

BEFORE THE HUNTSVILLE POLICE CITIZENS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

VIDEO-CONFERENCE INTERVIEW

OF

SHAWN ESTES

JANUARY 20, 2021

8:58 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

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21

22 MEMBERS OF ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESENT:

23 Ms. Victoria Guerrieri, Chair

1 Mr. Willie Love
2 Ms. Shelly McCulley
3 Mr. Jonathan Rossow

4
5 ALSO PRESENT:

6 Ms. Susan Harper, White-Collar
7 Specialist Paralegal with Lightfoot,
8 Franklin & White
9 Ms. Nancy Pannell, Court Reporter
10 with Birmingham Reporting

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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 8:58 a.m. on JANUARY 20,
9 2021, SHAWN ESTES, for oral examination,
10 whereupon the following proceedings were
11 had:

12
13 MS. HUNTLEY: Hi, Mr. Estes,
14 how are you this morning?

15 MR. ESTES: Hello. Doing
16 well. Thank you.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Good.
18 So my name is Liz Huntley,
19 and I am one of the attorneys, independent
20 counsel to represent the Police Citizens
21 Advisory Counsel.

22 MR. ESTES: Yes.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: And I'm here

1 with my partner and colleague, Jack
2 Sharman, who's over my left shoulder.

3 MR. SHARMAN: Good morning.

4 MR. ESTES: Good morning.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Wearing the
6 sharp bowtie.

7 And also with us who is not
8 in view of the camera is one of our other
9 attorneys, Jay Sewell, who's been working
10 on this matter.

11 And I'll let the Chairwoman
12 for the CAC introduce herself and the
13 other CAC members that were available
14 today to be on this interview call.

15 MR. ESTES: Sure, great.

16 MS. GUERRIERI: Yes. Good
17 morning, Mr. Estes.

18 And let me -- I'm Vicki
19 Guerrieri, and I am Chair of the
20 Huntsville Police Citizens Advisory
21 Council.

22 MR. ESTES: Good morning.

23 MS. GUERRIERI: First of

1 all, let me thank you for coming in for
2 the interview today, and I will start the
3 meeting by calling roll on who is able to
4 attend.

5 I know Willie Love.

6 MR. LOVE: Here.

7 MS. GUERRIERI: I know

8 Willie's here.

9 John Olshefski?

10 (No response.)

11 MS. GUERRIERI: John

12 Reitzell?

13 (No response.)

14 MS. GUERRIERI: Ruben

15 Flores?

16 (No response.)

17 MS. GUERRIERI: David

18 Little?

19 (No response.)

20 MS. GUERRIERI: Gregory

21 Bentley.

22 (No response.)

23 MS. GUERRIERI: Jonathan

1 Rossow?

2 (No response.)

3 MS. GUERRIERI: Shelly

4 McCulley?

5 MS. MCCULLEY: Here.

6 MS. GUERRIERI: Wiley Day,

7 Jr.

8 (No response.)

9 MS. GUERRIERI: Okay. And

10 at this point I'll turn it back over to

11 Liz and Jack and we will get started.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Great.

13 So, Mr. Estes, it's two
14 minutes till, but we'll go ahead and get
15 started and the other members you may
16 notice that other folks may join us on the
17 call.

18 As you observed from that
19 roll call, there's more than three members
20 to the CAC, so some of them, because of
21 their work schedule, may hop onto the
22 call, so just be aware of that.

23 (Mr. Jonathan Rossow enters the

1 interview.)

2 MS. HUNTLEY: First of all,
3 let me say thank you for being willing to
4 allow us to have a conversation with you.

5 After your presentation at
6 the public hearings, the CAC felt that
7 they would like to hear more detail from
8 you, more detailed information --

9 MR. ESTES: Sure.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: -- on what you
11 know about what happened, and I believe
12 for you it was June 3rd.

13 MR. ESTES: Yes.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: Although,
15 there are two dates that are being
16 investigated.

17 And let me just ask this
18 request at the outset and that is this:
19 That this is an ongoing investigation.

20 There's people who have
21 already been interviewed. There's a
22 tremendous amount of other work to be done
23 on this investigation to complete it, so

1 we would just ask if you would respect our
2 request to keep this interview
3 confidential, so that we can go about our
4 work and get it done without too much
5 inquiry into what it is that we're doing.

6 We just want to be able to
7 take our time and have a thorough
8 investigation so we would ask that request
9 of you, Mr. Estes.

10 (Ms. Susan Harper enters interview.)

11 MR. ESTES: I understand. I
12 understand.

13 I know there has been an
14 emphasis on time management on getting
15 prompt, you know, results to the city
16 council and, of course, I want that
17 myself.

18 I would very much prefer an
19 expedited process, but I do understand and
20 appreciate, you know, that you guys are
21 considering that taking the necessary
22 needed time so yes, absolutely, absolutely
23 understand that.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Well, thank
2 you. I can say that Jack and I and Jay we
3 represent a very conscientious group of
4 people that want to be thorough and want
5 to get this right and --

6 MR. ESTES: Sure.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: -- your
8 interview is a part of that process so we
9 really appreciate your time this morning.

10 And, you know, this isn't a
11 drill of you or one of those types of
12 interrogation. I want you to feel like
13 we're just really having a conversation
14 about the events --

15 MR. ESTES: Okay.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: -- so that we
17 can better understand what you
18 experienced, what you observed, and also
19 to go a little deeper than what you were
20 able to do at the short length of time
21 that you had at the public hearing.

22 MR. ESTES: Of course.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: So with that

1 said, I'm going to ask you some personal
2 background questions.

3 I think you would agree for
4 obvious reasons we need to know a little
5 bit about you, as we move forward with
6 this and some are going to be sort of
7 mundane, check-the-box questions.

8 So if you'll indulge me for
9 a few minutes, we're going to get started
10 and just ask you a few questions, okay.

11 MR. ESTES: Sure, please.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: All right.

13 First of all, state your full name.

14 MR. ESTES: Shawn Estes.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And are
16 you married, Shawn?

17 May I call you Shawn or
18 Mr. Estes?

19 MR. ESTES: Shawn -- Shawn
20 is great.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay, great.

22 Are you married?

23 MR. ESTES: Not married, no.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Have
2 you ever been married?

3 MR. ESTES: I have not.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And so
5 what is your full address?

6 MR. ESTES: [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED].

9 MS. HUNTLEY: And how long
10 have you lived in Huntsville?

11 MR. ESTES: All my life. I
12 was born -- my family lived in Athens,
13 Alabama when I was born.

14 I went to Monte Sano
15 Elementary School. We moved here to
16 Huntsville when I was five years old.

17 Monte Sano is Huntsville
18 school, and I've lived here the rest of my
19 life with a little bit of traveling, a
20 little bit of schooling. Otherwise,
21 Huntsville has been forever my home.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: What schooling
23 have you had outside of high school?

1 MR. ESTES: Some college in
2 California, Santa Rosa and Sonoma, Sonoma
3 State.

4 I ended up coming back and
5 finishing my degree at Athens State, with
6 some classes at UH as well.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Great.

8 And do you have any other
9 family members that live in Huntsville
10 since said you grew up here? Do you have
11 your parents there?

12 MR. ESTES: I do. My
13 brother lived here -- he and I both lived
14 here for a long time. Although he did
15 eventually leave, my mother and my father
16 both live here. My grandmother recently
17 passed away.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

19 And any other extended
20 family in the area?

21 MR. ESTES: Probably, but I
22 don't communicate so much. I think there
23 are aunts, uncles, cousins, et cetera, but

1 not immediate family, no.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: And do you
3 have any family members or close friends
4 that are members of the law enforcement
5 agencies that were involved in these
6 protests, whether it be Madison County,
7 Huntsville Police Department, Madison
8 City, or the state troopers?

9 MR. ESTES: I do not, no.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: And do you
11 know any of those officers that's a part
12 of any of those organizations personally?

13 MR. ESTES: I'm confident
14 that I do not, no.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: And you said
16 you completed your degree at Athens State.
17 What was it in?

18 MR. ESTES: Computer
19 science.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: And what do
21 you do now? Where are you employed?

22 MR. ESTES: [REDACTED].

23 MS. HUNTLEY: [REDACTED]. And

1 is it in that field, the computer science
2 field?

3 MR. ESTES: Correct.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And
5 what about your civic interests? Do you
6 attend a church in Huntsville? Are you a
7 member of any clubs or organizations?

8 MR. ESTES: I played soccer
9 in Huntsville for pretty much all my life,
10 which is Huntsville Adult Soccer League.

11 I've attended more than one
12 church but not regularly. I have
13 volunteered with various organizations
14 over the years, Crisis Service North
15 Alabama, Food Bank of North Alabama.

16 As far as civic engagement,
17 I've been involved politically on numerous
18 campaigns in a volunteer capacity.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: Can I ask are
20 those Democratic or Republican campaigns?

21 MR. ESTES: Sure. My
22 involvement is focused on Democratic
23 campaigns, yes.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: And another
2 question, do you have a criminal record,
3 Mr. Estes?

4 MR. ESTES: No, I do not,
5 no.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: And have you
7 ever been involved in any litigation as a
8 defendant or a plaintiff in any capacity?

9 MR. ESTES: Goodness, I do
10 not think so, no.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: All right.

12 So let's get to the heart of
13 the matter, which is my understanding is
14 you participated in the protest on June
15 the 3rd; correct?

16 MR. ESTES: Correct.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And
18 what made you decide you wanted to
19 participate in the protest on June 3rd?

20 MR. ESTES: I heard about
21 people that were tear-gassed on June 1st
22 and that was a disturbing story to hear in
23 Huntsville, Alabama.

