

# Omaha Civil Unrest Report



**Todd R. Schmaderer**  
**Chief of Police**  
**October, 2020**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The period from May 29 through June 7, 2020 marked an unparalleled time in the history of Omaha. Like many other cities, Omaha experienced civil unrest for the first time in nearly 50 years. The purpose of this Report is to present the results of the Omaha Police Department (OPD) executive commanders' exhaustive analysis of the civil unrest events subsequent to May 29, 2020. The rapidly unfolding events of May 29th and the days that followed revealed both strengths and weaknesses in the Omaha Police Department's response.

### Report Content Summary

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This Report includes data, findings, and observations of strengths and weaknesses. The Report is organized into the following three main subject areas:

1. Timeline of Operations and After-Action Report
2. OPD Safety Review Board Summary Report
3. Restorative Justice Project Summary Report

#### Timeline of Operations and After-Action Report:

The Department's analysis of the **Timeline of Operations and After-Action Report** has revealed the Department operated with patience and tolerance in an effort to promote free speech. Events and protests during this period that were coordinated with police and managed properly by the organizers experienced no issues. Since the protest events and activity began, OPD officers have worked over 60 related events in the Omaha area. Unfortunately, as seen in other major cities, some of the initially peaceful protests were infiltrated by agitators whose goal was to promote conflict with the police. The Department found it was not uncommon for agitators deep within a crowd to throw objects at officers knowing the peaceful protestors formed a barrier and cloak of anonymity. Officers were pelted with objects, spit on and screamed at during many of the protests but remained, as a whole, professional. It also appeared some of the organizers hosted events without fully understanding their own responsibilities as host(s) or how large the event would become. Many events were extremely challenging for OPD to manage, especially given some agitators/protestors Marxist and/or anarchist ideology and/or facets of militia persona adopted by participants. However, despite early difficulties in the management of the large-scale protests, OPD command and control techniques improved each day. Officers gained valuable experience that was reflected in improvements that were made even as protests and civil unrest continued.

The **Timeline of Operations and After-Action Report** section of this Report includes data and details on many operation-related issues, including the following:

- timeline of activities/events;
- known arrests and injuries;
- criminal charges and arrest processing issues;
- security of facilities and resources;
- property damage;

- tactics, strengths and weaknesses related to the deployment of various OPD or outside agency components such as the National Guard, non-OPD SWAT personnel, OPD Traffic and other specialty units;
- emergency Alpha/Bravo officer staffing and surrounding issues.

### **Safety Review Board (SRB) Summary Report:**

The Department requires officers to document use of force via reports that are subsequently reviewed by the OPD Safety Review Board (SRB). The SRB received a total of 123 reports of use of force stemming from the initial late May – early June protests; most were by way of chemical munitions such as PepperBall deployment, OC spray use, smoke grenades, etc. The SRB analyzed the activity and events surrounding each incident and a number of policy, equipment, and training recommendations were made as a result. The SRB findings illustrate that overall, most incidents served to highlight the professionalism, composure, communication skills, and officer safety skills displayed by OPD officers.

Some of the key findings in the **Safety Review Board Summary Report** section of this Report include the following:

- 123 use of force incidents were reviewed;
- 120 of the use of force incidents reviewed were deemed to be within OPD policy;
- 3 of the use of force incidents reviewed were deemed not to be within OPD policy and were addressed;
  - 2 of the 3 were investigated by the OPD Internal Affairs Unit;
  - Note: One officer was terminated for a gross violation of OPD’s use of force protocols. After consultation with the City Prosecutor, charges were not brought for the officer in part due to there being no identified victim. However, it was especially commendable that OPD commanders brought the case forward for investigation and not a member of the community. This illustrates the high level of commitment to ethical and fair policing present in the Department.

### **Restorative Justice Project:**

In order to foster dialogue and understanding between the community and OPD, the Department worked with multiple stakeholders to engage those arrested for minor offenses during protest-related events using the tenets of Restorative Justice. Eligible participants were provided with an opportunity to avoid having a criminal conviction on their record after their participation in the Project. The Project was conducted in partnership with the City Prosecutor’s Office, the City Human Rights and Relations Department, the Douglas County Attorney Juvenile Division, the Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center, and other partners.

Some of the key outcomes presented in the **Restorative Justice Project** section of this Report include the following:

- 12 juveniles and 5 adults successfully participated in the Project;
- the juveniles attended four, 2-hour guided talking sessions facilitated by Concord Mediation;
- the adults attended a 4-hour discussion session facilitated by the City Human Rights and Relations Department and also completed eight hours of community service;

- Note: A key takeaway from the Restorative Justice Project was that many of the juvenile and adult participants had never felt their voices were truly heard before. The Project provided them a voice, and in turn the OPD participants were also provided an opportunity to discuss not only the protest, but also their thoughts from a law enforcement perspective about the actions that initially prompted the nation-wide protests.

## Identified Areas for Future Preparedness

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During the process of analyzing data and formulating this Report the Department identified several opportunities for change and future preparedness, mainly in three over-arching areas: Training, Equipment, Policy, and Communication.

### **Training Preparedness Needs:**

- Enhanced Department-wide training on protest management, civil disorder, crowd de-escalation, and First Amendment case law training is needed.
- Additional training would benefit the Rapid Deployment Force. Omaha was very fortunate to have a standing multi-jurisdictional (RDF). The RDF proved instrumental in preventing full-scale unrest and helped restore order until the National Guard could deploy.
- Chemical munitions training and other use of force training needs to re-emphasize the use of verbal commands during use of force situations.
- Incident command training needs to continue to be conducted within OPD and in the future should incorporate some of the civil unrest tactics developed during the protest events.
- The Alert Sense system was used during the protest events as a public notification platform. The system worked well and provided an additional layer to OPD's communication efforts. Additional training on the capabilities and use of the system would be beneficial.

### **Equipment Preparedness Needs:**

- A long-range communication device has been ordered that will improve OPD's ability to deliver verbal commands and directives to large crowds over multiple city blocks (Equitable Sharing funds, approximate cost of \$14,000.00).
- OPD's RDF needs to have mobile capabilities in order to address multiple civil unrest sites. The Department is currently seeking to secure two full-size commuter buses for future preparedness.
- OPD's SWAT Team identified a need for gas mask communication adaptors and updated less-lethal weapons systems (the stockpile was old as the usage is extremely rare).

### **Policy Needs:**

- OPD's policies on civil disorder and mass arrests are in the process of being modified and updated based on lessons learned from the protests and related events.
- OPD's use of force and several related policies have been updated.
- Multiple policy reminders and training bulletins have been enacted to remind officers of proper procedures and applicable laws in various areas (see Report attachments for details).

### **Communication Needs:**

- Implementation of standardized warning messages for use in crowd control incidents.
- Emphasis on clear, repeated verbal warning messages to be used prior to deployment of chemical munitions.

## Report Preamble

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From the moment the video of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis was released to the world, law enforcement agencies in the United States began to face challenges unlike any they had experienced in decades. Already fighting to keep the public and employees safe in the midst of a global pandemic, law enforcement was confronted by a nationwide movement that questioned their legitimacy and resulted in widespread protests that too often deteriorated into civil unrest. Unfortunately, the Omaha Police Department (OPD) was not spared from this phenomenon.

Beginning on the evening of May 29<sup>th</sup>, the City of Omaha experienced its worst period of civil unrest since the 1960s. What began that evening as a large crowd of protesters exercising their First Amendment right to peacefully protest at the intersection of 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge Streets, turned unlawful and dangerous when protesters began to block busy streets, destroy property, and assault police officers with projectiles such as rocks, bottles, and metal pipes. That night and the next were marred by largescale civil unrest and riotous behavior at two main locations: The area at and near 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge Streets, and the area in and around the Old Market Historic District downtown. These nights of unrest taxed OPD resources and required us to call upon surrounding law enforcement agencies for assistance. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, after two long nights of civil unrest, the City of Omaha declared a State of Emergency, established a citywide curfew, and requested National Guard assistance in an effort to stabilize the situation. Furthermore, the Omaha Police Department moved to a 12-hour "alpha-bravo" emergency staffing schedule for the first time in many years.

Although the next two nights, May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>, were not free from disorder, the National Guard presence and citywide curfew proved to be valuable tools in significantly reducing the magnitude of unrest and destruction. The National Guard's presence undoubtedly conveyed a message to protesters that property damage and violence would not be tolerated, and the citywide curfew greatly aided OPD officers by shortening their deployment times following two highly volatile and exhausting nights. The next six days, June 2<sup>nd</sup> through June 7<sup>th</sup>, were free from civil unrest, although protest activities occurred each night.

While this period of civil unrest has left a scar on the Omaha community, the OPD hopes and expects to improve as an agency because of it. Therefore, over the last several months, OPD command officers and other employees have dedicated significant energy toward reviewing the Department's actions both before and during the unrest to identify our successes and failures. In addition, officers have worked to reduce the long-term harm caused by these events, and to bridge the gap between protesters and the OPD.

The Department engaged in three main tasks in these efforts. First, we conducted a comprehensive review of events to understand the actions of both protesters and police officers from the planning stage of each protest to the time when each protest ended. Next, we reviewed all force used by OPD officers during the civil unrest, and determined the appropriateness of each use of force. Lastly, a group of commanders and officers engaged in a "restorative justice" initiative during which they sat down and talked with some of those arrested during the civil unrest in order to help both officers and protesters understand and appreciate the perspective from the other side. These efforts are detailed at length in the following report.

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# TIMELINE OF OPERATIONS / AFTER-ACTION REPORT

## Timeline of Operations / After-Action Report Section Preamble:

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On Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, an arrest incident in Minneapolis, Minnesota forever changed policing and highlighted the overall state of race relations in America. George Floyd, an African-American man, was arrested by several Minneapolis police officers. During the arrest, he was placed on the ground and restrained. Bystander video showed one officer pinning Mr. Floyd's neck to the street pavement with his knee. Despite pleas from bystanders that Mr. Floyd could not breathe, the officer maintained this position for several minutes. Ultimately Mr. Floyd lost consciousness and later died. The incident was captured on cell phone video and was quickly seen by the world. Protests against police brutality began to occur.

"Peaceful protests end peacefully. Anarchy ends in chaos."

-John DeBerry Jr., Tennessee State  
Representative and Civil Rights Leader

On Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, a rally was held outside of the Omaha Police Department's (OPD) Northeast Precinct to bring attention to police-community relations. Speakers included community members and State Senator Ernie Chambers. The rally was peaceful and ended without incident. On the morning of May 29<sup>th</sup>, OPD began to receive information that a protest was being planned for that evening at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge Streets. Early indications were that the event was to have under 300 attendees and the organizer was asking for peaceful demonstration. This event grew throughout the evening, and what started as a peaceful protest transformed into an unlawful assembly when protesters took to the street, trapping cars in traffic and later surrounding an occupied Nebraska State Patrol cruiser. Ultimately, chemical munitions were deployed to control the rapidly deteriorating situation, as officers were pelted with rocks and bottles. This was the start of 10 days of protests events, some marred with violence and destruction.

Each of OPD's eleven Captains contributed to this section of this report. They provided analysis of events in their area of responsibility, including what worked well and what needs improvement. It will also provide a detailed timeline of the first night of protests, review of daily events, recommendations on policy, training, and equipment, as well as a review of use of force incidents, and other notable topics.

