8 with the crowd?

9 MS. PIPER: We did see one
10 that was unpleasantly reacting with the
11 crowd. He was just -- he wasn't really,
12 you know, saying anything like, you know,
13 political or racist or anything like that,
14 but he was rude in his yelling at folks to
15 disperse but nothing other than that.

16 MR. SHARMAN: Did you see
17 them do any sort of traffic control? And
18 by that I mean literally either moving
19 people, directing vehicles, anything like
20 that?

21 MS. PIPER: Yes, they had
22 their vehicles parked in the street so as
23 to cordon off the area.

1 MR. SHARMAN: Okay. Did you
2 have any interaction with any troopers?

3 MS. PIPER: No, I did not.

4 MR. SHARMAN: In following
5 up on Liz's timeline you mentioned that,
6 you know, gas -- there came a point where
7 gas was used. Do you know or did you -- I
8 guess a better question did you see
9 whether or not HPD or any other agency
10 used smoke as opposed to OC or some other
11 agent?

12 MS. PIPER: As far as I
13 could tell, they were both being deployed
14 at the same time, so I really wasn't able
15 to differentiate.

16 MR. SHARMAN: And then we've
17 spoken a couple of times about the rubber
18 bullets, and this may seem like a silly
19 question, but you said that you understood
20 or concluded that it was the sheriff's
21 deputies who were using and discharging
22 rubber bullets.

23 How do you know that? Did

1 you see them firing, or I mean how do you
2 know that?

3 MS. PIPER: Yes, you could
4 see them basically step up like about one
5 step in front of the line to go ahead and
6 shoot one and then re-join with the line
7 more than once.

8 MR. SHARMAN: Did you see
9 any representative of any other agency
10 other than the sheriff's department using
11 rubber bullets?

12 MS. PIPER: Not to my
13 knowledge.

14 MR. SHARMAN: What about any
15 other non-lethal weaponry, like so-called
16 bean bags or anything like that? Did you
17 see any other representatives of any other
18 agency using, you know, that effort?

19 MS. PIPER: Not to my
20 knowledge.

21 MR. SHARMAN: You got a
22 question from Liz about the interaction
23 between members of the crowd on the one

1 hand and HPD on the other.

2 And I believe you said that,
3 you know, later in the day and early in
4 the evening at times sort of the level of
5 hostility, I guess is the right term, on
6 the part of the protesters sort of
7 increased. Would that be an accurate
8 statement?

9 MS. PIPER: Definitely. The
10 intensity level changed.

11 MR. SHARMAN: All right.
12 Setting aside the use of gas or other
13 agents for a moment, how would you
14 describe, to the extent you saw, the
15 comportment of HPD officers in the face of
16 that?

17 MS. PIPER: The only thing
18 that I saw personally that I had an issue
19 with myself was that when a couple of the
20 officers took a knee to go ahead and don
21 their gas masks, there were people in the
22 crowd who misunderstood that to think that
23 they were taking a knee with them and so

1 people started to applaud and people
2 started to ask them to march with us, and
3 there were officers basically just shaking
4 their heads laughing, and I just -- I
5 don't think that that was appropriate for
6 the crowd and it didn't help with their
7 hostilities at all, especially putting on
8 a gas mask right after that.

9 But that was really the only
10 thing I saw. For the most part I did not
11 see any officers that were verbally
12 interacting with the crowd, none of them
13 yelling back at anyone or anything like
14 that.

15 MR. SHARMAN: Let me ask you
16 a follow-up question about the warnings to
17 disperse given to the crowd. If I
18 understood you correctly, your take on
19 that was there were warnings and they were
20 repeated for a reasonable amount of time,
21 but they basically were not loud enough
22 and were not communicated sufficiently
23 well; is that a fair summary?

1 MS. PIPER: Yes, most
2 definitely.

3 MR. SHARMAN: You spoke a
4 little bit about your relationships with
5 and contacts with some police officers.
6 Do you or your firm have any relationships
7 with any of the leaders or organizers of
8 the protests on the 1st and the 3rd?

9 MS. PIPER: Not to my
10 knowledge.

11 MR. SHARMAN: Okay. So, for
12 example, Mr. Chavez who spoke at one of
13 our earlier sessions, do you know
14 Mr. Chavez?