1 I was shocked and surprised
2 to hear that. The way that the story was
3 told to me was that there was a few
4 people, you know, in the park effectively
5 that were sort of running away and were
6 tear-gassed, you know, even with having
7 started a protest at the courthouse.

8 I know, of course, the mayor
9 was there briefly. I didn't follow too
10 closely, right, and I don't think I read
11 news articles about it especially.

12 I basically heard those sort
13 of I'll say vague rumors and it's not far,
14 it's not far from my house, right.

15 It was a walkable, walkable
16 distance. I heard there was a protest
17 taking place and I decided to go see it,
18 to go witness it.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: And so I
20 recall that from your testimony at the
21 public hearing, so can you describe for us
22 where you live in proximity to the rally
23 that took place on June 3rd?

1 MR. ESTES: Sure, I'm, you
2 know, [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 Huntsville.

5 So there's a common
6 intersection [REDACTED] that, of
7 course, designates the residency region.
8 [REDACTED] is towards Huntsville City
9 Center from my house, so [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED],
12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED].

16 From that location [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] goes down to, you know, down to I
18 guess the entertainment district right
19 near the park, the courthouse, et cetera.
20 It's a -- it's a very comfortable walk.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: And do you
22 live in an apartment or a house?

23 MR. ESTES: My house. I've

1 owned my house for almost 20 years.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So tell
3 me how you learned about the June 3rd
4 protest?

5 MR. ESTES: Couldn't tell
6 you. I would say -- I would say word of
7 mouth, maybe Facebook. Maybe I saw a post
8 on Facebook, but I honestly couldn't
9 recall with specificity.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you sign
11 up on a Facebook event or anything to
12 formally be a part of the protest?

13 MR. ESTES: Yeah, now, that
14 you say that, now that you say that I do
15 remember because there was question about
16 the ending time, so yes, that was a
17 Facebook event and the event was
18 advertised for 8:00 p.m., to end at
19 8:00 p.m., so, yes, I did see that.

20 It was a Facebook
21 interaction. Was there an actual event
22 where you clicked, you know, interested or
23 going, I mean there has been, you know, a

1 lot of those, so I can't tell you if June
2 3rd was that kind of event which was
3 registered, et cetera.

4 I wouldn't be shocked if I
5 didn't click that because that is --
6 that's not my usual behavior but the event
7 itself was a Facebook event, with a
8 critical piece of information that it was
9 advertised as an 8:00 p.m. end time.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: And so when
11 you learned about it, and you learned via
12 social media is what you're telling me?

13 MR. ESTES: Yes, yes.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you know
15 who was organizing the event?

16 MR. ESTES: Yes. There was
17 the North Alabama Chapter of the NAACP.
18 I'm trying to remember if there was a
19 co-host of the event. I believe it was
20 just -- it was just the North Alabama
21 NAACP group.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: And do you
23 know anyone affiliated with that group

1 personally?

2 MR. ESTES: No, not
3 personally. I mean, actually when -- I
4 mean probably, but not well.

5 When I worked for Peter
6 Joffrion in his campaign for congressional
7 district in 2018, I did volunteer with
8 Alabama A&M University in their homecoming
9 parade and there was a number of students
10 that I met that were very active, very
11 involved, Kadeidra Fikes specifically as
12 the -- anyway, probably a few, but not
13 specifically related to this event.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And so
15 did you pay attention to any online
16 chatter or news coverage of what to expect
17 for the event?

18 MR. ESTES: I think -- I
19 think I did see, yes, chatter about that.

20 My only social media
21 involvement is Facebook. I don't do
22 Twitter. I don't do Instagram, any of
23 that, so I assume that that chatter was on

1 Facebook, probably in the events
2 themselves.

3 I don't know, some of the
4 people that I know do talk about --
5 perhaps talk about those things. I.

6 Know that -- I know that
7 milk was an issue with the tear gas, that
8 that was a remedy.

9 I don't remember if June 1
10 people had had like milk confiscated, if
11 that was a thing on June 1. Of course, it
12 was a thing on June 3rd.

13 It almost -- I mean, as I'm
14 remembering it, it almost seems -- seemed
15 or -- seems or seemed a joke to bring, you
16 know, milk.

17 I remember I went to [REDACTED]
18 Market, which is down the street for my
19 house on the way there to buy mask, to buy
20 a mask covering, specifically, you know,
21 Coronavirus at the time, and while I was
22 there I bought milk and I took it down to
23 the protest.

1 Again, it seems it -- you
2 know, the whole thing seemed surreal
3 almost. I did not do anything with the
4 milk once I got there.

5 I guess maybe it was just --
6 to me that was a statement of
7 quote/unquote right, a statement of right.

8 And then, of course, I mean,
9 right, there's nothing to say that I
10 cannot walk downtown with a bottle of
11 milk.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: What else did
13 you -- you said you learned from the
14 chatter about the use of milk.

15 Do you know what the --
16 where did you learn about having milk
17 there to assist you in this protest?

18 MR. ESTES: Yeah, I couldn't
19 hardly tell you. At that time I'm not
20 cataloging things in my brain thinking I'm
21 going to have to, you know, at a later
22 point give testimony on this.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: Right.

1 MR. ESTES: So I could not,
2 I could not individually isolate, you
3 know, conversations at that time versus
4 any later involvement because I did
5 continue to attend other protests or talk
6 with other protest members.

7 So I can't tell you -- I
8 know I didn't talk with people about it on
9 June 3rd. That was my first experience
10 with it.

11 I don't know -- didn't know
12 a lot of people that are actively doing
13 it, involved in it.

14 It was just, you know, a
15 split decision to go down there. So I'm
16 sure I saw some Facebook posts and I could
17 hardly tell you what they even said.

18 The only reason I remember
19 milk is because, like I said, I went to
20 the grocery store and bought milk, so I'm
21 sure I read that in relation to tear gas,
22 but --

23 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you take

1 anyone with you? Did anybody accompany
2 you to the protest?

3 MR. ESTES: No, when I got
4 down there I saw two friends of mine the
5 very first thing when I got down there.

6 Cooper Green and Matthew
7 Brown were both, they're young -- young
8 activist.

9 Cooper Green is very active
10 on Facebook, Christian organizations,
11 church member.

12 And Matthew Brown is a young
13 -- a young prominent political advocate
14 and figure.

15 They were both on the
16 outskirts of the -- not just the protest,
17 but the speakers. They were speaking that
18 day.

19 As a matter of fact, they
20 were just getting ready to leave as I
21 arrived.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. (Overlap
23 talking) -- speaking of arrival, did you

1 walk there? You said it was about [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] from your house?

3 MR. ESTES: [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] It's about a 15-minute walk.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: So did you

6 walk or did you drive?

7 MR. ESTES: I walked.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And did

9 you take -- you said you had the milk.

10 You picked up a mask. Were you armed?

11 MR. ESTES: Only with the

12 milk.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay, fair

14 enough.

15 All right. And did you a

16 backpack or anything like that with or you

17 just had it in your hand?

18 MR. ESTES: No, I put milk

19 and water both in my backpack and walked

20 down there with the backpack.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And was

22 this your first protest?

23 MR. ESTES: Yes.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Was this your
2 last protest?

3 MR. ESTES: No.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: What protest
5 have you participated in since this one?

6 MR. ESTES: Numerous
7 protests. There were many, many calls to
8 -- to go gather at the -- I'll call it the
9 Confederate monument that was there at the
10 courthouse.

11 The Rosa Parks Day
12 Foundation with Representative Laura Hall
13 put out calls for people to do a weekly,
14 every Wednesday morning -- initially it
15 changed, I think Tuesday or Wednesday
16 morning so there was that.

17 There was -- I want to say
18 there was probably a Friday weekly protest
19 -- there were many, many protests.

20 I would have to dig through
21 some, you know, old Facebook posts or
22 something to try to find schedules, but I
23 attended lots of them.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: What was the
2 last one you attended?

3 MR. ESTES: The last one
4 I've attended right now?

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Yes.

6 MR. ESTES: That's hard to
7 say. I was at the Huntsville City Council
8 meeting last week and I think that there
9 were protesters there.

10 I would not say that I was
11 there actively as a protester. I did sign
12 up to speak and did my three-minute speech
13 presentation to City Council.

14 I guess I stood there with,
15 you know, protesters. I've attended many,
16 many protests since then.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: So you spoke
18 for three minutes at the last City Council
19 meeting?

20 MR. ESTES: Yes, I did.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: What was the
22 substance of that presentation?

23 MR. ESTES: This is, of

1 course, after the Washington, DC, you
2 know, storming the coup attempts at
3 Washington, DC -- in Washington, DC.

4 So this is a prominent topic
5 on many of our minds. Angela Curry, who
6 is the organizer for Women of Color, I'm
7 not sure if that's the name of the
8 organization correctly, but Strong Women
9 of Color, something like this.

10 She also runs a group which
11 is the Coalition for Criminal Justice, so
12 she has a group of council speakers
13 organized to address -- to address
14 specifically police reform, to address
15 police reform.

16 So I think my topic, my
17 address was regarding courage and
18 leadership, right, when Tommy Battle came
19 forward and said he does not support Mel
20 Brooks at all and Mel Brooks' actions in
21 Washington, DC, I was there to very much
22 applaud Mayor Battle who did not receive
23 much -- much applauding from I'll say, you

1 know, people that I know that are protest
2 related.

3 Generally, Mayor Battle is
4 not -- not an ally or an advocate for our
5 side, but I did want to make a point of
6 applauding his courage to stand up and,
7 you know, go against his sort of political
8 party, to go against the natural --
9 because that's been to me a very difficult
10 thing is finding courage in our leadership
11 that does not cave to pressures of, you
12 know, really social pressures, et cetera.