**Timeline: Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge Streets**  
**“Stand Against Injustice”**

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In preparation for this event, both Captain John Sokolik and Captain Laurie Scott spoke with the organizer [REDACTED] at 1215 and 1430 respectively. [REDACTED] was receptive to their conversations.

1530: Captain Laurie Scott, Incident Commander for this protest, conducted a briefing at the Northwest Precinct, Community Room, for OPD personnel, supporting Units, and outside law enforcement agencies, including Omaha Fire Department command.



1700: Captain Laurie Scott, along with Lieutenant Shane Myers, Sergeant Jason Heft, and Sergeant Paul Hanson reported to the Northwest corner of 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge Street to meet with the organizer(s) of the event. Upon attempting to make contact with [REDACTED], she was not located. A female identified as [REDACTED], stated she was one of the co-organizers. [REDACTED] advised that the “organizers” of the event would be designated with orange armbands and would be assisting in ensuring the event remained peaceful and protestors were abiding by all requests.

1800-1900: The crowd was growing in size at a rapid pace and officers were put in designated areas for response, control, and containment. Lieutenant Myers advised there were approximately 600 people on scene, occupying all four corners of the intersection. Nebraska State Patrol Units arrived in the area. Mobile Command was provided video access from Air Support Units. A group of protestors was occupying one of the medians. Captain Scott attempted to contact the organizer via

phone, no response. Lieutenant Myers advised the crowd, now in excess of 1,000 persons, was becoming too large to go into the area; in addition, when they did approach, the group began chanting “F--k the Police.”

1924: Protesters start to block the street just west of 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge, trapping several vehicles in westbound traffic. The protesters stay there (40-50 of them), some sitting in the street.

1928: A few OPD cruisers arrive and the protesters in the street scatter into the crowd.

1934: Officers reopen the flow of traffic, then turn around and leave westbound.

1935: Numerous protestors (500+) leave the center median in the same area and again block westbound traffic. Several cars (15+) are trapped, blocking all three lanes. Protesters occupy all three



lanes and begin walking eastbound in the westbound lanes. Protesters from the sidewalk join in. Traffic is still flowing, and cars are approaching from all four directions.

**Note: The protesters are breaking the law by entering the street and blocking traffic. In addition, they created an extremely unsafe environment for themselves and motorists. Numerous incidents have occurred around the country where protesters in the street have been hit by cars, or motorists panic and try to flee, striking protesters. Captain Scott instructed the Traffic Unit to block Dodge and 72<sup>nd</sup> streets at key points to preserve the safety of those involved.**

1941: Protesters reach 69th street. They knock down the orange and white safety barricades and continue EB in the WB lanes, now unprotected from oncoming traffic.

1944: Protesters go to about 68th Street, then start to turn around and come back WB.

1947: A protester throws a bottle at an officer in a cruiser (571) near 69<sup>th</sup> and Dodge. The protester flees into the crowd.

1955: Protesters have continued WB in WB lanes (several hundred). NOTE: Eastbound traffic is still flowing. Protesters reach NSP cruiser at approximately 75<sup>th</sup> and Dodge and begin to surround it. It appears one protester with a small megaphone climbs onto the hood.

1958: Approximately 100 protesters swarm around the NSP cruiser.

1959: Five OPD cruisers arrive and most protesters scatter (Help an Officer was issued after a NSP cruiser was surrounded and did not respond). OPD officers calmly approach the NSP cruiser and check on them, then assist them in backing out.

2001: A crowd of 250-300 protesters block all lanes of traffic EB and WB and surround OPD cruisers.

2003: A small amount of PepperBall is deployed to disperse the crowd. Some flee NB. Others continue to surround officers and block traffic.

2004: Another small PepperBall deployment to get the large crowd back from officers. Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) Lt. Christensen arrives on scene and deploys smoke grenades as a warning to the crowd. A bottle is thrown at officers from near Olive Garden and more PB is deployed on the street to disperse the crowd. Protesters also pick up smoke grenades and throw them at officers.

2005: RDF squads arrive just east of this location and begin to deploy in the street.

2011: RDF with Mounted Patrol begins to slowly clear the street westbound. Several protesters actively resist and refuse to leave the street.

2024: Officers at 74<sup>th</sup> and Dodge and 75<sup>th</sup> and Dodge face off with protesters still occupying the street.

2030: Officers at 74<sup>th</sup> and Dodge report bottles being thrown at them.

2037: Most of the crowd begins to walk east towards 72<sup>nd</sup>. Cars are still driving on all streets. A command officer notes on the radio that they will try to focus arrests on persons assaulting officers with objects.

2039: Bottles being thrown at officers at 74<sup>th</sup> and Dodge.

2046: Command 10 notes that “many, many warnings” were given to protesters to get out of the street or face arrest. Video from Sgt. Heft’s cruiser verifies these warnings were given over his public address (PA) system.

2052: RDF supplemented by other officers begins moving east from 75<sup>th</sup>, clearing the street.

2055: Reports of objects being thrown at RDF officers. Another report of bottles being thrown from north. RDF deploys CS gas in response to assaultive actions.

2059: Objects continue to be thrown at officers. Protesters standing on top of a cruiser at 74<sup>th</sup> and Dodge.

2104: Officers report having “pipes, bricks, and water bottles” thrown at them.

2106: Rocks being thrown at officers.

2108: Protesters use pallets and wood to build a wall/barricade across Dodge Street, just west of 72<sup>nd</sup> Street.

2114: Officers disassemble the barricade constructed by protesters.

2124: RDF moves protesters east on Dodge past 72<sup>nd</sup> Street.

2205: Most protesters have moved to sidewalks, parking lots, or various corners at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge.

2210: Rocks and bottles being thrown at officers.

2213: Officer reports that a lot of rocks are coming from the NE corner of 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge. Large number of protesters continue to just mill around, some riding bikes and skateboard through the area.

2222: Officers continue to be struck by rocks from NE corner. Chemical munitions deployed in this area.

2230: Information from citizen that protesters are going to attempt to break into Target.

2231: Large group of rioters seen running towards Target.

2235: Command 100 is at Target and reports objects being thrown at them. Requests chemical munitions.

2240: Groups of rioters floating around the Target parking lot. Some starting to leave, but many just hanging out.

2244: Rioters begin to carry shopping cart cages from the parking lot, towards officers at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge.

2244: Rioter throws burning item into a large dumpster on NW corner of 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge.

2245: Rioters throw cart cage onto Dodge Street.

2246: Group of riots approaching Best Buy. Breaking out windows.

2249: Arrest buses arrive.

2250: Armed party with shotgun in Target parking lot. Air cleared.

2252: SWAT approaches man with shotgun and successfully detains him. Rioters continue to throw objects at officers.

2252: Bucky's at 76<sup>th</sup> and Dodge reports rioters stealing items from store. Many rioters start to disperse. For others it appears like a party atmosphere...people dancing, taking selfies, or just hanging out around cars.

0033: Bottles thrown from 74<sup>th</sup> and Dodge area.

0036: Small crowd continues to throw objects at officers near 74<sup>th</sup> and Dodge.

0040: Car spinning "cookies" in Sears' parking lot.

0047: Police skirmish line continues pushing west, clearing parking lots towards 76<sup>th</sup> Street.

0113: Skirmish line clears Bucky's lot at 76<sup>th</sup> and Dodge.

0128: Most rioters have left and officers continue to check lots and area businesses.

**Details: Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge Streets**  
**“Stand Against Injustice”**

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**Damage:**

Multiple businesses were damaged in the area. A comprehensive list of damages is included in a separate section of this report.

**Lessons Learned:**

This protest started as a peaceful event to highlight the George Floyd incident and call attention to racial injustice across the country. Unfortunately, that message was quickly overtaken by many in the crowd who wanted direct confrontation with police or were just there to be part of a party-like event (something that would be repeated the following night). Organizers of this event likely had good intentions, but have no control over who shows up at a publicly announced Facebook event. It is

well documented across the country that agitators will use the cover of peaceful protesters to instigate a response from police with the hopes of igniting further conflict. Another trend affecting this event was a lack of protester knowledge about constitutional rights, their limitations, and how various laws apply to protests.

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*Although the majority of persons at the protests were average citizens, some clearly came for conflict. Some of the persons:*

*Came with gas masks.*

*Carried shields.*

*Communicated with 2-way radios.*

*Brought projectiles/substances to throw at officers.*

*Constructed barricades to impede officers.*

*Threw large fireworks at officers.*

*Threw Molotov Cocktail(s).*

*Came armed with firearms.*

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**1. Communication:**

In the aftermath of the protests, many protesters complained that they did not hear warnings from police about chemical munitions deployments or pending arrests. There is video evidence of an OPD Sergeant using his public address (PA) system to make verbal warnings to the crowd. He repeatedly warned those in the street to go back to the sidewalk or face arrest. Other command officers and patrol officers issued verbal warnings to violators throughout the evening. Due to the size of the crowd, the noise they generated, and the distance covered, the cruiser PA systems most likely could not be heard over long distances. In addition, standardized warning messages would be helpful.

a. Remedies:

- i. OPD has purchased a more powerful public address system that will allow messages to reach thousands of people over multiple city blocks/streets.
- ii. Standardized warning messages are being developed for incorporation into OPD's Policies and Procedures Manual.
- iii. Emphasis on clear, repeated warning messages has been communicated to all command staff.

**2. Event Staffing:**

These events are very difficult to predict and thus staff appropriately. For example, many Facebook events keep track of those who indicate they are “going” or “interested.” Typically, only a fraction of those who claim they are “going” actually attend. In this instance, the opposite was true. The actual turnout grew throughout the evening. Additionally, OPD staffing for protest events is typically minimal, absent significant aggravating factors. This is because the OPD’s primary goal is to preserve the safety of the event should law enforcement be needed. It is not OPD’s goal to become involved in peaceful First Amendment activities. To do so sends the wrong message to the public and is very expensive.

Captain Laurie Scott, Northwest Precinct, was the Incident Commander for this protest and attempted to locate available staffing prior to the event. Again, actual attendance numbers were unpredictable. Due to protests around the country, [REDACTED] These specially trained officers are equipped with chemical munitions and other equipment for crowd control situations. She also correctly notified or received resources from OPD’s Mounted Patrol Unit, arrest van, Traffic Unit, Air Support Unit, Mobile Command Center, Nebraska State Patrol, Omaha Fire Department, and Douglas County Corrections. Businesses in the area were also contacted and informed of the event.

As the event grew in size, some protesters displayed hostility towards police. Some disregarded directives from officers, while others began to break laws and enter traffic or occupy medians. Additional OPD staffing was requested, including additional RDF officers, and eventually mutual aid assistance was requested from surrounding agencies.

[REDACTED]

a. Remedies:

- i. RDF has moved to an automated call-out system (AlertSense) [REDACTED] This has dramatically decreased deployment time.

**3. Command and Control**

Issues existed regarding command control of groups of officers. Since staffing was piecemeal and grew throughout the evening, officers from different precincts or even neighboring agencies were mixed together with unfamiliar command officers. Communication problems while wearing gas masks only compounded the issue of clearly communicating objectives.

a. Remedies:

- i. Future table top exercises could be developed with neighboring agencies to practice staffing coordination during spontaneous events.