15 MS. PIPER: No, I do not.

16 MR. SHARMAN: And I think
17 Mr. Stoneman, I believe, who also spoke.
18 Do you know him?

19 MS. PIPER: No, I do not.

20 MR. SHARMAN: Okay. Let me
21 ask a question as a devil's advocate here,
22 Ms. Piper, so don't take anything either
23 personally or professionally from this,

1 but if a representative, a witness from
2 say the police department responded to
3 your presence or your company's presence
4 and your colleagues' presence as saying,
5 look, you know, that's nice, but this is a
6 law enforcement matter and we really don't
7 need private security companies, posses,
8 local activists, private citizens, anybody
9 else essentially engaging in public --
10 maintaining public order, that's our job,
11 not theirs, that's just another issue
12 we've got to deal with.

13 If a witness were to say
14 that or something like that, what would be
15 your response? What would be your take on
16 that?

17 MS. PIPER: I think that
18 that would be a horrible type of approach
19 to the situation, given that in my opinion
20 we need a little bit more community
21 policing because the relationship between
22 low income and minority communities and
23 law enforcement is typically from city to

1 city, state to state, not a very good
2 relationship, so what we've been trying is
3 not working and something needs to change
4 so that people aren't dying needlessly but
5 also so that officers can do their job
6 without having to tiptoe and miss one
7 thing worrying about the politics of
8 something else.

9 MR. SHARMAN: You spoke a
10 little bit about some of your contacts
11 with the police department.

12 What about with the
13 sheriff's office? Do you and your
14 colleagues just in the course of your
15 normal professional work have interactions
16 with the sheriff's department and
17 sheriff's deputies in the same way that
18 you sometimes do with HPD?

19 MS. PIPER: I do have one
20 deputy that we liaise with at a spot that
21 we have out in Madison when we have
22 special events, but other than that, no,
23 just the one.

1 MR. SHARMAN: I asked you a
2 question about the demeanor of the HPD
3 officers on the scene.

4 Let me ask you the same
5 about the demeanor of the sheriff's
6 deputies, to the extent you observed that.
7 How would you describe their demeanor?

8 MS. PIPER: They were pretty
9 much just about the same as HPD. They
10 weren't interacting with the crowd much at
11 all.

12 They were just up
13 surrounding the courthouse up on the
14 higher part mostly of the steps to the
15 entrances. There was one entrance, if I'm
16 not mistaken, where they were also lined
17 up down on the bottom part of the steps,
18 but I didn't see very many actual
19 interactions with the people as far as
20 verbal or anything like that before the
21 gas or the bullets started.

22 MR. SHARMAN: All right.
23 Well, I appreciate it, Ms. Piper. I don't

1 have any further questions. This has been
2 very helpful.

3 I might refer it to Vicki,
4 our Chair. I don't know if you or the
5 remaining patient members of the Council
6 have any questions of their own.

7 MS. GUERRIERI: Thank you,
8 Jack.

9 And thank you very much,
10 Ms. Piper, for your detail this morning on
11 answering the questions as we continue to
12 review this event at the direction of City
13 Council.

14 Do any of the members still
15 with us have any questions for Ms. Piper?

16 MS. MCCULLEY: I have one, I
17 think. Normally do you not reach out to
18 HPD, sheriffs, whomever to let them know
19 that you are in the area to assist them,
20 or is it just normal for you to show up
21 and do your thing?

22 MS. PIPER: Well, that --
23 wait, I'm sorry. Are you referring as far

1 as to any time if there's some type of
2 protest or do you mean for events and
3 stuff like that too?

4 MS. MCCULLEY: Well, the
5 protest and in general. Is it normally
6 your protocol not to reach out to law
7 enforcement to let them know that you are
8 there to aid them, or are you just there
9 to be the buffer strictly for the protest
10 or the patrons?

11 MS. PIPER: For this --
12 excuse me. For this protest we did reach
13 out to them to let them know that we were
14 there not in a protesting sense, but to
15 give aid.

16 MS. MCCULLEY: Okay. And
17 your actual alerts that you kept referring
18 to, the chain news feed where did that
19 come from?