13 Anyway that was the -- I
14 think that was primarily the substance of
15 my address.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: And have you
17 presented to -- I know you presented to
18 the CAC, which was how we got to know of
19 you. And you presented to the Council
20 last week.

21 Have you done any other
22 presentations to the City Council since
23 June 3rd?

1 MR. ESTES: Many, many, many
2 addresses to City Council, not -- for a
3 while with regularity until the monument
4 came down. Not necessarily that that was
5 my only reason, but I was there at every
6 City Council meeting.

7 I also attended the City
8 Council meeting in Albertville where I
9 experienced a hate crime, hate-related
10 crime where a gentleman pulled a knife and
11 damaged equipment that I was using and
12 owned, so I addressed Albertville City
13 Council regarding that.

14 You know, you asked me if
15 I'm in litigation, and I'm sorry, we are
16 involved with that, but that happened, you
17 know, very recently.

18 The city of Albertville is
19 prosecuting Billy Wayne McClendon who
20 pulled out a knife at an Albertville
21 protest and stabbed my projector screen,
22 so I've been there.

23 I've also been to the city

1 of Madison regarding for their City
2 Council meetings as well, not near as
3 many.

4 I've been to probably --
5 I've attended probably five or six or
6 seven Madison City Council meetings in the
7 last year and I've spoken at maybe two of
8 those.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: Now, have you
10 attended any of the Madison City Council
11 meetings since the June 3rd protest?

12 MR. ESTES: Yes, all of this
13 is since June 3rd.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And you
15 went there to speak about -- was it about
16 Madison City's PD participation in the
17 protest?

18 MR. ESTES: No, not about
19 Madison PD's participation in the protest.
20 It was more specifically regarding the
21 release of body cam footage and their
22 procedures with body cam footage.

23 I don't think that I

1 personally addressed Madison's
2 participation in the June 3rd protest.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: And let me
4 just ask you before we get to that day of
5 June 3rd.

6 Tell me in your own words
7 why you personally felt convicted to
8 participate in these protests?

9 MR. ESTES: Are you talking
10 about the first one? Are you talking
11 about subsequent?

12 MS. HUNTLEY: June 3rd.
13 June 3rd.

14 MR. ESTES: Why I personally
15 felt involved to participate in June 3rd?

16 MS. HUNTLEY: Correct.

17 MR. ESTES: Because as
18 citizens, we do have the right to protest,
19 right, that's a First Amendment right.

20 It's a foundation of our
21 country, and it sounded very much so like
22 those rights were being abused with regard
23 to police actions, police brutality I

1 guess would be the phrase.

2 Using tear gas. My
3 understanding was there was no call, there
4 was no call, no reason for that. That
5 there are other methods, right, other
6 processes.

7 There are things that you do
8 first. You do that to people that are
9 violent.

10 That's -- you know,
11 particularly regarding the First Amendment
12 right, so I would say definitely that was
13 my thought process when I heard that
14 people had been tear-gassed, and, of
15 course, this is also in context of Black
16 Lives Matter, of course, rising throughout
17 the country with George Floyd in
18 Minneapolis.

19 And then you put that in
20 context of a president that I feel is
21 completely, completely -- lacking is not
22 the right word.

23 Devoid, devoid, devoid of

1 any morality, any moral fiber whatsoever,
2 and invoking and inflaming and inciting
3 the divisive hate that President Trump
4 invoked it for selfish and completely, you
5 know, unthoughtful reasons, so all of that
6 together is the context of why I attended.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And so
8 when you headed there that day what was
9 your understanding about sort of the state
10 of things?

11 Had you heard anything about
12 anything potentially becoming unsafe or
13 anticipating any problems? Had you heard
14 any chatter along those lines?

15 MR. ESTES: No, this is back
16 in June 3rd. As I remember it, I remember
17 a sweet naive young kid. Of course, since
18 then I've heard many things.

19 You know, since then, you
20 know, it's hard -- this doesn't relate to
21 Huntsville, but, you know, hearing about
22 unmarked cars, you know, scooping up
23 private citizens.

1 That's happened in, of
2 course, Portland, Oregon, and other cities
3 as well.

4 You know, those kinds of
5 things and I would call that definitely
6 concerning, very concerning for people.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you hear
8 any of that related to the June 3rd
9 protest specifically when you headed out
10 there that day?

11 MR. ESTES: Definitely not.
12 Definitely not.

13 June 3rd was absolutely
14 about the right to protest. It was not
15 about -- it's not about -- as a matter of
16 fact, I mean at the protest there were
17 many, many people, you know, speaking in a
18 loud voice, broadcasting in a loud voice
19 to follow the law, to be safe, to do
20 things in the right way.

21 You know, there were people
22 that were not -- who had a very focused
23 intent to make sure that protesters did

1 things legally, did things the right way.

2 You know, again, with
3 protesting being a First Amendment right
4 and simply stating their opinion, stating
5 their feelings regarding the monument, et
6 cetera.

7 So I never heard of anything
8 -- I mean, you know, milk is very much --
9 I mean, that's -- that's sort of the -- I
10 don't know if irony is the right word or I
11 wish I could laugh about it as if it was a
12 joke, but that milk is in no way -- you
13 don't use milk in any kind of dangerous or
14 offensive way.

15 If -- that it can be used to
16 heal, to soothe pain, you know, pain that
17 is perpetuated by an aggressive force by
18 the police in this instance in a, you
19 know, unlawful -- extremely unnecessary
20 unlawful way, right, so that people are in
21 pain.

22 So milk is a -- is a -- you
23 know, as far as -- as far as -- it's

1 absolutely unexpected that there would be
2 any kind of -- any kind of violence
3 especially here in Huntsville, Alabama --

4 MS. HUNTLEY: So you got
5 there that day. You said that you weren't
6 armed. You just had your backpack with
7 milk and water in it. You picked up your
8 mask.

9 You met your two friends
10 that you've named already and there were
11 speakers that were talking. What time was
12 it when you arrived?

13 MR. ESTES: Yeah, I arrived
14 a little bit late as far as, you know, a
15 long day at work and then I had to go to
16 the grocery store to buy my mask and then
17 walk down there, and it maybe did take
18 slightly longer to walk than I thought --
19 anyway, when I got there it was a little
20 bit late because Matthew and Cooper were
21 leaving.

22 Most of the speakers had
23 finished. I think maybe the speakers

1 began at maybe 5:30 or 6:00, and I think
2 they spoke for maybe a half hour.

3 I was actually a little
4 surprised when I got there that there was
5 not more speaking.

6 When I got there the last
7 speaker I think was speaking and I was
8 chatting with -- yeah, so I got there
9 probably six o'clock.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And so
11 when the last -- did you just stand there
12 and observe the speakers, or did you move
13 about with the crowd in any kind of way?

14 MR. ESTES: Well, the last
15 speaker, you know, asked everybody to get
16 in a line to form a line and to do a -- to
17 walk around the Madison County Courthouse.
18 I'm pretty sure that he told everybody
19 that we would obey -- no, I think we had
20 the permit so I don't think we had to obey
21 traffic signals.

22 The streets, of course, had
23 already been blocked off by the police, so

1 I witnessed and observed that crowd, you
2 know, gathering into a long line.

3 There were a few other
4 things that were notable to me, unusual in
5 the park, right. Some people were laying
6 down on the ground with their hands behind
7 their backs, you know, handcuffed behind
8 their backs, not -- not by police having
9 done that, but just as, you know, they
10 were young black men typically mostly,
11 doing I guess kind of art pieces, sort of
12 demonstration pieces.

13 There were a lot of
14 student -- lot of young students with
15 signs, protest signs. You know, just a
16 lot to see. It was a lot to see and I was
17 there to see. I was there to see what was
18 going on, to witness it --

19 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you have a
20 protest sign yourself? Did you have a
21 sign?

22 MR. ESTES: No, no, I did
23 not have a sign.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: And did you
2 fall in line with that group of protesters
3 that were going to do the march around the
4 courthouse?

5 MR. ESTES: I think I did.
6 I think I did effectively fall into line.
7 I didn't -- I didn't follow it as they did
8 a circuit around the courthouse.

9 I just stopped in front of
10 the courthouse near the monument itself
11 and just watched what was happening there.

12 There was a young notable --
13 you know, you could see the points of I'll
14 call it conflicts, you know, that's not --
15 that's my personal description to say, you
16 know, I was there to watch and you could
17 see, you know, the way the crowd moved,
18 you could see where the police were
19 positioned.

20 Of course, I think the state
21 troopers -- I assume they were state
22 troopers lined up on the front of the
23 steps shoulder to shoulder --

1 MS. HUNTLEY: I'm sorry to
2 interrupt you, but on the front of what
3 steps, Shawn --

4 MR. ESTES: The courthouse,
5 the Madison County Courthouse. I guess
6 it's a two-tiered, multi-tiered platform
7 style.

8 And I believe they were at
9 top of the courthouse shoulder to
10 shoulder. There was the plastic
11 barricades up as well. There were, you
12 know, members of law enforcement that were
13 very active.

14 Of course, there were quite
15 a few standing stationary shoulder to
16 shoulder at the top, and then, you know, I
17 want to say -- like you've seen in the
18 1950s or 1960s videos.

19 MR. SHARMAN: Mr. Estes, let
20 me interrupt you. This is Jack Sharman.
21 Can you hear me okay?

22 MR. ESTES: I can, yes.

23 MR. SHARMAN: Let me back

1 you up just for a moment. When you first
2 arrived, you get there, you're running a
3 little bit late.