**4. Equipment**

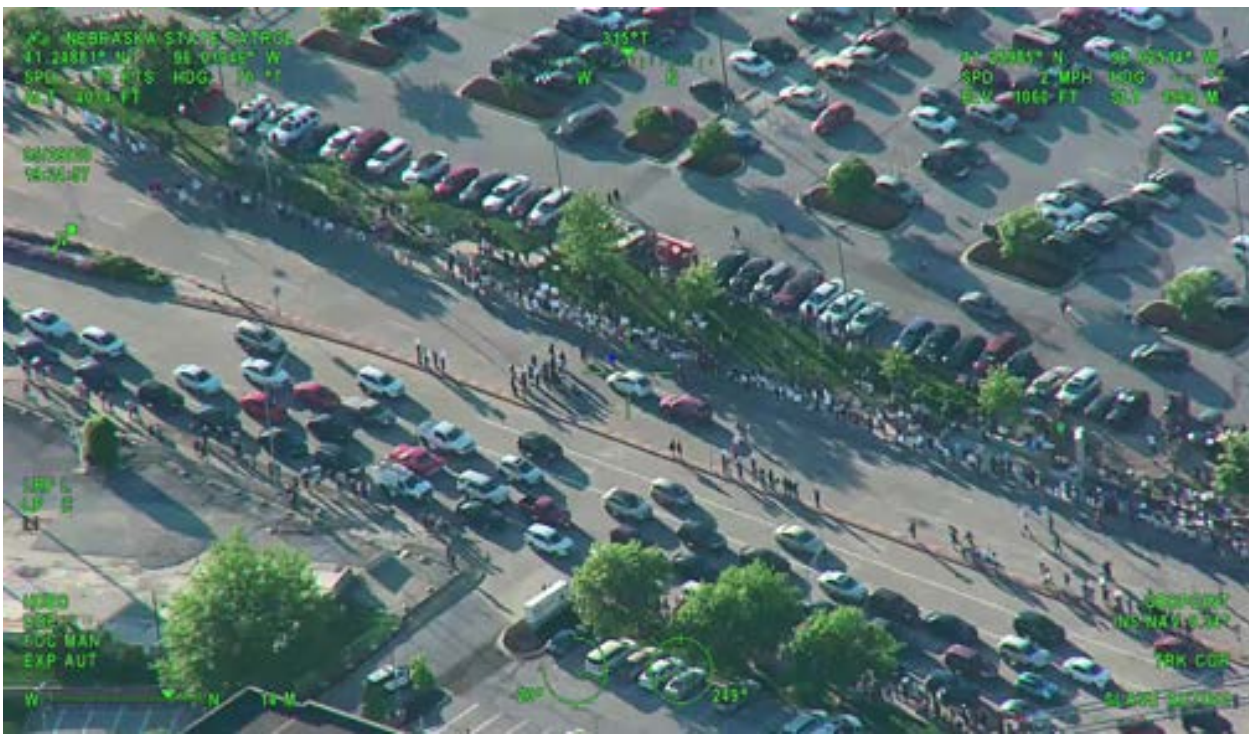
[REDACTED]

a. Remedies:

- i. Increase annual purchases of crowd control munitions to more than just a replacement of expiring munitions. Maintain a supply sufficient for three days of deployments.
- ii. Pre-identify vendors for emergency purchases.

Photos: Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

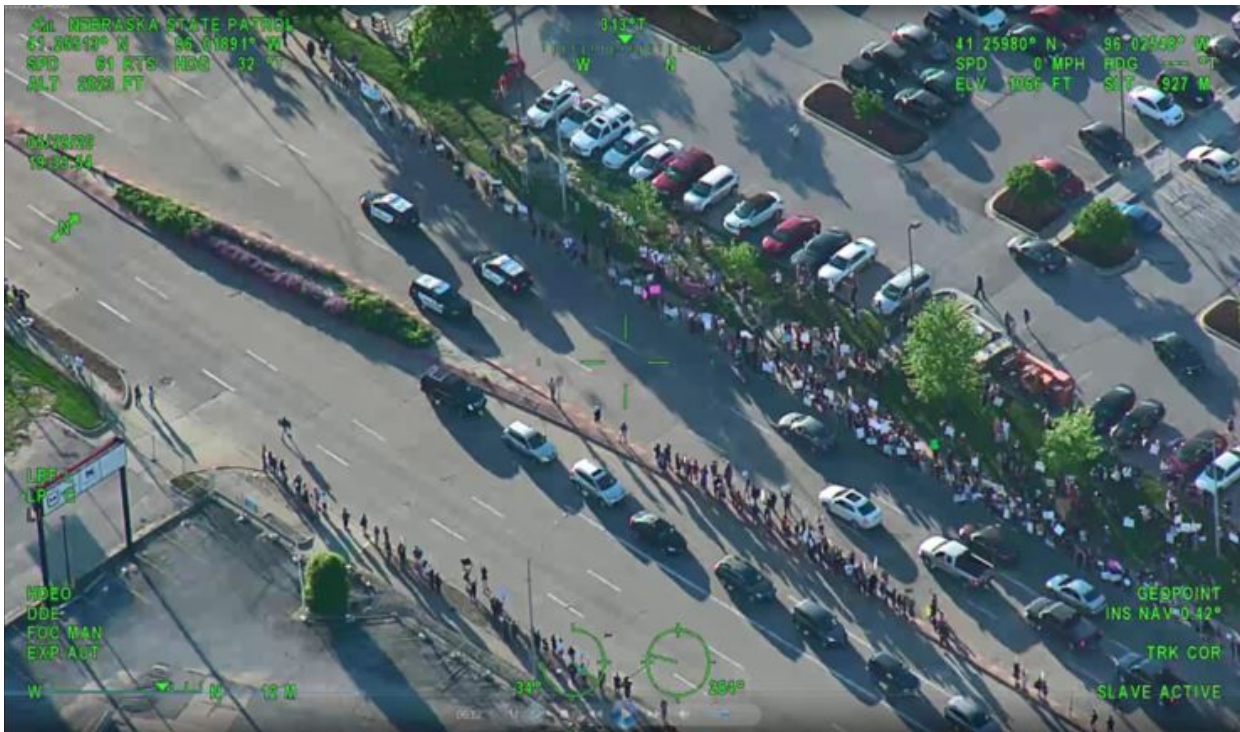
May 29, 1924 hours: Protesters Block Traffic



May 29, 1928 hours: Cruisers Arrive and Protesters Leave the Street



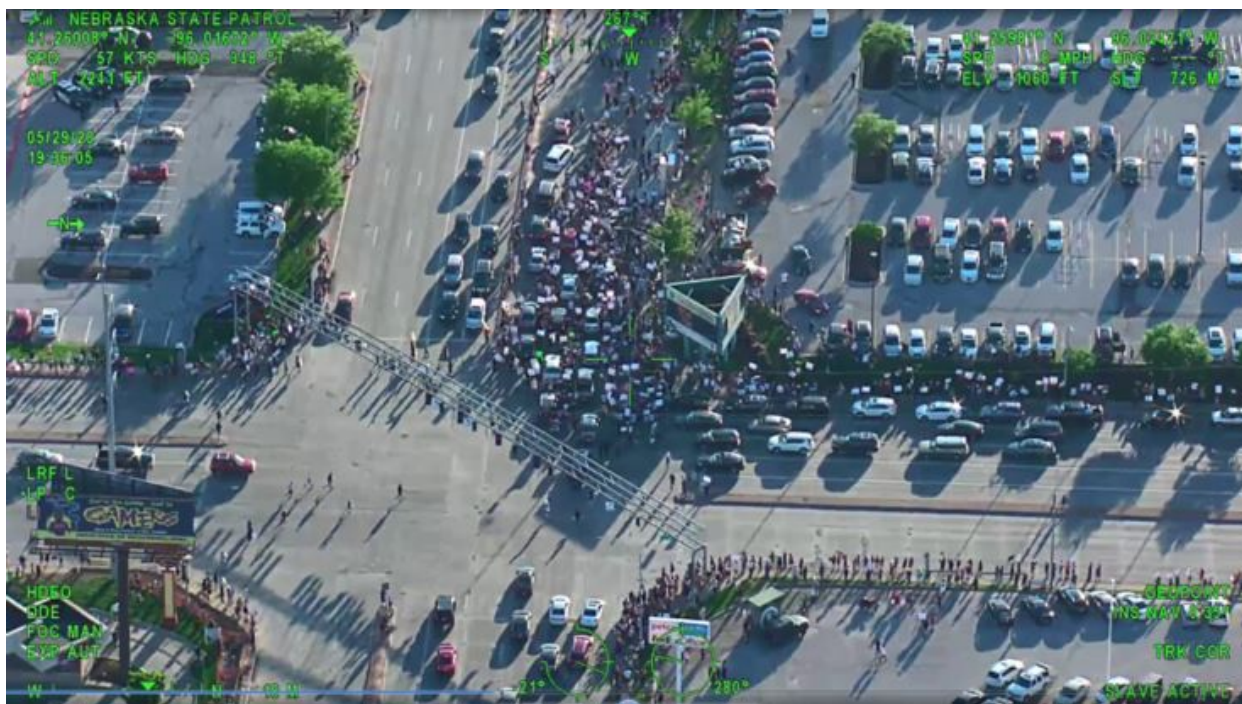
May 29, 1933 hours: Cruisers Leave and Traffic Reopens



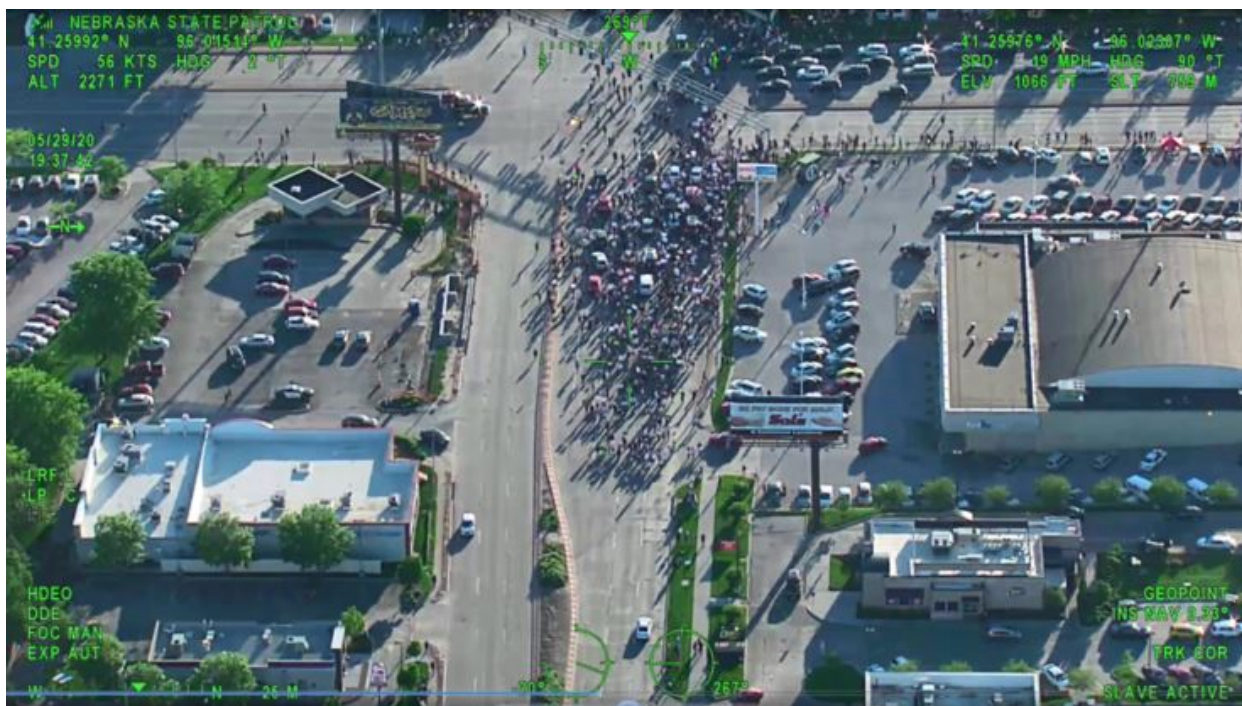
May 29, 1935 hours: Protesters Enter Active Traffic Lanes and Stop Cars