20 MS. PIPER: It's just like
21 one person gets a message and on the
22 message it says, you know, send to 12
23 people or something like that.

1 So basically people around
2 the city were sending them in a chain
3 message to people that they thought may be
4 at the protest or people that they knew
5 were going to the protest.

6 MS. MCCULLEY: Like Twitter,
7 Facebook, stuff like that is where you're
8 referring to that they would get news feed
9 from?

10 MS. PIPER: Yes.

11 MS. MCCULLEY: Okay.

12 MR. ROSSOW: And, Ms. Piper,
13 this is Jonathan Rossow. Appreciate your
14 time today. Just one question for you and
15 you may have covered this already.

16 Just to confirm, you have a
17 working relationship with HPD and some
18 officers, but you do not have any
19 contractual relationship with HPD;
20 correct?

21 MS. PIPER: No, none
22 whatsoever.

23 MR. ROSSOW: Okay. Thank

1 you. Thank you for your time.

2 MS. GUERRIERI: Ms. Piper?

3 MS. PIPER: Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. GUERRIERI: Okay. Let
5 me ask you during the event of June the
6 1st and the 3rd, did you at any time have
7 any communication or conversations with
8 any member of the Huntsville Police
9 Department command staff or city
10 administration, city council people,
11 anything -- anyone in a leadership
12 position?

13 MS. PIPER: No, ma'am.
14 Honestly, that being the first time that
15 we had ever done anything like that, I
16 really didn't know or honestly properly
17 research who at the head of things that I
18 should have spoken to.

19 We just took the contacts
20 that we already had and reached out in the
21 way that we already knew how to.

22 MS. GUERRIERI: Okay. And
23 since you were there on the square, do you

1 feel or do you think that HPD command
2 staff that were there on the square also
3 knew that you were there present to assist
4 in any way that you could; however, you
5 were never asked to leave officially by
6 HPD, but you were there to help?

7 You only received the same
8 instruction everyone else did at that time
9 to disperse; is that correct?

10 MS. PIPER: Yes, that's
11 correct.

12 MS. GUERRIERI: Okay. Thank
13 you. That's all I have.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: And I just
15 have one other follow-up, and I apologize,
16 it was in my notes and I missed it.

17 When you gave your testimony
18 in August you talked about gas kind of
19 coming from everywhere. You said it was
20 coming from up high, down low, and I know
21 you may have just been sort of
22 characterizing the chaos of the scene, but
23 trying to drill that down more

1 specifically, you told us today that gas
2 was clearly coming from this line that was
3 formed and there was something in the cans
4 of troopers that you did not see dispersed
5 but what about up high? Was there
6 anything coming from the rooftops where
7 law enforcement was stationed?

8 MS. PIPER: I know for a
9 fact that I saw at least one can come out
10 of an open window on maybe the third or
11 fourth floor of one of the buildings.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Do you
13 know was it -- could you tell it was law
14 enforcement?

15 MS. PIPER: No, I couldn't
16 see who tossed it. It was just one of
17 those moments where I took a second to
18 look around and make a quick assessment
19 and saw where the can came from.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: And that's
21 likely to be included on your body cam,
22 would your camera have captured that since
23 it was up above you?

1 MS. PIPER: I'm honestly not
2 sure. I haven't actually sat and looked
3 through the whole thing. I'm not sure if
4 my chest would have moved up enough to
5 capture that or not, but if it did, you'll
6 definitely see it.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And so
8 from the window from one of the floors of
9 the building, but not from the rooftop?
10 You didn't see anything come from the
11 rooftops?

12 MS. PIPER: I saw people on
13 rooftops, but did I actually see an object
14 come from the rooftop, no.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Well, I
16 think that's all I have. Do you have
17 anything else, Jack?

18 MR. SHARMAN: I do not.
19 Ms. Piper, I appreciate your time, and
20 like Liz said at the beginning, obviously
21 we don't have any power to make you not
22 hold our questions and what you've talked
23 about in confidence, but to the extent you

1 can, we would appreciate it just because
2 the review's ongoing, and if nothing else,
3 you know, when witnesses talk to each
4 other sometimes they unintentionally
5 contaminate each other's memories and
6 recollections and things get more
7 confused. But other than that, I just
8 thank you and hope you have a good new
9 year.