4 You see your friends pretty
5 much, the last speaker or close to it. At
6 that point right when you arrived what was
7 your impression, if you had one, of law
8 enforcement presence?

9 MR. ESTES: I did not -- not
10 that I recall, I don't recall any law
11 enforcement presence at that time.

12 That was in the park near
13 the fountain area. It's below, you know,
14 I think we're all familiar with this
15 location, right, it's below the street
16 level with the courthouse.

17 So at that -- at that
18 location I don't recall any police
19 presence at all.

20 MR. SHARMAN: Was there any,
21 even to the point of like kind of
22 directing traffic? You know, sometimes
23 after a big event, you know, people are

1 trying to, you know, say okay, here's an
2 exit here or go that way? Not even a
3 presence even to that degree, that you
4 remember any way?

5 MR. ESTES: I do not
6 remember that at all. I would say that
7 would kind of have been nice. That would
8 kind of have been a good -- I think I
9 would have focused on that as a positive
10 thing to be -- to kind of be, you know, in
11 it and involved in it as opposed to this
12 separate, you know, gosh, military force
13 that was out there waiting, you know, with
14 a lot of weapons --

15 MS. HUNTLEY: When you say
16 waiting -- Shawn, when you say waiting,
17 are you talking about when you started to
18 proceed towards the courthouse area?

19 MR. ESTES: Yes, once we
20 went up the steps, you know, the steps
21 really go up right, you know, in front of
22 the courthouse, and once you get to the
23 top of those steps, that's where, you

1 know, you are met by -- at this time met
2 by a large police force.

3 MR. SHARMAN: Let me jump in
4 one more time, and forgive me, Mr. Estes,
5 I'm just trying to get pictures here.

6 So when you came into the
7 park, had you come down the stairs, so to
8 speak, or had you come around to another
9 entrance to the park?

10 MR. ESTES: I came around by
11 the Huntsville utilities building.
12 There's the coy fish mural. I'm trying to
13 -- I'm trying to think of the name of the
14 street. I don't know all the names of the
15 streets all that well, but --

16 MS. HUNTLEY: Is it Church
17 Street? Shawn, is it Church Street?

18 MR. ESTES: Church Street I
19 know goes closer to the park, so it wasn't
20 Church Street. It's one street east of
21 Church Street.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

23 MR. ESTES: One street each

1 of Church Street and it dead ends into the
2 park, so it's the other side of the
3 Huntsville utilities building there.

4 That's where I walked down.
5 That's where I ran into my two friends.
6 And as you walk in that way, really that
7 walks directly towards where the speakers
8 were set up with the podium, et cetera.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: How close were
10 you to the speakers?

11 MR. ESTES: That location,
12 you know, that walking down into the park
13 at that area, it's hundreds of feet.

14 I would say, you know,
15 500 feet or something, maybe three or
16 400 feet from where that podium is, and
17 then, of course, there's a little bridge,
18 small little walkway bridge over the water
19 there.

20 And, you know, as I walked
21 over that you get that's where, you know,
22 there's a large park area, large lawn area
23 where some of the students were doing

1 their student demonstrations, the speakers
2 were set up, if I recall, across that
3 little walk path, you know, to the left,
4 near the water fountain.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: And could you
6 -- you've described sort of these
7 instructions from the speaker, the last
8 speaker when you arrived directing you-all
9 to do the march around the courthouse.

10 Could you hear that speaker
11 very clearly?

12 MR. ESTES: Pretty clearly,
13 yes. You know, not as I was outside of
14 the park. You know, as I walked closer
15 and closer, but I think that the sound
16 system was a very good sound system, and I
17 think I could hear the speaker from
18 hundreds of feet away.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: And was there
20 any direction from any of the speakers
21 about when the event was to end?

22 MR. ESTES: Not that I'm
23 aware of. Like I said, I got there, you

1 know, I didn't hear all the speakers but
2 certainly not that I was aware of.

3 My full understanding was
4 that the permit was until 8:00 p.m., so
5 no, I never heard that changed at all.

6 I'm trying to remember if I
7 went back to the Facebook event. I did
8 hear some people talking about permit time
9 change, but I also heard people saying
10 that it was misinformation, that the
11 change in the permit time -- that people
12 talking about a change in the permit time
13 was in itself misinformation that, you
14 know, was being put out there.

15 It was -- my point being
16 that it was -- my full understanding when
17 I arrived at the park was 8:00 p.m. just
18 from the original announcement at the
19 event, and even, you know -- I mean, it
20 was very clear that that was -- I mean I
21 think it's factual, right. Factually,
22 that was the original permit time.

23 Now, I know that it was

1 changed, you know, factually through a
2 process I was not very, very certain -- I
3 was not aware of a permit time change at
4 the event or leading up to the event.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: And one last
6 question about what you heard or the
7 chatter that was out there before going to
8 the event.

9 Did you hear any chatter
10 about the possibility of Antifa having a
11 presence at the event?

12 MR. ESTES: If so, it would
13 have been as a joke. It would have been
14 as a sort of laughable thing, so I
15 definitely did not hear about it -- gosh,
16 this is so long ago trying to remember.

17 I guess there was talk about
18 people bussing in Antifa, bringing in
19 buses of Antifa.

20 I'm trying to remember if --
21 I mean, I think I probably did hear that,
22 but I think I heard it in the context of a
23 joke. It just seemed laughable.

1 I mean, I think there were
2 stories about that all over the country,
3 right. There were protests all over the
4 country, and, then, of course, there was
5 those ridiculous -- I called them
6 ridiculous news stories that Antifa's
7 being bussed everywhere.

8 That's just logistically
9 improbable, right, to me. That is not
10 possible, so, yes, I heard about busloads,
11 bus people coming in to Huntsville. I did
12 not see that or agree with it.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So
14 we've walked through, you're arriving at
15 the event around 6:00-ish, you're not
16 really sure about what time, but it was
17 late, and it was towards the end of the
18 speakers.

19 You heard the instructions
20 from the speaker about forming the line to
21 proceed through the -- to walk around the
22 courthouse.

23 And you said you fell in

1 line with the group at least until getting
2 to the top of the stairs.

3 Now, as you got to the top
4 of the stairs what did you observe when
5 you got to the top of the stairs in terms
6 of law enforcement presence?

7 MR. ESTES: In terms of law
8 enforcement presence. I was going to say
9 I do remember Devyn Keith being there, but
10 he's not law enforcement presence.

11 I recall regarding law
12 enforcement presence mostly what was at
13 the courthouse.

14 When you come up those
15 stairs and there are more than one sets of
16 stairs, and I don't know how to describe
17 this set of stairs, but it comes up just
18 to the left of the -- pretty close to
19 directly across from the monument.

20 So yes, again, shoulder to
21 shoulder across the top of the steps, as
22 well as additional law enforcement members
23 moving back and forth.

1 They were having, I want to
2 say agitated conversations, and frantic is
3 not the right word, but very urgently
4 pointing in the crowd, pointing and
5 talking amongst themselves with, you know,
6 anxiety and anticipation and many members
7 walking back and forth in the street to
8 the -- when you come up the stairs to the
9 right which would be to the south.

10 I believe that there was
11 also a police presence on that side. I
12 think -- I've always assumed that it was
13 mostly state troopers that were at the
14 county courthouse, on the county
15 courthouse property.

16 And then police -- I don't
17 remember if they were there -- at that
18 time they did have the roads blocked off,
19 so I think that there were police vehicles
20 in the roads and at the intersection.

21 So when you come up the
22 steps the intersection to the right to the
23 south is closer, so I believe there was

1 police presence there. There certainly
2 was throughout the night, you know, into
3 the night.

4 My focus was on the
5 courthouse, and I would say there was
6 probably at least 30 law enforcement
7 members up there, and then, of course, I
8 think they were also at other three
9 intersections.

10 Four sets of stairs leading
11 up to the courthouse and I think there
12 were more of them at that western side of
13 the courthouse than the other three
14 locations, I believe. I didn't see the
15 opposite location but I could see the left
16 and the right --

17 MS. HUNTLEY: You clearly
18 seem to distinguish a state trooper from a
19 police officer.

20 Did you also distinguish
21 whether it Huntsville Police Department or
22 the sheriff's department, or do you recall
23 a distinction in the uniforming and the

1 cars?

2 MR. ESTES: Not really. No
3 significantly.

4 I think my distinction is
5 mostly an assertion that county property,
6 state troopers, I think -- in terms of
7 like gear, I don't think that I could tell
8 them apart.

9 I think they were all
10 dressed in what I would describe as
11 paramilitary, you know, black, pretty much
12 all black.

13 I don't really remember
14 other kinds of uniforms, so my distinction
15 of the law enforcement is that's more to
16 do with just where they were situated and
17 located.

18 I think the Huntsville
19 Police, you know, I think the police had
20 -- I can't even tell you exactly why I'm
21 drawing those conclusions. No, honestly I
22 could not tell them apart.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: So you said

1 that the police officers seem to have on
2 all sort of black military style?

3 MR. ESTES: Military style,
4 right.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: And what about
6 the troopers, what were they wearing, if
7 you can recall, at the courthouse?

8 MR. ESTES: I think that
9 some of them were in Camo gear. I know I
10 saw pictures after the fact of people in
11 Camo gear that were up on the courthouse
12 steps, but that's unusual.

13 That would have been three
14 or four out of the 30, 40, whatever people
15 that were up there. I think -- I cannot
16 recall a difference in uniform.

17 You know, I remember some of
18 them had -- you know, some of them had
19 helmets, gear helmets. I want to say
20 seems like they didn't all start with
21 that.