May 29, 1936 hours: Protesters Clog Dodge Street, Trapping Several Motorists



May 29, 1937 hours: Traffic Blocked by Protesters, Cars Still Moving

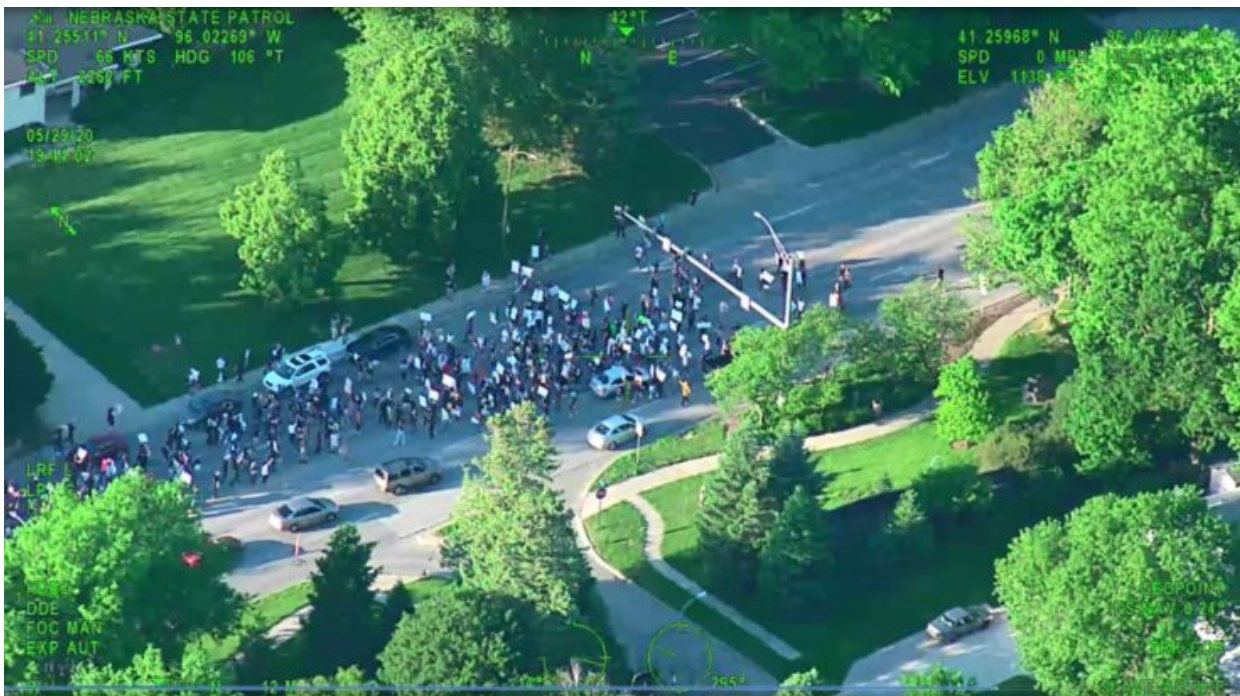




May 29, 1941 hours: Protesters Remove Barricades at 69<sup>th</sup> and Dodge Streets, Enter Unregulated Traffic



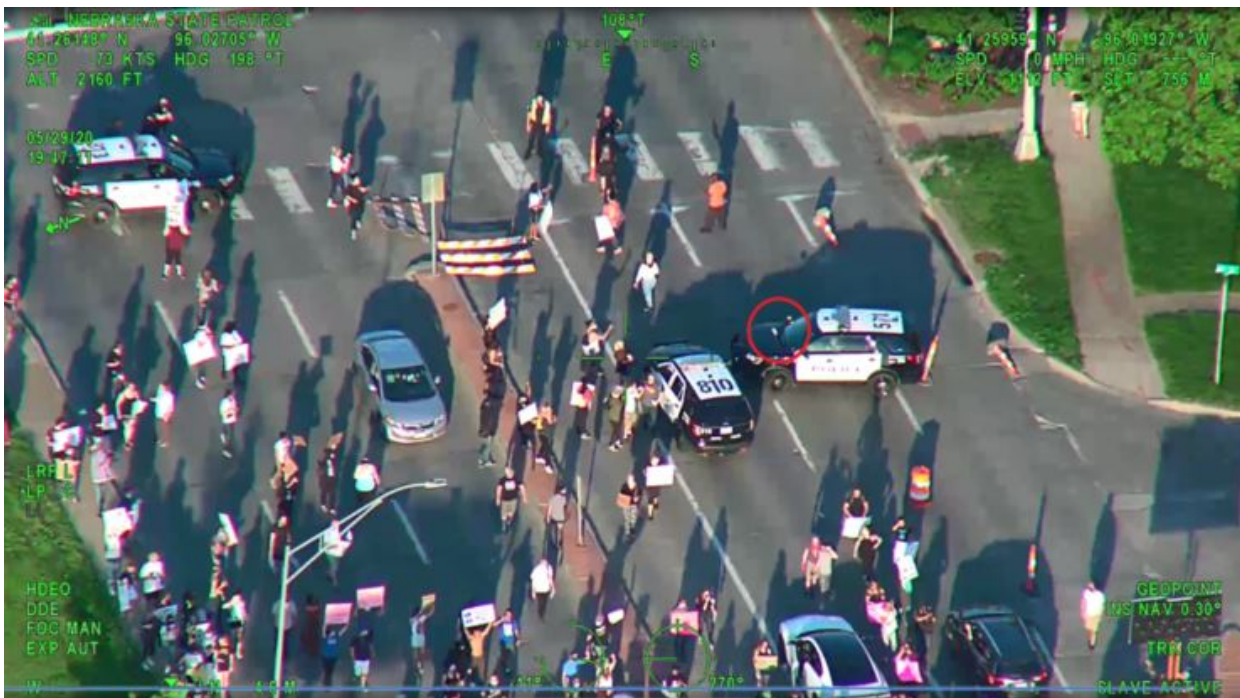
May 29, 1944 hours: Protesters March to 69<sup>th</sup> and Dodge Streets, Then Turn Around



May 29, 1947 hours: Protester Throws Bottle at Cruiser, Another Places Object in Cruiser



May 29, 1947 hours: Bottle Strikes Cruiser



May 29, 1948 hours: Protesters Block All Lanes of Dodge Street, Trapping Several Cars



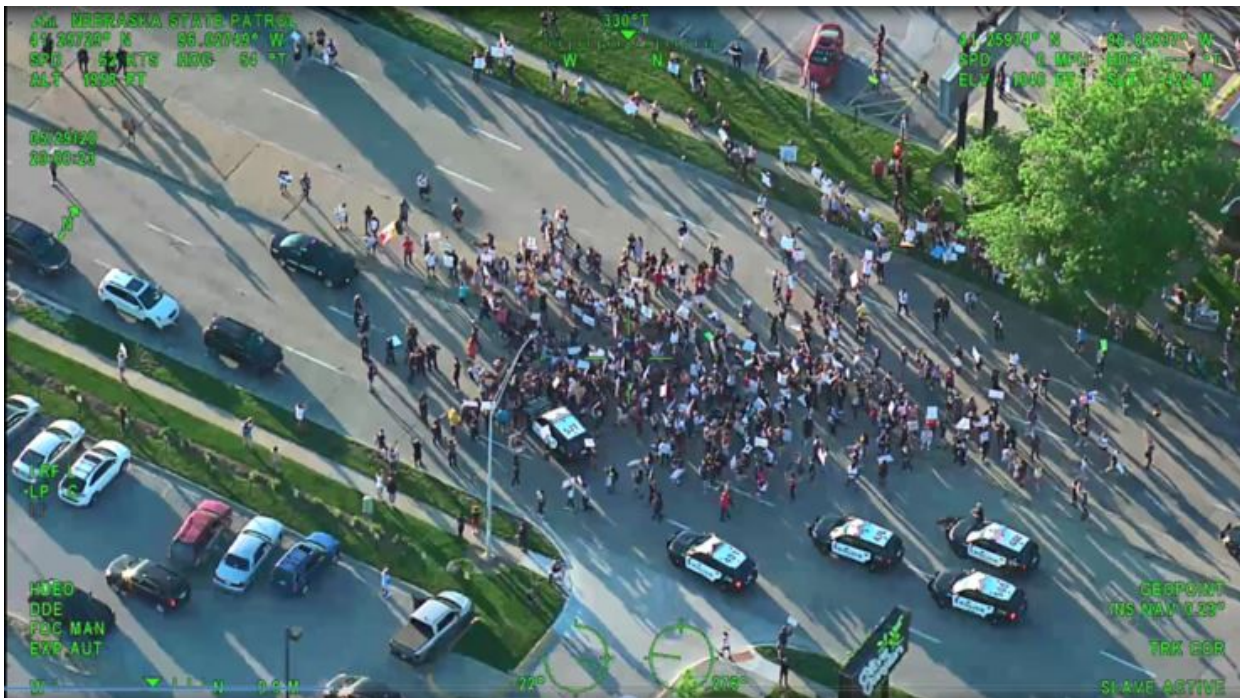
May 29, 1956 hours: Protesters Continue to Block Street, Begin to Surround NSP Cruiser