10 MS. PIPER: Thank you. You
11 as well.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Ms. Piper,
13 same here, I really appreciate your
14 patience and giving us nearly two hours of
15 your day during a holiday season.

16 As you can tell, this is
17 very important to this Council to get in
18 the weeds and find the facts to find out
19 what happened that day, so we thank you
20 for your cooperation. You'll likely
21 receive a follow up from me, particularly
22 about body cam footage.

23 Susan Harper, our paralegal,

1 will be in touch via email so we can
2 coordinate getting that information.

3 If there's something we need
4 to do physically in person in Huntsville
5 to make that happen, we're completely
6 capable of doing whatever we need to do to
7 make that transaction and transfer that
8 information, and, again, I can't thank you
9 enough, and good luck to you as you
10 continue to grow your business and with
11 all of your training.

12 MS. MCCULLEY: Liz --

13 MS. HUNTLEY: I think we've
14 got one other thing.

15 MS. MCCULLEY: Yes, I do
16 have one question. You know, a lot of
17 comments have been made on the presence,
18 the visual presence, of the law
19 enforcement.

20 Is there any -- is there a
21 picture that she can give us of her staff
22 that was there that day because she said
23 that she wore body protection, her and one

1 other, and then the others were dressed in
2 security clothing.

3 Is there something that she
4 can show us in that fashion? I don't know
5 -- you know, I guess what I'm getting at
6 is did they give the same attitude as the
7 law enforcement did as far as their
8 appearance?

9 MS. PIPER: I actually have
10 emailed a picture from that day --

11 MS. MCCULLEY: I'm sorry.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Yes, ma'am, I
13 sent an email with a picture from that
14 day, but other than myself and Mike having
15 on actual the plate carriers, the other
16 guys it was just a security shirt that
17 said security very large on it with our
18 company logo on the back, black pants,
19 black shoes.

20 MS. MCCULLEY: Any
21 particular why you wore the body armor --

22 MS. PIPER: It's just what
23 my uniform is so we wanted to make sure

1 that we were out there in uniform so that
2 it would be very obvious who we were.

3 MS. MCCULLEY: Okay. Okay.
4 I was just curious. Thank you.

5 MR. LOVE: Ms. Piper?

6 MS. PIPER: Yes.

7 MR. LOVE: Ms. Piper, did
8 you have on reflective vests at that time?
9 I think we saw some footage where there
10 were some security people in like green
11 and yellow reflective vests.

12 MS. PIPER: No, we did not.
13 We all had on black.

14 MR. LOVE: Okay. Thank you.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Any
16 other questions?

17 MS. MCCULLEY: Thank you,
18 Ms. Piper.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: Thank you for
20 those good questions, Shelly.

21 All right. Well, I think
22 this concludes the interview, and, again,
23 Ms. Piper, we'll be following up with you

1 and thank you so much for your time today,
2 and Happy New Year to everybody on the
3 call.

4 MS. MCCULLEY: To you as
5 well.

6 MS. GUERRIERI: Thank you
7 again, Ms. Piper.

8 MR. SHARMAN: Thank you.
9 Bye-bye.

10

11 [Interview ended at 12:50 p.m.]

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1 CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF ALABAMA)

3 TUSCALOOSA COUNTY)

4 I hereby certify that the above and
5 foregoing proceedings were taken down by
6 me in stenotype, and the questions and
7 answers thereto were reduced in transcript
8 form by computer-aided transcript under my
9 supervision, and that the foregoing
10 represents a true and correct transcript
11 of the proceedings occurring on said date
12 at said time.

13 I further certify that I am neither
14 of counsel nor of kin to the parties to
15 the action, nor am I anywise interested in
16 the results of said cause.

17 Signed December 30, 2020.

18

19 /s/ Nancy Pannell, CCR

20 NANCY PANNELL, CCR

21 Alabama CCR No. 30, Expires 9/30/2021

22 Commissioner for the State of Alabama at

23 Large, Commission expires 07/17/2021