22 I know, I know that, you
23 know, there were a group of law

1 enforcement that was in the streets and
2 there was a group of law enforcement that
3 were definitely situated at the
4 courthouse.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And you
6 also said something because, you know,
7 here you are there, you know, back towards
8 the end of, at least, the speaking portion
9 from what you understood.

10 You said in your testimony
11 that you heard some information about a
12 statement from Chief McMurray, that he was
13 going to start shooting before nightfall.

14 Did you hear that before you
15 attended the rally or was this something
16 that came up after the fact?

17 MR. ESTES: I'm pretty sure
18 that it came up after the fact. I believe
19 that Chief McMurray and Sheriff Turner
20 they did a news conference, I believe the
21 next day, I believe on June 4th.

22 I think there were numerous
23 news people in attendance and they did,

1 you know, 30 or 40 minutes back and forth
2 with the news. There's recordings of it.

3 I believe it was there that
4 Chief McMurray said, you know, we lose the
5 night. In the nighttime we lose, implying
6 that or even if he went so far to say that
7 he was going to, you know, engage military
8 action, whatever, before nightfall, so I
9 think that was his June 4th presentation
10 that he said that. I don't think that was
11 any -- nobody said that beforehand.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you see
13 Chief McMurray, hear him address the crowd
14 or anything at the event?

15 MR. ESTES: No, I did not.
16 Not that I recall. Not that I saw.

17 I know that Sheriff Turner
18 was there. I didn't personally see
19 Sheriff Turner. I think that he might
20 have had a megaphone at those steps and
21 that's where I stood was at those steps
22 for, you know, more than an hour.

23 Really for, you know, my

1 whole time was just staying there at those
2 steps.

3 I never heard either --
4 myself I did not hear either one of them
5 ever address the crowd.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: So that gets
7 me back to sort of proceeding with what
8 happened, what occurred with you that
9 night.

10 So you get to the top of the
11 steps and you stay in that location? You
12 don't -- did you not walk around the
13 courthouse with the other protesters?

14 MR. ESTES: No, I did not
15 walk around the courthouse. Up the steps
16 I may have just to find a comfortable
17 position -- let's see, initially,
18 initially I did walk across the street and
19 very close to the steps, close to the
20 monument.

21 I witnessed, you know, the
22 protesters, chant leaders. There was a
23 leader specifically Dantraeon, right, he's

1 been -- I remember watching him. He's
2 tall. He stands out in the crowd, loud
3 voice, he was --

4 MS. HUNTLEY: I'm sorry,
5 could you repeat his name again?

6 MR. ESTES: Dantraeon.
7 Dantraeon Calvert. I watched him both
8 with fascination and with admiration. He
9 was a strong leader.

10 Dexter Strong was also
11 there. Dexter is a member of the ADPL
12 Democratic Party, significant member.
13 Worked on Peter Joffrion's campaign as a
14 campaign manager one time.

15 He's a preacher. Very, very
16 active positive member of society. Dexter
17 was there in the crowd keeping things
18 calm.

19 He was going to kind of
20 individually, you know, would touch
21 people's shoulders or backs and say, you
22 know, be calm, be calm.

23 So Dexter was moving

1 throughout the crowd doing that.

2 Dantraeon was making sure that if somebody
3 would get upset or angry, Dantraeon would
4 say no, no, that's not what we're doing,
5 right. So, so I just -- I witnessed and
6 watched that.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: So (audio cut
8 out) those two gentlemen as sort of trying
9 to keep the protest peaceful?

10 MR. ESTES: Yeah, yeah,
11 without a doubt, yes, definitely.

12 MR. SHARMAN: Mr. Estes, on
13 that point, from some of the video that
14 we've been able to review, there's a lot
15 of it so we hadn't finished, but it looks
16 like at the courthouse it seemed like
17 there was a man, a civilian up on the
18 courthouse steps essentially between the
19 sort of frontline of protesters and the
20 initial line of law enforcement who was
21 essentially trying to calm people down and
22 things were getting pretty tense at one
23 moment.

1 It was hard to tell because
2 we're behind him, so to speak, but it
3 looked like a younger African-American
4 man. Is that who you might be talking
5 about?

6 MR. ESTES: It wouldn't
7 surprise me if it was that Dantraeon, and
8 this is June 3rd. June 1 was, you know, a
9 little different. June 1 I saw video of
10 that, and I think that there were people
11 -- no, June 3rd there was more people I
12 believe.

13 Dantraeon I want to say, you
14 know, I don't remember him ever separating
15 himself from the crowd. He stayed -- he
16 stayed in the middle of it.

17 MR. SHARMAN: I may be
18 speaking -- sometimes I do -- I may be
19 speaking about 1 rather than 3 so that may
20 not be an accurate question. Okay. I'm
21 sorry, Liz.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: That's okay.

23 So Dantraeon was speaking to

1 the crowd and your description in ways to
2 keep the crowd calm?

3 MR. ESTES: Keeping them
4 calm but also -- he was also leading
5 chants.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: What were the
7 chants you recall?

8 MR. ESTES: I have been to
9 so many protests since then with some of
10 these chants, that I could not separate
11 that particular -- I also wasn't -- you
12 know, I wasn't really chanting.

13 I was just kind of watching.
14 I was, you know, every little bit "move
15 the monument" was one. I can't remember
16 right now.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: That's fair.
18 So did you observe any other, other than
19 Dantraeon and Dexter, did you observe any
20 other people that appeared to be leaders
21 in the crowd directing the crowd any kind
22 of way?

23 MR. ESTES: So Dantraeon was

1 one of the strongest. You know, Dantraeon
2 and Dexter are two people that I know. I
3 know Dexter from beforehand. I've met
4 Dantraeon since then.

5 I heard other people. I did
6 see other people doing the same thing,
7 keeping things calm, but those are the
8 only two that I know.

9 I did, of course, Devyn
10 Keith was there right. I know -- knew who
11 Devyn Keith was. The first, you know, the
12 first 15, 20 minutes was pretty tense,
13 right, right up the steps.

14 When I say tense, I mean
15 passionate, loud. You know, the crowd was
16 very -- was very passionate and loud and
17 Devyn Keith was I think was across the
18 street and I didn't even know -- right,
19 you know, once that passion kind of -- I
20 don't know if fizzled out is the right
21 word, but the chanting was done, at least
22 for that, you know, that first 15,
23 20 minutes, that's when I think -- I

1 walked across the street and saw Devyn
2 Keith was standing there with a couple of
3 people, and, of course, Devyn has a
4 calming presence about him, right.

5 Devyn did actually step
6 forward that night and asked people to go
7 home, you know, at the end.

8 I think he specifically said
9 that you cannot have a weapon at a
10 protest, and he said those people need to
11 go home. So, you know, so Devyn was there
12 that night.

13 And then I think that's
14 where I moved back near the steps of the
15 bank that's across the street from the
16 courthouse there, and that's where I just
17 stayed, you know, until -- for the
18 remainder -- remainder of the event.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: How late did
20 you stay?

21 MR. ESTES: I stayed until,
22 you know, a canister of tear gas landed,
23 you know, five feet from my feet. I was

1 actually hit with a rubber bullet in my --
2 it didn't hit my flesh, but it got my
3 pants leg that I bent down and picked up.

4 So, you know, once the police --
5 they formed a line in the street and they
6 pushed. They, of course, shot the tear
7 gas, you know, into our crowd and then
8 moved the line forward to sweep us away
9 and then I walked, you know, back down the
10 steps at that time.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: So let me ask
12 you this, you described getting to the top
13 of the steps.

14 There's about 15 to
15 20 minutes of pretty intense chanting and
16 high emotion. You said that sort of
17 settled down.

18 You said Keith sort of had a
19 conversation with the protesters about was
20 it a direction that it was time to
21 disperse and go, or was it about their
22 conduct and behavior and staying calm?

23 MR. ESTES: It's hard to --

1 it's hard to remember, and, you know, this
2 -- that's describing the course of an hour
3 or more, so, you know, all the details of
4 how everything happened, it's hard to
5 remember specifically.

6 I remember, you know, there
7 was a loud siren in the background, right.
8 I think it's the LRAD and it made a very,
9 you know, it would do -- it would do a
10 recurring siren-like sound that was very
11 loud and ominous.

12 It gave an ominous feeling
13 to the crowd. That went on for many,
14 many, many minutes, you know, at least
15 half an hour, maybe an hour, I want to
16 say --

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you hear
18 any announcement that was accompanying
19 that siren sound?

20 Well, first of all, let me
21 do this, I'm just trying to get a timeline
22 real quick.

23 So you get to the top of the

1 step. 15, 20 minutes of sort of chanting
2 and stuff led by Dantraeon and Dexter, and
3 then there's something said by Keith to
4 the protesters.

5 MR. ESTES: Yeah, it was a
6 little bit later.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: And so there
8 was no LRAD while this all was going on;
9 right?

10 This all kind of happened
11 from a span of 15 minutes to -- 15,
12 45 minutes to an hour?

13 MR. ESTES: Right, yes, that
14 is correct.

15 There were no announcements.
16 You know, I don't know what -- I say 15,
17 20 minutes and then the passion kind of
18 fizzled out. I mean maybe that was just
19 my own -- you know, that's when I chose to
20 walk across the street.

21 I think that, I think that
22 Dantraeon probably left and went home and
23 he was the strongest quote/unquote chant

1 leader.

2 So I think that's probably
3 the chants did sort of, you know, stop
4 after that. Then I mean people were still
5 walking around, I guess quote/unquote
6 milling around.

7 You know, there were no --
8 that I recall or that I heard there were
9 no announcements. I think I did see a
10 video later of somebody with a bull horn.

11 I was pretty close in that
12 area. I stayed in that area the whole
13 time. I never heard that. I definitely
14 never heard that.