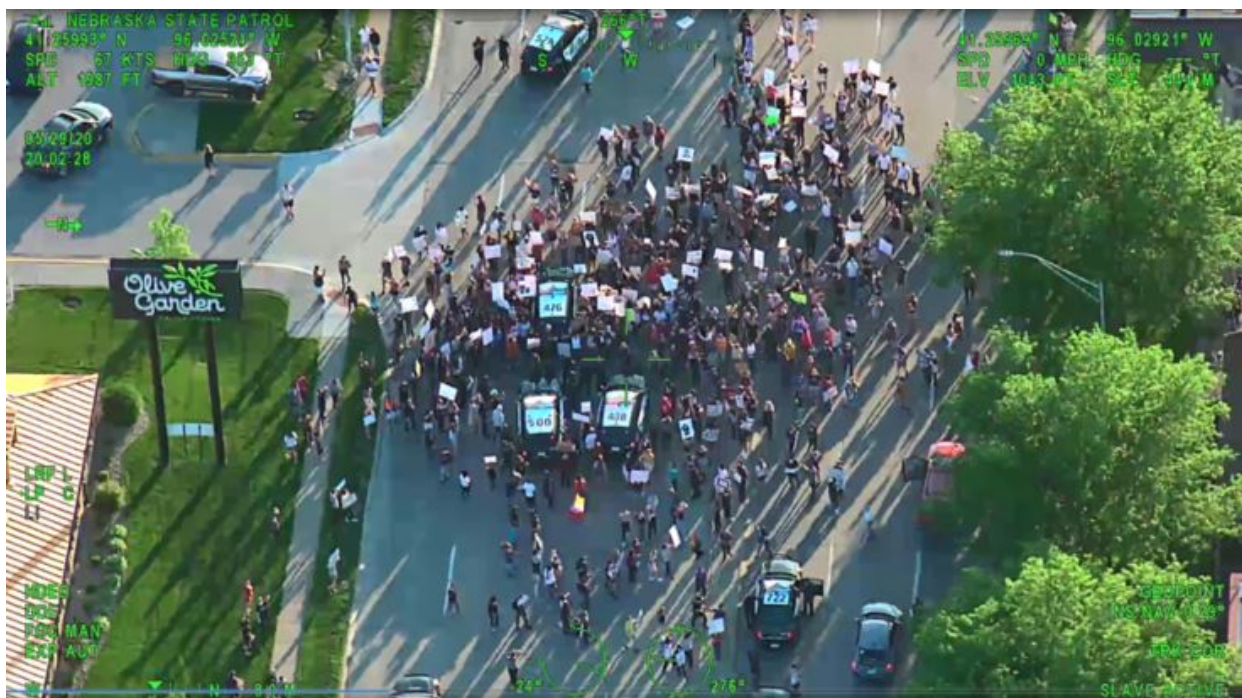
May 29, 1957 hours: Large Number of Protesters Surround NSP, One Gets onto Hood of Cruiser



May 29, 2000 hours: Units Arrive to Rescue NSP



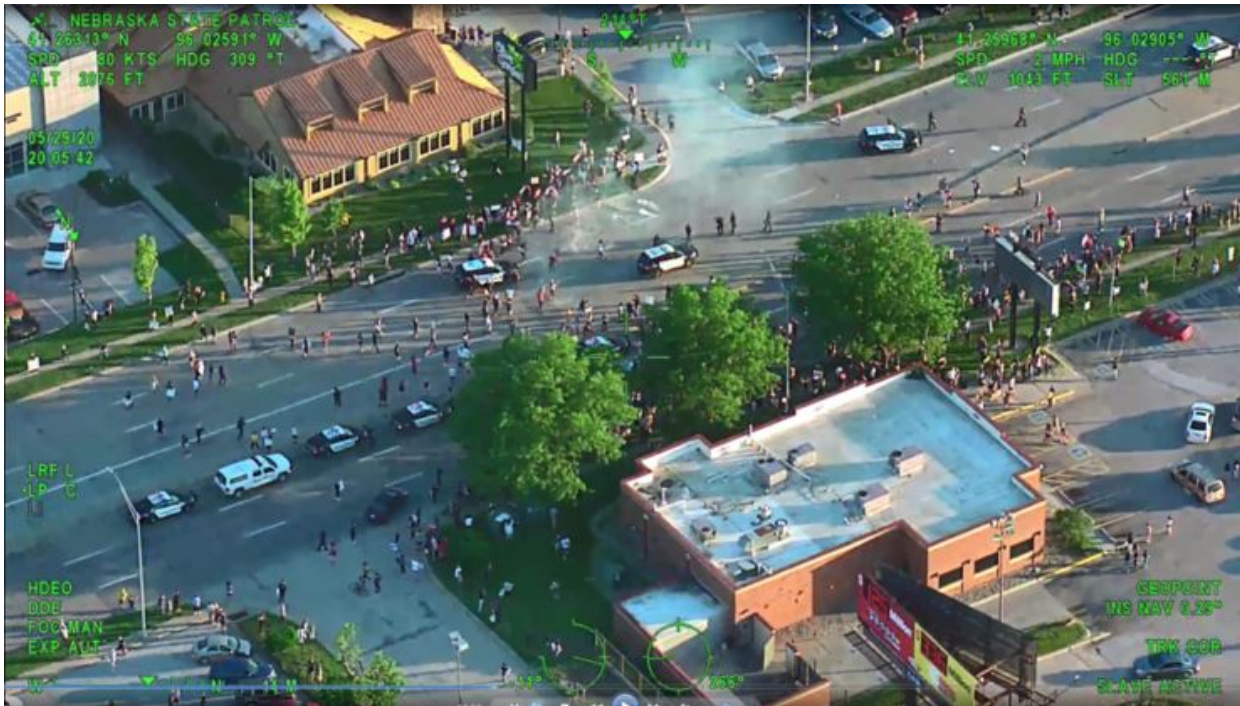
May 29, 2002 hours: Crowd Surrounds Officers on Foot



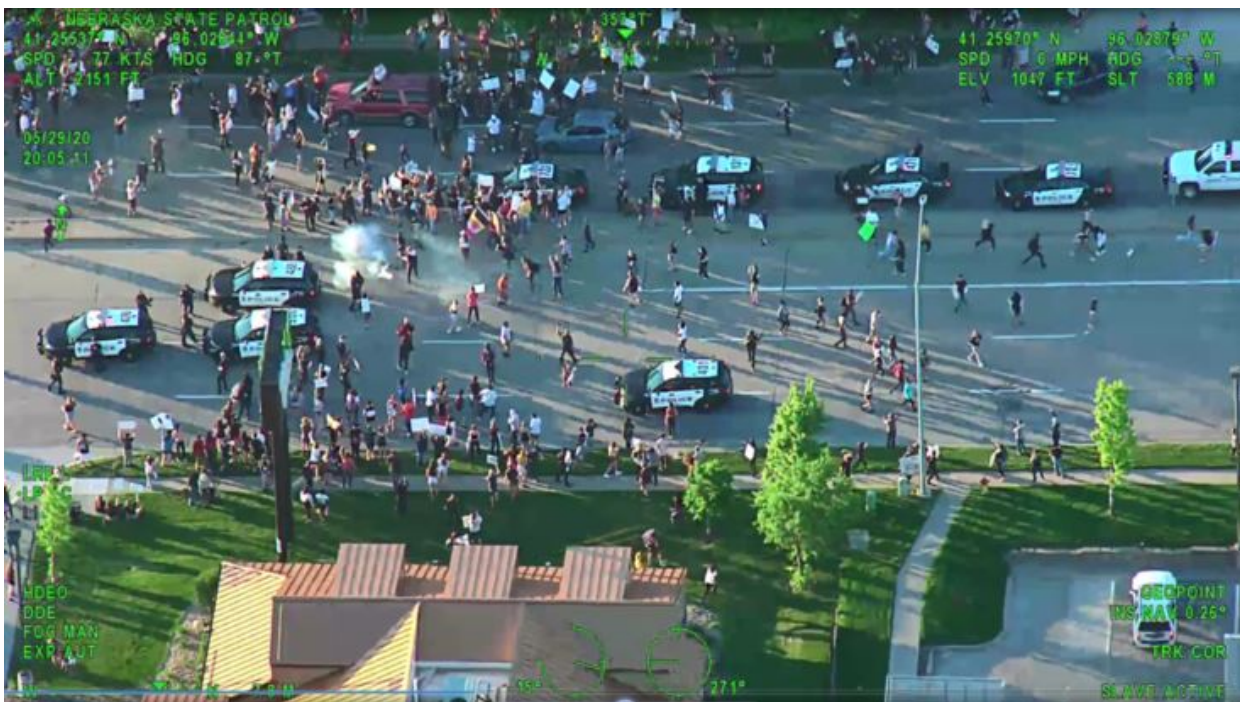
May 29, 2003 hours: First PepperBall Deployment to Clear Crowd Away from Officers



May 29, 2005 hours: Bottle Thrown at Officers from Near Olive Garden – PepperBall Ground Deployment



May 29, 2005 hours: Warning Smoke Deployed



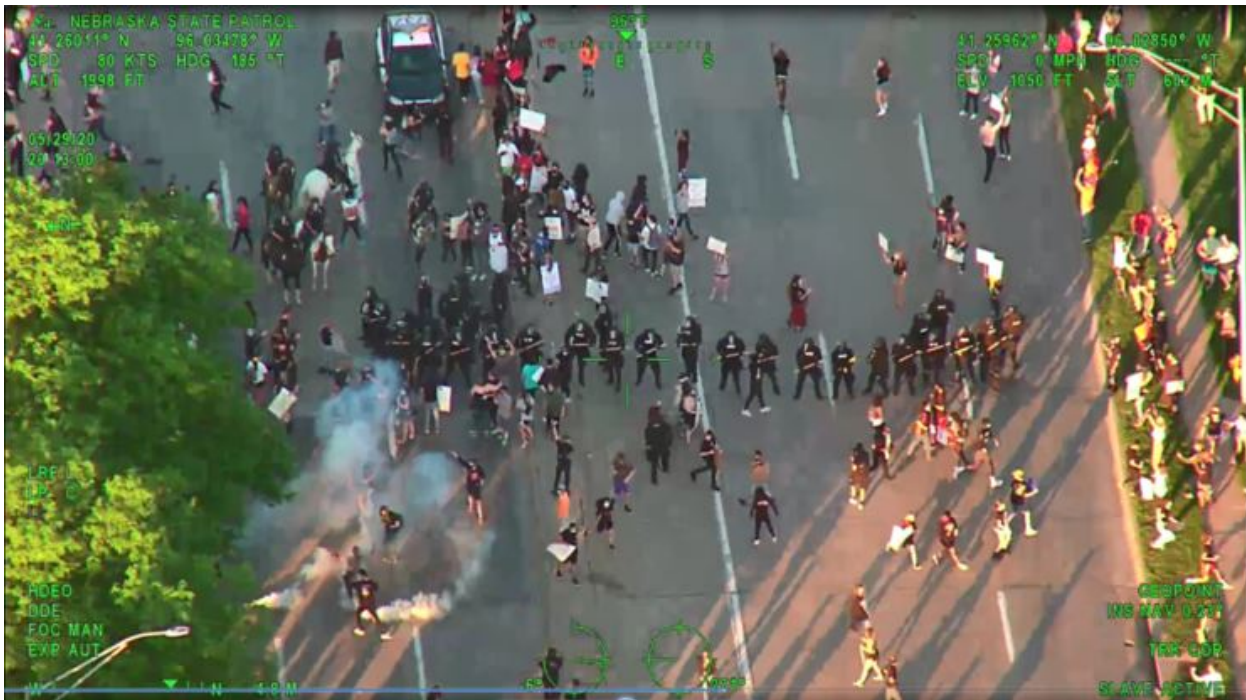
May 29, 2006 hours: Rapid Deployment Force Deployed, Trapped Cruisers Exit



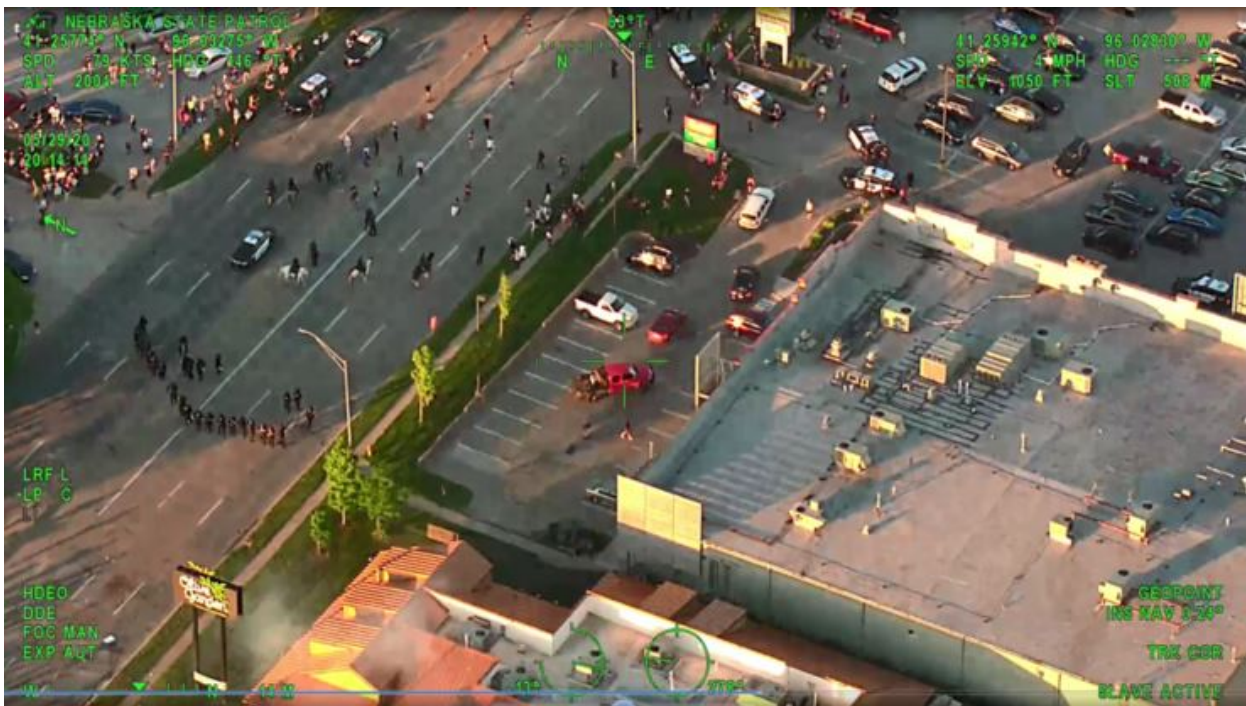
May 29, 2012 hours: Rapid Deployment Force Surrounded



May 29, 2013 hours: Unknown Munitions Deployed



May 29, 2014 hours: Munitions Effective





May 29, 2025 hours: Protesters Continue to Block Traffic



**Timeline: Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge Streets**  
**“Stand Against Injustice”**  
**Organizer:** [REDACTED]

In preparation for this event, Captain John Sokolik spoke with the organizer about expectations prior to the event. At the start of the event, contact was again attempted but was complicated by multiple persons claiming to be the organizer. Briefings were held for Uniform Patrol at SW Precinct and for RDF and SWAT personnel at Northwest Precinct. Mobile Command was established at 1530. Shortly after protesters began to gather at the intersection, officers report protesters in the crowd throwing eggs. Two agitators then began to lead groups of protesters into the street. Initially, the protesters would cross at the crosswalk with the crossing light. As more joined the group (roughly 100 persons), it accelerated pace and began to enter traffic against the light, creating a safety issue. The group consequently began to block traffic from flowing. OPD officers contacted the agitators and made arrests. Some RDF personnel deployed.

Between 1800-1900, officers observed protesters dropping off milk (used by protesters to wash skin affected by chemical munitions) in the Petco parking lot, and a protester wearing soft body armor was observed throwing eggs at officers. Additional RDF personnel were deployed.

1900-2000:

- Approximately eight (8) arrests have been transported to Douglas County Corrections.

- Drones continued to be reported flying low in the area.
- Report of a possible armed party in the area. Taken into custody with no weapon located.
- Water bottles being thrown at officers. Gas deployed.
- Party reportedly carrying a high-pressured bottle spraying urine on officers. He was captured and arrested following a foot pursuit.
- Party armed with a rifle; located and escorted out of the area.
- Announcements being made for Unlawful Assembly. RDF deploying gas. Clearing the area(s).
- Mounted Patrol maneuvered to the front of Target store to prevent NSP Troopers from being surrounded.

#### 2100-2200:

- Large crowds still gathered near 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge St. RDF is actively holding skirmish lines and moving people out of the area.
- Crowds now being reported in other areas of the City, including Omaha Police Headquarters, 1500 Howard St.
- Approximately 250-300 protestors reported at Central Police Headquarters. Uniform Patrol Bureau Officers responding.
- RDF is loaded up and being deployed to Downtown.
- Mounted Patrol relocated to Downtown.
- Most staffing was relocated to the Downtown area(s) with limited personnel continuing to observe activity in the 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge St. area(s).

#### 2200-2300:

- Shortly after 2200, RDF began to redeploy outside of Police Headquarters, 15<sup>th</sup> and Howard.
- At approximately 2209, officers report a Molotov cocktail being thrown at them near 14<sup>th</sup> and Howard.
- Persons wearing body armor were observed at 15<sup>th</sup> and Howard.
- Protesters continue to throw objects at officers near 14<sup>th</sup> and Howard and officers begin to clear the area using PepperBall and chemical munitions. A crowd of several hundred protesters was gathered at this location, including persons in parking garages.
- Groups of protesters roam the area, some causing damage to private property.
- Officers continued to be assaulted with rocks, bottles, bricks, etc. Damage occurred to police vehicles.
- DCSO deployed chemical munitions on the north side of the courthouse.
- At 2301, officers report shots fired at 12<sup>th</sup> and Harney. A shooting victim was located and taken to the hospital where he later died. The suspect was located at the scene and detained.
- Groups of protesters/rioters continued to roam the area, damaging property.
- RDF squads lacked easy mobility to follow protesters everywhere they went.
- Officers made about 50 arrests. Additional arrests were hampered by lack of transportation for both officers and arrestees.
- Significant damage occurred throughout the downtown area.
- Fortunately, no fires occurred.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (US Attorney news release)  
Wednesday, September 9, 2020

**Council Bluffs Man Charged with Being in Possession of Molotov Cocktail During Recent Omaha Protests**

United States Attorney Joe Kelly announced today the Indictment of Steven M. Fitch, age 25, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, charging him in the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska for being in unlawful possession of a destructive device. Fitch faces a maximum punishment of 10 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and up to three years of supervised release. An indictment is merely a charging document and is not a finding of guilt as defendants are presumed innocent until guilt is proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

On May 31, 2020, Fitch, while in Omaha, Nebraska, is alleged to have possessed a destructive device, also known as a Molotov Cocktail, not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. Fitch was arrested on May 31, 2020 during protests in downtown Omaha.

Fitch appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Michael D. Nelson on August 26, 2020, where he pleaded not guilty. Judge Nelson ordered Fitch detained until trial.

This case is being investigated by the Omaha Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Source: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ne/pr/council-bluffs-man-charged-being-possession-molotov-cocktail-during-recent-omaha-protests>; retrieved 10/02/2020

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**Details: Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>  
72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge Streets  
"Stand Against Injustice"  
Organizer: [REDACTED]**

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**Lessons Learned:**

**1. Communication:**

Communication was improved, but still a challenge at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge, where protesters were spread over a large area. In the downtown area, communication was difficult due to gas mask usage, noisy crowds, honking cars, and differing radio communication systems.

a. Remedies:

- i. More powerful public address system equipment has since been purchased that will allow for messages to reach thousands of people over multiple city streets/blocks. Officers did the best they could with the equipment they had available to them at the time.
- ii. Updated communications equipment is needed.
- iii. A standardized “unlawful assembly” message was given to command officers for use.

## **2. Event Staffing:**

Staffing for the event was adequate initially, at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge. The officers on scene, aided by command monitoring cameras in the area, were able to quickly identify agitators and arrest them.

Officers were patient and allowed protesters to continue until rocks and bottles began to be thrown at them again. Officers were able to effectively clear the area.

It was impossible to know that protesters would then go downtown. Officers had to redeploy to the downtown area in a reactionary fashion. Staffing was supplemented by mutual aid agencies to patrol the area.

## **3. Equipment:**

Although supplies of water and snacks were being gathered, there were still difficulties getting them where needed in an efficient manner. Again, better long-range communications equipment is needed. Most notably on this night, RDF’s inability to be highly mobile hampered efforts to stop property destruction.

### **a. Remedies:**

- i. Increase annual purchases of crowd control munitions to more than just a replacement of expiring munitions. Maintain a supply sufficient for three days of deployments.
- ii. Pre-identify vendors for emergency purchases
- iii. Utilize civilian staff or volunteers to deliver water/food to officers at various rest areas.
- iv. OPD is looking to improve RDF mobility.
- v. A long-range speaker system has been purchased and will aid with better communication in the future.
- vi. A stockpile of spare fire extinguishers should be maintained for use combatting Molotov cocktails and other incendiary devices.

## **4. Command and Control**

Issues existed regarding command control of groups of officers. Staffing was more efficient than the previous night, but issues still existed where officers from different areas or agencies were mixed. Communications problems while wearing gas masks only compounded the issue of clearly communicating objectives.

### **a. Remedies:**

- i. Future table top exercises could be developed with neighboring agencies to practice staffing coordination during spontaneous events.

## 5. Training

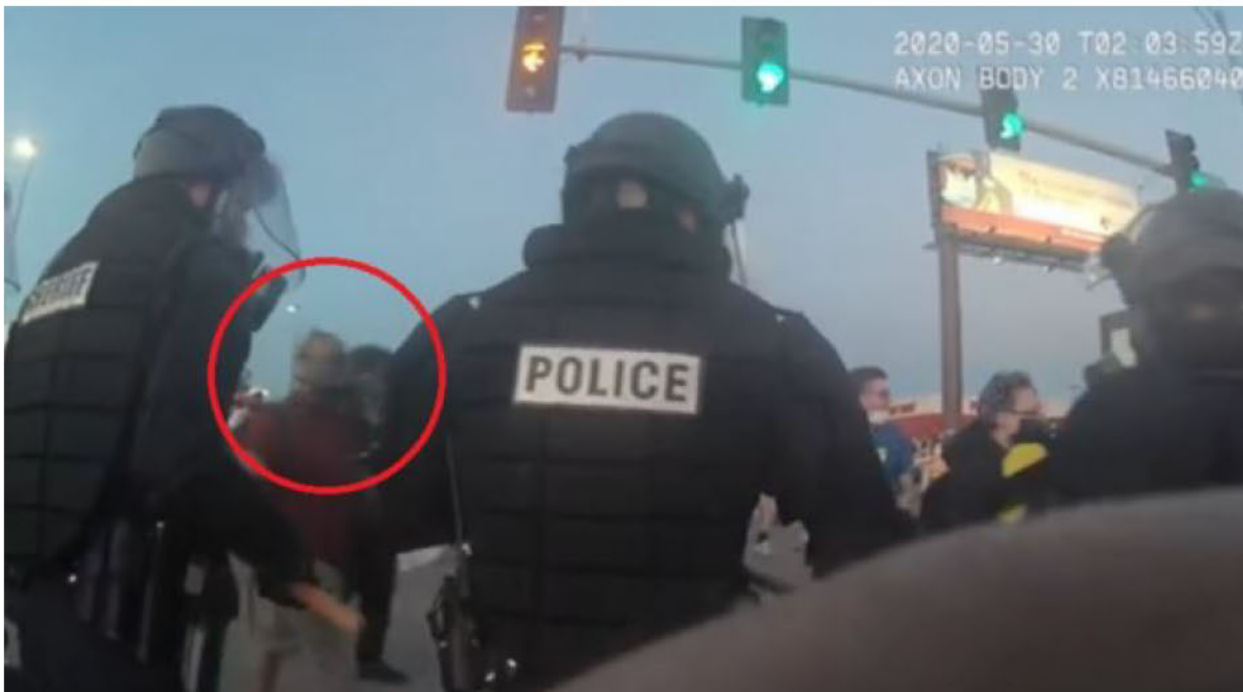
The last large civil unrest event in Omaha was approximately 50 years ago. Most of the police officers employed at OPD were not even born. While training for such events is standard, it is also typically minimal. This type of training should be increased. Use of force training in the context of civil unrest could also be bolstered.