15 So I never heard any
16 announcements at all, other than Devyn
17 Keith, but I chose to stand close to Devyn
18 and Devyn -- and this is probably, I want
19 to say 30 or 40 minutes after the end of
20 that initial chanting, maybe 30 minutes,
21 Devyn Keith stepped forward and did an
22 appeal.

23 But he didn't have a bull

1 horn. You know, I don't think that he was
2 -- he projected his voice as well as he
3 could. I don't think that he was, you
4 know, heard by a lot of people. There
5 were a lot of people there.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: What did you
7 hear him say? You said you were near him.
8 What did you hear Devyn say?

9 MR. ESTES: That, you know,
10 that it was time to come home -- it was
11 time to go home and specifically that you
12 will get arrested if you have a weapon.

13 I don't know if he had heard
14 something specific that he knew of or
15 something, I don't know, but I remember he
16 said that.

17 Specifically he said, you
18 know, you cannot have a weapon here. You
19 need to go home.

20 I talked with Devyn. I said
21 Devyn what can we do. I said we've got to
22 -- we need a pressure relief valve.
23 That's what I told Devyn.

1 I said what can we do about
2 this monument, and he said that it was
3 Chairman, you know, Strong -- is that
4 right? Yeah, chairman Dale Strong, that's
5 what he said at the time.

6 At that time I didn't
7 specifically know who he was, county
8 commission, but he told me that there, and
9 then I think maybe a few minutes after
10 that is where he made his best
11 announcement to the crowd.

12 You know, later on, you
13 know, some more chants did continue. "We
14 are peaceful" was a common chant.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: Can I stop you
16 for a second? So we had Dantraeon's
17 passion, you know, chanting, all of that
18 going on.

19 You don't know if he left or
20 not but he stopped and that sort of, you
21 know, brought down the crowd.

22 Some period after that,
23 Devyn Keith made an announcement to the

1 crowd to whoever could hear him, he didn't
2 have a bull horn or anything.

3 MR. ESTES: That's right.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: That it was
5 time to go.

6 MR. ESTES: Right.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: And he
8 admonished that the protesters if they had
9 a weapon they would be arrested.

10 MR. ESTES: Correct.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: And you had a
12 conversation with him about what's the
13 status with the monument, that sort of
14 thing.

15 What did you do after that?
16 After he made the announcement, you were
17 right there where he was, what did you do?
18 Did you leave or did you hang around?

19 MR. ESTES: I did not leave.
20 I hung around.

21 Again, my understanding was
22 the permit was eight o'clock. It was --
23 mean it was -- it felt tense. As a matter

1 of fact, I saw a woman, a friend of mine
2 there, a woman I know, Catherine Hartford,
3 she was there with her son.

4 Ava Caldwell as well, but
5 Ava wasn't there with kids. I remember
6 talking with Catherine and saying, you
7 know, it's probably time to go home. This
8 doesn't feel safe. It doesn't feel safe.

9 And when I say that my
10 opinion is that it doesn't feel safe. I
11 don't mean the protesters. You know,
12 which I don't -- I mean the protestors
13 were never -- it was -- in my opinion it
14 was, you know, the police were the thing
15 that felt unsafe, it felt scary, it felt
16 threatening.

17 So I did have a -- you know,
18 the LRAD was the loud -- it's a very
19 ominous tone. It's a scary tone.

20 They had their, what do you
21 call it, their response team show up where
22 they drove, you know, 20 police cars
23 loudly into the streets with their loud

1 sirens.

2 I remember talking with
3 Catherine, she was there with her son, and
4 I remember saying, you know, you should
5 probably, you know, take your son home or,
6 you know, kids shouldn't be here for this
7 because it felt -- it felt unsafe --

8 MS. HUNTLEY: And all of
9 this -- Shawn, sorry to interrupt you, but
10 all of this was after Devyn had made the
11 announcement about time to go and all of
12 that?

13 MR. ESTES: Yes, I believe
14 in the timeline, but I believe that that
15 conversation with Catherine and Ava was
16 after Devyn's thing, so this is probably
17 getting to be, you know, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30.

18 It's starting to get darker.
19 Still within, within permit time, but it
20 did feel uncomfortable, so there was a
21 small tree there across the street, I
22 think there's a row of trees across the
23 street from the courthouse.

1 I just leaned up against one
2 of the trees and that's where I decided to
3 stay and to see things.

4 Again, there was never an
5 announcement. There was never an
6 announcement to leave definitely not that
7 I heard.

8 I know at one time, you
9 know, there was a smoke, I want to call it
10 smoke bomb, smoke pop or something like
11 that that was released.

12 I think that was around 7:50
13 at night, and, of course, a smoke bomb,
14 you know, most people would leave when
15 they see a smoke bomb. I did not. I
16 chose not to.

17 Again, you know, I want to
18 refer back to a First Amendment right, you
19 know, I think I had a right to stand
20 there. I was on the sidewalk.

21 There were a couple people
22 that would walk, you know, that would
23 occasionally be in the street. Most

1 people actually stayed out of the street.
2 There were people actually speaking very
3 loudly get out of the street, stay out of
4 the street because blocking the street at
5 that time would have been illegal.

6 The intersections themselves
7 were still blocked off so, of course, you
8 know, there was no traffic. I think
9 people felt very comfortable being in the
10 street, you know, because it was still
11 blocked off by the police vehicles.

12 But even so, for the very
13 much most part, people did stay out of the
14 streets at this time in this timeline,
15 right.

16 Yes, so I stayed, I stayed
17 there leaning against that tree and
18 recording as much video as I felt inclined
19 to.

20 Again, I never knew at that
21 time, I never knew that I needed to
22 remember things and collect evidence or
23 make recordings specifically for evidence.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Sure.

2 MR. ESTES: It was just sort
3 of a surreal experience.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Sure, Shawn.

5 So we've got the chanting,
6 the chanting stopping, we've got
7 ultimately Devyn Keith coming in, asking
8 people to disperse.

9 Did people disperse after he
10 made that announcement? Did the crowd
11 thin out at all at that point?

12 MR. ESTES: I would say very
13 lightly. You know, not significantly.

14 But the crowd thinned out,
15 the crowd did thin out. You know, some
16 people did, you know, leave at that time,
17 in that time.

18 There was still, you know,
19 most people did not. There was still, you
20 know, hundreds of people that were there.
21 Mostly young people. Right, it was mostly
22 these kids, college kids.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: You told your

1 friend Catherine, who had her son, you
2 advised her to go and you talked about the
3 environment.

4 Describe how the police
5 presence changed from when you first got
6 to the top of the stairs to after Devyn
7 made the announcement asking people to
8 end?

9 MR. ESTES: It's hard to
10 describe.

11 It was very -- it was very
12 apparent that the police were going to --
13 I say this.

14 I don't know -- I mean, they
15 were there in their military gear. They
16 were there dressed in their military gear,
17 and the loud noises that they were making
18 it felt like -- it felt like -- it's like
19 -- I mean, I guess in school if there's a
20 bully being loud doing, you know, making a
21 scene that's an uncomfortable thing.

22 You're scared that somebody
23 is going to get beat up, that there's

1 going to be a fight and somebody will get
2 beat up.

3 And from the perspective of
4 the person that is not a bully, you know,
5 you don't want to be the person being get
6 beat up. You don't want to be the person
7 that gets picked by the bully to hit, to
8 abuse, to be beat on.

9 And I will say, you know,
10 this is a paradigm that I remember from
11 school, right, because we don't encounter
12 that thing outside -- I don't want
13 encounter that thing outside of that
14 school environment so much.

15 It definitely -- again, it's
16 hard to describe. I don't know why.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: So you did
18 describe, though, you said there were cars
19 that came in, law enforcement cars that
20 came in that weren't there when you first
21 got to the top of the stairs; right?

22 MR. ESTES: Right I'm pretty
23 sure I had --

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Were there any
2 law enforcement that marched together as a
3 group, sort of made their presence known
4 in addition from the time you got to --
5 what I'm trying to get to is what you saw
6 in terms of movement and the change of law
7 enforcement from when you got to the top
8 of the stairs and people were chanting and
9 the rally was kind of still actively going
10 on until that time when you looked at your
11 friend Catherine and told her she probably
12 should leave with her son?

13 MR. ESTES: Your question
14 specifically is about law enforcement
15 action during those times -- during that
16 time?

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Yes.

18 MR. ESTES: I remember, I
19 remember that there was one, I would call
20 him a sniper. There are actual snipers up
21 on the rooftops, but there was a guy that
22 was in the bushes on the southwest corner
23 near the steps there, and he was in the

1 bushes and I got a lot of video of him,
2 although I guess I didn't get it very
3 close up, it was too far away.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Yeah, and
5 we're sharing the screen now to -- this is
6 the screen shot you sent us of the photos
7 that you took. Can you see that?

8 MR. ESTES: Yes, I can.

9 Those are screen shots of
10 videos that I took, so, yes, that is
11 exactly the person that I'm talking about
12 that -- so time-wise, you know, this is,
13 this would have been around when I talked
14 with Catherine and Ava.

15 I would guess -- there's
16 probably video timestamps on there but I
17 would guess this is around between 7:15
18 and 7:45 is I'm guessing when this is.

19 And that person was
20 frightening. That was scary. He kept on
21 tapping the fingers on I want to say maybe
22 not the gun barrel, but the gun -- the
23 thing that holds the bullets, right.

1 He kept on tapping with his,
2 you know, with his fingers right by the
3 trigger, right by where I would think the
4 trigger would be.