### a. Remedies:

- i. Department-wide civil unrest/field force training should occur bi-annually. Additional emphasis should be placed on Sergeant level leadership in this context.
- ii. RDF training should continue on its current schedule, but include more multi-agency training.
- iii. A training bulletin should be created discussing use of force in a civil unrest situation.
- iv. PepperBall training [REDACTED]
- v. The City Prosecutor worked with OPD to develop training bulletins for open carrying of weapons (an issue that caused considerable safety concerns during these events) and may develop a training bulletin for unlawful assembly considerations.

## Photos: Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

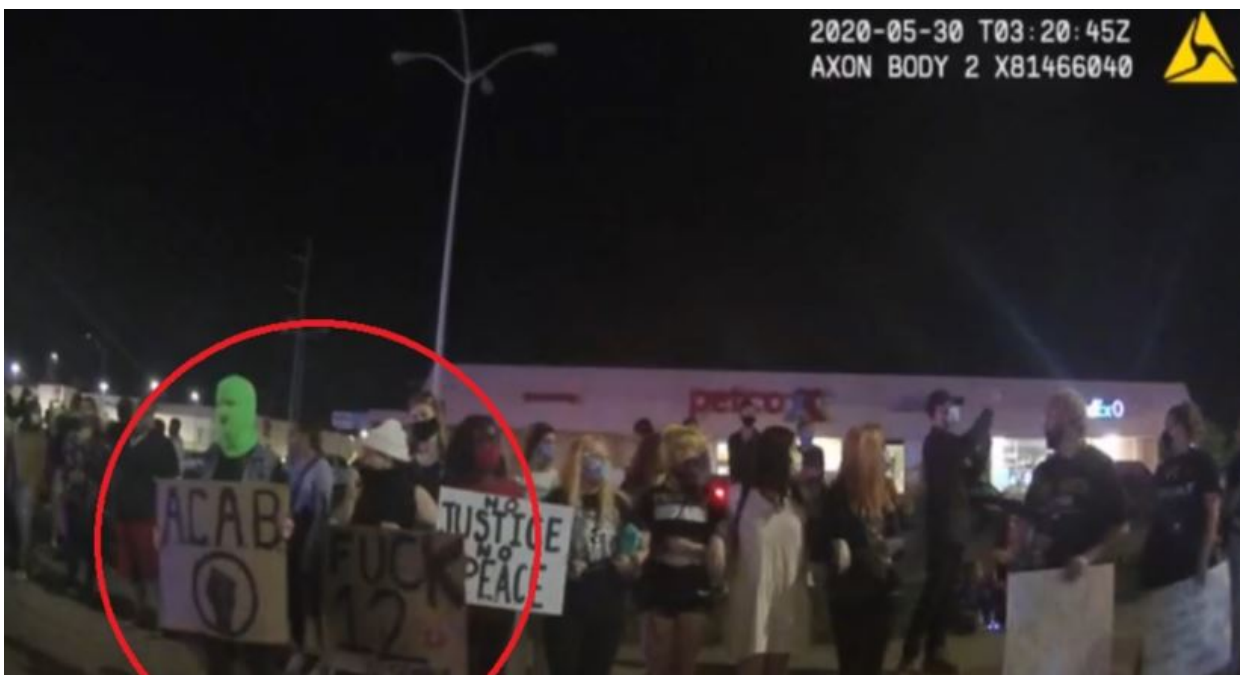
*May 30: Protester Wearing Gas Mask*



May 30: Protester Signage “All Kops Must Die”



May 30: Protester Signage: “ACAB” (All Cops Are Bastards) and “F—k 12” (“12” is a code used by some police agencies for narcotics enforcement)



## Timeline and Details: Sunday, May 31, 2020

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Of note on this day, the Mayor instituted an emergency curfew beginning at 8 pm and requested National Guard deployment to Omaha. Small protests occurred early in the day, but steadily grew throughout the day. The Mobile Command Center was established at 1600 hour, and within an hour, several hundred protesters had gathered downtown. Simultaneously, there was a protest being held at the Malcolm X Center in north Omaha, so resources had to be dedicated to each location. Ultimately, no issues occurred at the Malcom X Center and the officers were sent downtown.

By 1747, officers downtown reported bottles being thrown at them. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Traffic Unit personnel were used to assist with traffic control.

Arrest vans were staged in the area. [REDACTED]

The focus of protests on this date seemed to center on 13<sup>th</sup> and Harney, near the scene of the shooting the night before. National Guard personnel arrived at this location at 7:59 pm. Several Nebraska State Patrol Troopers also assisted nearby. An AlertSense emergency message was broadcast to all cell phones in the downtown area that a curfew was about to go into effect. Additional verbal (via PA) announcements were made after 8 pm. As a result, many began to leave, but many others remained in violation of the curfew. RDF was eventually used to push protesters out of the area. Protesters threw objects at officers (including fireworks) and began moving barricades. Several arrests were made in the area, however the area was clear and RDF released from duty prior to 10 pm.

### Lessons Learned:

#### 1. Communication:

Communication was greatly improved (with protesters). Alert Sense curfew messaging left no doubt that a curfew was in effect and arrests could be made. Clear verbal warnings were given.

#### 2. Mass Arrests:

Arrests of large numbers of individuals is always complicated by available staffing, transportation, and DCC capabilities. OPD's mass arrest form had been removed from the forms list at some point in the last two decades. It is unknown when or why, but this complicated accurately documenting probable cause for arrests. A temporary form was developed to alleviate this problem, but issues existed with connecting an arrestee to the correct arresting officer for court testimony purposes. In addition, DCC was slow to book arrestees, resulting in a backlog of arrests.

#### 3. Command and Control:

Command and control was significantly improved, as resources and staffing was adequate. The presence of the Nebraska National Guard, undoubtedly sent a message to violent protesters and resulted in a calmer night.

**4. Curfew:**

This measure, although unprecedented in recent years, served to calm tensions and greatly aided officers by shortening their deployment time in a highly volatile situation.



## **Timeline and Details: Monday, June 1, 2020**

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Of note on this date, the Governor, Mayor and Chief met with community leaders regarding police-community relations. County Attorney Don Kleine had a press conference where he announced that no charges would be brought in the shooting outside of the Hive Bar on the previous Saturday night.

Small crowds of protesters began to gather outside of the county courthouse by 1:30 pm. In the late afternoon, several rumors spread about protests occurring at Village Point and Millard South, however, those reports were false. At 5:30 pm a small gathering occurred at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge. By 6:30 pm, at least 200 protesters had gathered near 13<sup>th</sup> and Howard. Shortly after that a report came in of a female attempting to start a fire near 11<sup>th</sup> and Jackson. Officers also received threat information about spraying gasoline on officers and lighting it with fireworks.

Curfew announcements were made via PA and AlertSense beginning at 7:56 pm. A second warning was given (post-curfew) at 8:13 pm, and a third at 8:29 pm. Protesters began throwing water bottles at officers at this point. Officers began to make arrests for curfew violations. Rioters were breaking windows and throwing barricades near 15<sup>th</sup> and Leavenworth. Officers and media were attacked by a protester (see details below). A total of 135 arrests were made throughout the night.

### **Incidents of Note on this Date:**

1. In an effort to diffuse tensions near 13<sup>th</sup> and Howard, a group of officers and National Guard members knelt with the protesters. This was seen by some protesters as a supportive move, however other agitators quickly posted an edited clip of the video from this incident. The edited clip attempted to portray one officer as doing a Nazi salute, when in reality he was waving to the crowd. In fact, immediate after the wave, he is seen hugging a black female protester in an emotional exchange. Fortunately, OPD was able to quickly debunk this false claim and local media even showed the exchange in slow motion so that all could see it was a false claim.

*Still photo from edited video clip*



*Photo of officer hugging protester*



2. A video clip was posted by Omaha World Herald writer [REDACTED] showing officers using force to arrest a man at 13<sup>th</sup> and Howard. The start of the video also appears to show officers pulling a female media member in a yellow vest away from the location. The clip is a prime example of how video often only shows a piece of what happened in the situation. In reality (as documented on BWC video), an officer and the female media person were violently attacked by a protester. The officer was assaulted and bit by the suspect and he resisted violently. The female media person was knocked to the ground, and [REDACTED] video starts where she is being picked up by another officer and moved out of the way of the arrest situation. [REDACTED] video has been circulated by some claiming it was interference with media and an attack on a protester. The suspect is currently bound over to district court for felony assault on an officer (AP52701).
3. Three handguns were recovered (two on persons arrested, one discarded on ground).

#### Lessons Learned:

1. Command and control was significantly improved.
2. Presence of National Guard assisted with staffing.
3. Mass arrest processing was backed up at DCC. [REDACTED]
  - a. Remedy [REDACTED]
  - ii. Improvements in booking processes have been made.
4. Officers attempted to de-escalate throughout the evening.
5. Officers were patient leading up to and after curfew. An extended grace period was given to protesters and ample time to leave the area. Unfortunately, a large number chose to disregard those warnings.
6. Media presence. There were incidents of media without credentials or without clearly visible identification being detained by officers. Most were immediately released once proper identification was produced; however, media presence inside of protester crowds was problematic. Few in the media chose to wear highly visible vests or other clear indicators of who they were. In addition, freelance "press" further complicated determining who were protesters and who were truly press.

**NOTE: As in other areas of the country, we have seen freelance "press" go from directly involved in protests to suddenly claiming to be "press" when arrests are imminent. There are also numerous documented cases nationally of fake "press" attacking officers during protests.**

- a. Remedies:
  - i. City Legal and the Mayor's Communications Director have been asked for an updated Media Policy and credentialing process.
  - ii. Local media have been encouraged by the OPD Public Information Office to wear hi-visibility vests or other prominent identification.

## **Timeline and Details: Tuesday, June 2, 2020**

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Several smaller protests occurred around the city. Locations included:

- Douglas County Attorney Don Klein's gated, private neighborhood.
- City Council meeting.
- County Courthouse.
- 13<sup>th</sup> and Howard.

Multiple curfew warnings were again announced, and most complied. No arrests made.