5 He kept on tapping his
6 fingers like he was itching to shoot, and
7 he would rise up and he would point that
8 weapon down into the crowd very
9 aggressively, and I want to say -- and he
10 did it repeatedly. He did it multiple
11 times, you know.

12 And then he would sit back
13 down and he would stay down for a little
14 bit, and he would rise up again and tap
15 those fingers aggressively.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: Could you tell
17 what law enforcement agency he was a part
18 of?

19 MR. ESTES: I cannot. As
20 you can see in the photo, you know, hard
21 to make out.

22 Now, he did -- some of those
23 members of law enforcement did walk up

1 towards him, you know, did have some
2 interactions with him on more than one
3 occasion.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Do you mean
5 the law enforcement officers that are at
6 the top of the stairs there?

7 MR. ESTES: Yes, yes.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: All right.
9 And we're going to play the video that you
10 provided to us as well and get you to walk
11 us through that.

12 MR. ESTES: Sure.

13 (Video playing)

14 MS. HUNTLEY: So what's
15 happening at the beginning of this video?
16 What stage are we at? Is this after
17 Devyn's made his announcement that people
18 need to leave?

19 MR. ESTES: Definitely this
20 is after Devyn. This is definitely after
21 talking with Catherine, Ava. So this is
22 the -- this is where it actually happened,
23 this is the significant portion of it.

1 I assume at this time that
2 they have already done one smoke canister
3 near the south side there. This is the
4 southwest corner.

5 There was an initial smoke
6 canister at I want to say around 7:50, and
7 this video would have been after that.
8 This video is when the actual tear gas
9 came into us as a crowd.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: So we've got a
11 different environment now from when you
12 got to the first top of the stairs; right?

13 So all of those lights of
14 what looks like a line approaching of
15 maybe law enforcement, was that group
16 there when you got to the top of the
17 stairs, or is that one of the changes you
18 talked about that you describe as making
19 you feel unsafe?

20 MR. ESTES: Are you talking
21 about the line of officers at the top of
22 the courthouse?

23 I think that they were there

1 from as soon as I walked up the steps, as
2 soon as we all walked up the steps, as I
3 recall, they were there the entire night.

4 They didn't change or move.

5 You know, I didn't, of course, watch and
6 focus on them all the time. You know,
7 there's so many things to focus on here.
8 There's a lot of --

9 MS. HUNTLEY: You also said
10 the snipers, or what you characterized as
11 snipers on top of the rooftop, did you
12 actually -- how were they dressed? Did
13 you actually see rifles?

14 MR. ESTES: I believe that I
15 did see a rifle. I've seen photos after
16 the event that make it more me.

17 I know that there was a kid,
18 a college kid near me that were talking,
19 there was talking about the snipers on the
20 rooftops.

21 I think I saw -- I think I
22 saw one of them and I think I did a gun
23 barrel.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: And the one
2 that you took the still images of the guy
3 in the bushes that had the gun --

4 MR. ESTES: He would be
5 right there.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you ever
7 see him point at a specific person in the
8 crowd or was he just pointing towards the
9 crowd?

10 MR. ESTES: I believe -- I
11 believe -- I recall seeing him do that at
12 least three times, and I want to say one
13 times there was a group of maybe three
14 young kids that were under those bushes --
15 you know, under them being probably ten
16 feet away from the bushes, near them, near
17 that area.

18 And I think he did kind of
19 one time pointed it at those three young
20 kids, but most of the time I think it was
21 more general just into the crowd.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. We're
23 going to continue to play the video and

1 then maybe stop it and let you describe
2 more for us, okay?

3 MR. ESTES: Sure.

4 (Video playing)

5 MR. SEWELL: It froze on the
6 screen.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: So I'm hearing
8 some pops. Shawn, what were those pops?
9 Do you recall?

10 MR. ESTES: Those are
11 probably gas canisters that sound --
12 sounds like the gas canister. That was I
13 guess my commentary thereof, excuse my
14 language, but why the fuck are they
15 shooting.

16 That was my commentary. I
17 felt that there's nothing -- there's no
18 reason to shoot. They were kids -- they
19 were kids protesting.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Did the law
21 enforcement ask them to leave or move or
22 disperse?

23 MR. ESTES: Not that I ever

1 heard. Not that I ever heard. And as you
2 can see, I was -- I was close. I mean if
3 there was something like that said, I
4 expect -- I believe that I should have
5 heard it and I never did.

6 (Video playing)

7 MR. ESTES: My video is
8 frozen, the video I'm watching.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: So we're
10 having a little difficulty trying to play
11 it, Shawn.

12 MR. ESTES: Always.

13 MR. HUNTLEY: So, Shawn, I
14 see the crowd is moving. Is it moving in
15 response to the law enforcement coming
16 towards them?

17 MR. ESTES: That and
18 probably the tear gas as much as anything.
19 You know, you can see in the video one of
20 the canisters that lands, you know, that
21 lands right by us there.

22 I guess there's a moment
23 here where I felt something hit my leg,

1 and I bent down and picked it up, the
2 rubber bullet.

3 (Video playing)

4 MS. HUNTLEY: We've got a
5 little lag, but it's trying to catch up.

6 MR. ESTES: So that's where
7 -- I'm pretty sure that's where I bent
8 down to pick it up.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: There it is.
10 And you said that hit your leg?

11 MR. ESTES: Yes. Not my
12 flesh leg but just pants leg.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Do you still
14 have that rubber bullet?

15 MR. ESTES: I do.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. We
17 would like to be able to see that, Shawn.

18 We'll get either Jay or
19 Susan from our office to follow up with
20 you about that, okay?

21 MR. ESTES: Sure.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Can you
23 continue on?

1 (Video playing)

2 MS. HUNTLEY: Let's go
3 downstairs. Do you know was that law
4 enforcement or was that somebody in the
5 crowd?

6 MR. ESTES: That was
7 somebody in the crowd.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And I'm
9 sorry, I know it's hard for you to watch
10 this.

11 Go ahead, Jay.

12 (Video playing)

13 MS. HUNTLEY: At this point,
14 I see the law enforcement officers at the
15 top of the stairs, so this was one of the
16 sidewalk areas where they cleared out that
17 courthouse area? Excuse me, let me grab
18 some water.

19 MR. ESTES: Yes.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: So, Shawn, was
21 that -- were those the stairs you went up
22 to begin with to get in there?

23 MR. ESTES: Yes, they were.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: And you went
2 back down the same stairs to exit?

3 MR. ESTES: Yes.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: And do you
5 recall -- do you know which law
6 enforcement officers, which group that was
7 at the top of those stairs?

8 MR. ESTES: I do not. My
9 assumption was that they were -- my
10 assumption is that they were HPD, but,
11 again, my assumption is based on the facts
12 that at the county courthouse -- on the
13 county courthouse property I expected
14 state troopers and then, and then the
15 Huntsville police in the streets.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you record
17 anything else other than that recording or
18 have any other photos other than the
19 photos you sent us of the person behind
20 the bushes?

21 MR. ESTES: No, I have other
22 videos, other videos. I think that was
23 the last video. That was the last video

1 that I took.

2 I have videos leading up to
3 it, not long videos and not, you know, not
4 particularly eventful --

5 MS. HUNTLEY: But they would
6 somewhat tell the story; right? So would
7 they be of the chanting -- did you get any
8 video of Devyn Keith making the
9 announcements or of Dantraeon leading the
10 chanting or any of those events?

11 MR. ESTES: I don't think
12 so. I did not get video of that.

13 You know, once I -- I think
14 I mentioned that I found that tree and I
15 was leaning up against the tree. That's
16 when I started really using my camera.

17 I don't think that I used my
18 camera when I was -- you know, when I
19 walked with the crowd up the steps to the
20 courthouse, when Dantraeon was doing his
21 stuff, when Dexter was there, when Devyn
22 made his announcement.

23 All of that I don't think I

1 recorded any of that. Again, I thought
2 about this multiple times.

3 I thought about the, you
4 know, it's almost funny, right. At that
5 time I wasn't thinking about, you know,
6 gathering.

7 MS. HUNTLEY: That's fine,
8 but the other video that you did get,
9 we'll follow up with you in addition to
10 the rubber bullet about obtaining that, if
11 you don't mind?

12 MR. ESTES: Yeah, of course,
13 of course.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And so
15 did you receive any injuries?

16 MR. ESTES: I don't believe
17 so.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: Is there
19 anything else you would -- and my
20 colleagues may have questions as well as
21 other CAC members, but is there anything
22 else you would like to share with us about
23 that day?

1 MR. ESTES: Only that it was
2 -- it was actually traumatic. I said at
3 City Council one time that it was a
4 traumatic experience, and it's weird for
5 me to say that it's traumatic for myself
6 because -- because, you know, the focus is
7 on black lives and not being a black live
8 -- not being black, I don't in any way
9 feel targeted by police.

10 And so it's a little bit
11 difficult to explain the feeling of
12 trauma, other than a strong feeling that
13 my police should not treat us, anyone like
14 that.

15 It was -- it was a very
16 exciting is not the right word. You know,
17 there were -- you know, obviously it was
18 emotionally -- it was emotional and it was
19 eventful.

20 We were attacked. That is
21 how I interpret that. That's how I feel
22 that. We -- although I really -- I was
23 not there to protest myself, I was there

1 to watch.

2 But nonetheless we had no
3 reason to be -- no reason to be attacked.

4 I strongly feel that way and
5 I feel like that is part of why it makes
6 me incredibly sad very, very upset. It's
7 hard to -- so that's all that -- that's my
8 little add-on.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: Well, Shawn,
10 we certainly appreciate you sharing with
11 us.

12 The only way for the CAC to
13 understand what happens is through the
14 eyes of the witnesses of people that were
15 there, so we appreciate that.

16 At this time, we're going to
17 try to wrap things up, see if we've got a
18 few more questions.

19 I'm going to pass over here
20 to my colleague to see if he has any
21 follow-ups and then he'll turn it over to
22 the chairwoman for the CAC to see if any
23 CAC members have any questions they would

1 like to ask you, okay?

2 MR. ESTES: Of course.

3 MR. SHARMAN: Mr. Estes, can
4 you see me and hear me well enough from
5 here?

6 MR. ESTES: Yes, I can.

7 MR. SHARMAN: Okay. Just a
8 few logistical questions.

9 You mentioned several times
10 of the change in the permit time or
11 permitted event time.

12 Let me ask you a couple of
13 questions about that. First, I assume you
14 mentioned it several times because it's
15 significant to you.

16 If it is significant, how
17 was that significant to you?

18 MR. ESTES: It is -- it is
19 very significant to me. I don't know that
20 I would venture a personal theory on the
21 right to protest, the right to be there
22 outside of a permit time.

23 My personal opinion -- I

1 probably should not even venture my
2 personal opinion. I don't -- but the
3 reason -- the reason that it stands out to
4 me is that that's not even in question
5 because the permit time was eight o'clock.

6 Meaning that there was, you
7 know, 100 percent right to be there. We
8 all had the right to be there. I had the
9 right to be there within the permit time.

10 The permit change I don't
11 know what the city of Huntsville -- I
12 don't know who issues those permits
13 specifically.

14 I don't know what they were
15 thinking to change a permit time. There
16 was no way to communicate that out to the
17 people because the event -- I mean the
18 permit time was already approved.

19 It was done at eight
20 o'clock. The event was advertised out by
21 very good, professional trustworthy
22 organizations.

23 To try and change the

1 time -- I don't know when they made a
2 decision to change the time. I mean, in
3 retrospect I understand that it was
4 changed, but I had no awareness of that.
5 There was no way to communicate that.

6 They did not ever
7 communicate that. Definitely was not
8 communicated to the crowd. Definitely was
9 not communicated at the time.

10 I did not know that. The
11 whole time I was there, the whole time I
12 was standing there my absolute assumption,
13 my absolutely knowledge was that the
14 permit time runs until eight o'clock.

15 And my personal opinion is
16 even without a permit, I feel like people
17 can still protest.

18 I'm pretty sure that that is
19 the law. People can still protest.
20 Permits are a nice thing, they're a good
21 thing. It's a good thing to do but it's
22 not required, so permits are --

23 MR. SHARMAN: Let me

1 interrupt you briefly.

2 So setting aside the
3 question of communication of the change,
4 which may have been poor or not, but just
5 setting aside the proficiency of the
6 communication, is there anything that
7 you're ascribing to the change in time,
8 you know, that's nefarious; in other
9 words, something wrong in and of itself
10 about it?

11 MR. ESTES: Definitely
12 without knowledge.

13 I have a deep concern that
14 somebody changed the permit time because
15 -- because they felt like it would have
16 given them an opportunity to -- I heard a
17 member of the council of our City Council
18 say one time that the police were boys
19 playing with their toys.

20 That's what somebody said,
21 that the police were boys playing with
22 their toys. They had this opportunity to
23 use their weapons that they had trained

1 for so excitedly to shoot their weapons at
2 people, at their crowd, and that they
3 wanted to do that, that was -- that was an
4 exciting thing for them, and I don't think
5 that's outside of plausibility.

6 And so -- I think, I
7 actually think it's a possibility. I
8 don't think it's a definite by any means,
9 but my personal opinion is I think it's a
10 possibility that someone would change the
11 permit time so that people would be there
12 and that they can get, you know, abused,
13 punished.

14 MR. SHARMAN: And that's
15 helpful.

16 And then on the question of
17 the crowds. I think you were clear with
18 Liz. I just wanted to be sure.

19 At least from your
20 perspective and from your hearing anyway,
21 there wasn't ever a point where you heard
22 a request, an order, a demand, a notice to
23 disperse; is that right?

1 MR. ESTES: I'm sorry, I'm
2 sorry -- my mind is distracted. It is
3 difficult. It's difficult. Ask me -- I'm
4 sorry, ask it one more time.

5 There was never an order --

6 MR. SHARMAN: I think you
7 answered this but I just wanted to be
8 clear.

9 If I understood what you
10 mentioned to Liz earlier, you don't recall
11 hearing yourself ever an order or a
12 request or a demand to disperse? You
13 don't remember that your own self any way?

14 MR. ESTES: 100 percent no.
15 I never heard -- while I was there I never
16 heard that. Absolutely 100 percent.

17 MR. SHARMAN: I think --
18 hang on one second. I think that was it
19 from me.

20 No, I think that's all from
21 me. I appreciate your time.

22 Vicki, do we have any CAC
23 members who have any follow-up?

1 MS. GUERRIERI: Let me get
2 ask them.

3 Do any of you have any
4 questions for Mr. Estes? If you do, just
5 go ahead and proceed at this point.

6 Just be careful one at a
7 time and please try not to overlap each
8 other.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. MCCULLEY: Mr. Estes,
11 this is Shelly McCulley. I do have a
12 question.

13 You never directly answered
14 what time you arrived. So how close to
15 the end of all of the speeches did you get
16 there because you said it was fairly close
17 to the end?

18 MR. ESTES: I would theorize
19 between 6:00 and 6:15.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: So you pretty
21 -- you could almost say that you may not
22 have heard at the beginning that there had
23 been a change in the time, if it had been

1 announced at the beginning?

2 MR. ESTES: Yes, if it had
3 been announced at the beginning, I would
4 not have heard that.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And
6 those others that you had arrived with,
7 did not share that with you at the time?

8 MR. ESTES: Cooper and Matt
9 absolutely did not share that with me.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Did not share
11 that with you. Okay.

12 And you also made a
13 statement about Sheriff Turner and Chief
14 McMurray, one or both of them making the
15 comment about to start shooting.

16 Was that just your
17 interpretation or you actually heard one
18 of them, if not both, make that comment?

19 MR. ESTES: I'm referring to
20 their press on June 4th, the day after.

21 MS. MCCULLEY: Okay.

22 MR. ESTES: Yeah, that's
23 where they -- it's on video. I won't try

1 to --

2 MS. MCCULLEY: That's fine,
3 I can find --

4 MR. ESTES: -- what they
5 said, yeah.

6 MS. MCCULLEY: Okay. And
7 you also made a comment about your
8 Albertville litigation.

9 MR. ESTES: Uh-huh
10 (affirmative).

11 MS. MCCULLEY: All right.
12 You were attacked there?

13 MR. ESTES: No, the -- one
14 of the organizers in Albertville, Unique
15 Morgan, Unique Morgan Dunston, she asked
16 me to bring a projection -- a projector
17 and projection screen that I own.

18 She asked me to bring them
19 there and show videos, some videos that
20 she wanted shown, so I agreed to that.

21 Me and a friend drove down
22 there. We set the gear up. The screen is
23 an inflatable screen. It's a large

1 inflatable screen filled with air.

2 So Billy McClendon, a guy
3 there, I guess he's -- I guess they're
4 counter-protesters he pulled a knife out
5 and he stabbed the screen, I assume trying
6 to damage it to make it go away so we
7 couldn't show it.

8 He was -- there were police
9 there. The man was pointed out to police
10 officers in Albertville on the scene.

11 Albertville took statements
12 by everybody. I went to the magistrate to
13 file charges for damage to my --

14 MS. MCCULLEY: To your
15 property, okay.

16 MR. ESTES: That's right.

17 We just had our first
18 hearing just a few days ago, and
19 apparently Billy's lawyer filed for a
20 continuance.

21 Our next hearing is on
22 March 9th.

23 MS. MCCULLEY: And you were

1 pretty much close to the front of this for
2 the biggest part while you were there, but
3 you still did not hear dispersement at any
4 time?

5 MR. ESTES: I did not.

6 While I was there I did not ever hear a
7 dispersement, no, a call for dispersement.

8 MS. MCCULLEY: Okay. All
9 right. Thank you for your time today and
10 all your information. It is very
11 important.

12 MR. ESTES: I feel it is as
13 well. Thank you.

14 MS. GUERRIERI: Thank you,
15 Shelly.

16 Does anyone else have any
17 questions for Mr. Estes?

18 Willie, do you have any
19 questions?

20 MS. HUNTLEY: I think Willie
21 has dropped off, Vicki.

22 MS. GUERRIERI: I think John
23 did, too. They're both at work, I

1 understand.

2 I have no further questions.

3 I think the questions asked by counsel

4 have covered and Shelly have covered

5 everything that I would have asked.

6 And I would just like to

7 thank Mr. Estes for the time he gave us

8 today and for his testimony.

9 MR. ESTES: Of course.

10 MR. HUNTLEY: Thank you so

11 much, Mr. Estes.

12 And if you think of anything

13 else, you've got communication with Susan

14 Harper, our paralegal, feel free to do

15 that as you ponder what we discussed today

16 and we will follow up with you about your

17 additional videos.

18 MR. ESTES: Sure, of course

19 absolutely, I will. And great, looking

20 forward to the follow-up. No problem.

21 Thank you very much. Thank you.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: All right.

23 Thank you.

1 MS. GUERRIERI: Thank you,

2 all.

3 MR. LOVE: All right. Thank

4 you, Shawn.

5 MR. ESTES: Thank you.

6 MR. LOVE: Appreciate it.

7 Very informative.

8 MR. ESTES: Thank you.

9

10 [Interview ended at 10:38 a.m.]

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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 anyway interested in
16 the results of said cause.

17 Signed January 20, 2021.

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