## **Photos: Tuesday, June 2**

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### ***June 2: Violent Attack Suspect Approaches Officer and Media Member***



*June 2: Violent Attack Suspect Charges at Officer and Media Member*



*June 2: Violent Attack Suspect Tackles Officer and Media Member*



**June 2: Officer Kunza Arm Bite Injury from Violent Attacker**



**June 2: National Guard Medic Treats Officer Kunza's Bite Injury**



### **Details: Wednesday, June 3, 2020**

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The curfew was ended on this date. Small protests occurred around the city and a small march occurred (on sidewalks) in the downtown area. No arrests were made.

### **Details: Thursday, June 4, 2020**

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Little protest activity on this date. One protest occurred later in the evening at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge. At one point, a few protesters were dancing in a traffic lane. Two officers were sent to approach them and ask them to remain on the sidewalk for safety. They complied. No arrests were made.

### **Details: Friday, June 5, 2020**

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A 10:00 pm curfew was reinstated. There were several protest events held. They were smaller in nature and peaceful. Events were held at Memorial Park and in NE and SE Precincts. The annual Bearheels Walk was held without any issues.

A small group of protesters gathered at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge late in the evening. There were nearly as many media present and protesters. The protesters stayed past curfew, but were not engaged by officers. Shortly after, most of the media left. Once the media left, the protesters began to leave. No arrests were made.

### **Details: Saturday, June 6, 2020**

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Initially, a large protest was planned for 18<sup>th</sup> and Capitol, however, the organizers canceled the event. Small protests occurred at the County Courthouse and 13<sup>th</sup> and Harney. No issues were reported and no arrests were made.

### **Details: Sunday, June 7, 2020**

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A prayer walk was held starting at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge and ending at Memorial Park. This was organized by Pastors Jay Shannon and David Brown who have previously worked with OPD in north Omaha to organize "Peace Marches." This was a successful march, with full Traffic Unit planning and support. A rally then took place at Memorial Park. Approximately 1,000 persons participated and no issues occurred.

This event effectively ended the protest period that began on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Arrest Information

Arrestees by Gender / Date						
Date	Female		Male		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
5-29	5	26%	14	74%	19	6%
5-30	10	17%	49	83%	59	20%
5-31	26	30%	62	70%	88	29%
6-1	50	37%	85	63%	135	45%
6-2	0	-	1	100%	1	100%
6-3	0	-	0	-	0	-
6-4	0	-	0	-	0	-
6-5	0	-	0	-	0	-
6-6	0	-	0	-	0	-
6-7	0	-	0	-	0	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>100%</b>

Arrestee Breakdown by Race / Gender						
Race	Female		Male		Totals	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
White	49	53.8%	99	46.9%	148	49.0%
Black	24	26.4%	75	35.5%	99	32.8%
Hispanic	12	13.2%	27	12.8%	39	12.9%
Unknown	6	6.6%	3	1.4%	9	3.0%
Asian		0.0%	3	1.4%	3	1.0%
Other		0.0%	3	1.4%	3	1.0%
Native American		0.0%	1	0.5%	1	0.3%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



Breakdown of Charges		
Charges	Frequency	%
EMRGNC/MAYOR	194	48.9%
FAIL DISPERS	82	20.7%
DISORD CONDT	20	5.0%
OBST OFFICER	16	4.0%
REQ TO LEAVE	14	3.5%
ADDED CHRQ	12	3.0%
UNLAW ASSMBL	8	2.0%
C/S POSSESS	6	1.5%
RESIST ARRST	6	1.5%
AS OFC/HCP 3	3	0.8%
ASLT OFC MV	3	0.8%
MAR LT/OZ-1	3	0.8%
GUN MNR POSS	2	0.5%
ASLT OFC-BF	2	0.5%
EXP-THREAT	2	0.5%
AS OFC/HCP 2	2	0.5%
FIREARM-STOL	2	0.5%
PRK-CURFEW	2	0.5%
CCW-GUN	2	0.5%
DRG PAR-POSS	2	0.5%
OTHER CHARGES	14	0.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

NOTE: OPD developed a procedural justice-based program for first-time offenders with low level offenses from the protests. This resulted in dismissal of many misdemeanor charges, and a better understanding between police and protesters.

Arrestee Home City, State		
City State	Frequency	%
OMAHA, NE	238	79%
BELLEVUE, NE	12	4%
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA	11	4%
LINCOLN, NE	5	2%
LAVISTA, NE	4	1%
PAPILLION, NE	3	1%
BLAIR, NE	2	1%
BOYS TOWN, NE	2	1%
MISSOURI VALLEY, IA	1	0%
WESTON, NE	1	0%
TEKAMAH, NE	1	0%
GRETNA, NE	1	0%
WOODBINE, IA	1	0%
MACY, NE	1	0%
ELKHORN, NE	1	0%
GRAND ISLAND, NE	1	0%
FREMONT, NE	1	0%
LAWRENCE, KS	1	0%
VALLEY, NE	1	0%
CALIFORNIA, KY	1	0%
WILLIAMSTOWN, KY	1	0%
MORRISBLUFF, NE	1	0%
LA VISTA, NE	1	0%
CARTER LAKE, IA	1	0%
ELKORN, NE	1	0%
ASHLAND, NE	1	0%
GLENWOOD, IA	1	0%
CO BLUFFS, IA	1	0%
FORT CALHOUN, NE	1	0%
SOUIX CITY, NE	1	0%
COLUMBUS, NE	1	0%
TACOMA, WA	1	0%
RALSTON, NE	1	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>100%</b>



**2. Mass Arrest Booking**

[Redacted text block containing multiple lines of blacked-out content]

**Mass Arrest Booking - Issues for Preparedness Improvement:**

[Redacted text block containing multiple lines of blacked-out content]

### 3. Central Police Headquarters (CPHQ) Security

[REDACTED]

#### Overall Operational Issues:

- Large scale protests deteriorating into violence should utilize one Deputy Chief Incident Commander designating specific assignments to Captains
- Captains conduct a quick debrief every night with their officers (positives and mistakes) and pertinent information should be relayed to everyone

[REDACTED]

## Injuries

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### Protester Injuries:

Although many protesters were exposed to chemical agents, most did not experience lasting effects or injury, nor did they seek medical attention. Only two injuries were officially reported to OPD as injuries. AP52449 involved being struck in the chest with some type of projectile, resulting in an abrasion. AP52272 involved being struck in the eye with a suspected PepperBall round (allegedly fired by an outside agency). Another woman filed a citizen complaint for being struck by a projectile near 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge on May 29<sup>th</sup>, but no injury report was completed. There may have been other, unreported injuries.

### Officer Injuries:

Date	Time	Injury	Reason	Location	Treatment
May 29	2100	finger	asphalt	72 & Dodge	CHI CB ER
May 29	1945	head	rock	72 & Dodge	Self-care
May 29	2230	hand/ankle	concrete rock	72 & Dodge	Self-care
May 29	2200	back	overuse	at large	Ortho NE
May 30	2030	head	water bottle	72 & Dodge	Self-care
May 30	1930	arm	kicked	72 & Dodge	Self-care
May 30	2200	arm	rock	13 & Howard	Self-care
May 30	1800	hand	pursuit	72 & Dodge	Urgent Care
May 30	0030	eye	liquor bottle	72 & Dodge	Bergan ER
May 30	2200	back	overuse	15 & Howard	Ortho NE
May 31	2200	hand/ear	artillery shell	12 & Howard	Urgent Care
May 31	0100	Rt ear	artillery shell	15 & Howard	CHI St. Francis
June 1	2030	arm	teeth	13 & Howard	OFD/FU w/ PCP
June 1	1330	groin	pursuit	18 & Leavenworth	CHI CB
June 2	2330	leg	strain/arrest	26 & Farnam	Self-care
June 7	2200	shoulder	overuse	at large	Self-care
June 9	2300	ankle	pursuit	29 & Farnam	Self-care

Photos: Objects/Weapons Used Against Officers / Officer Injuries

May 30: Pressurized Bottle of Urine (Suspected)



May 30: Molotov Cocktail Thrown by Protester



**May 30: Rocks Thrown at Officers by Protesters**



**June 2: Officer Injury (Bite Injury) from Violent Attacker During Protest**



## Protest Event Log

Date	Time	Location	Nature	Estimated Attendees
5/28/2020	6:00pm	120th and W. Center	George Floyd Protest	Dozens?
5/29/2020	6:00pm	72nd and Dodge	George Floyd Protest	Thousands
5/30/2020	4:00pm	72nd and Dodge	Stand Against Injustice	Thousands
5/30/2020	4:00pm	Downtown	George Floyd Protest	Thousands
5/31/2020	9:30	Hive Bar	Protest Scurlock Death	Dozens
5/31/2020	2:30pm	1200 Howard	Prayer Vigil	Dozens/Hundreds
5/31/2020	3:30pm	OPD Headquarters	Protest Scurlock Death	Dozens/Hundreds
5/31/2020	6:00pm	Malcom X Memorial	George Floyd Tribute	1000?
5/31/2020	6:00pm	Downtown/Old Market	Protest	Thousands
6/1/2020	1:30pm	Douglas County Courthouse	Douglas County Attorney Press Conference	Hundreds
6/1/2020	3:30pm	Downtown/Old Market	Protest	Hundreds
6/1/2020	7:30pm	Marched East on Howard		
6/2/2020	2:00pm	Walnut Lake (156 & Rolling Ridge)	Protest Don Kleine's home	None
6/2/2020	2:00pm	City Council Meeting	Protest City Council Agenda	Hundreds
6/3/2020	12:00pm	3116 Spaulding (St. Marks)	Gov Ricketts meeting	Private meeting
6/3/2020	5:00pm	6450 Prairie Ave	Protest Gov. Ricketts Home	
6/3/2020	6:00pm	204th & W. Dodge Rd.	Peaceful Protest, corner of Scooter's	
6/3/2020	5:45pm	Douglas County Courthouse	Protest	about 60
6/4/2020	7:30am	Walnut Lake (156 & Rolling Ridge)	Protest Kleine's home (Gated Community)	Approx. 12 (as of 7:30am)
6/4 /2020	5:00pm	Douglas Co Courthouse	Protest	
6/5/2020	12:00 noon	Memorial Park	Black Lives Matter-Omaha	34 going / 54 interested
6/5/2020	4:00pm	7200 Dodge St.- 1200 Harney St.	Peaceful Protestor March	
6/5/2020	5:00pm	2400 Camden	Scurlock Candlelight Vigil	



6/6/2020	4:00pm	Douglas County Courthouse	Protest (peaceful)	
06/06/20	7:00pm - ?	72nd and Dodge		
06/06/20	6:45pm	Memorial Protest-6005 Underwood	Peaceful Protest	41 going/ 131 interested
06/06/2020	6-7:30pm	168th and Pacific	Strictly Peaceful Protest - Black Lives Matter in West Omaha	29 Going / 53 Interested
06/07/2020	6:00pm	Entrance to Don Kleine's neighborhood 156 Rolling Ridge	Peaceful BLM protest	around 20 people
06/07/2020	1-5pm	7200 Dodge St. to Memorial Park	The Communities of Greater Omaha Solidarity Walk/Rally	Going: 739 Interested: 1.9K
6/7/2020	5-6:30pm	Malcom X Memorial	Next Steps :Part 1	222 going 829 Interested
6/7/2020	6:00pm	Memorial Park	"BLM Protest"	14 Going 65 Interested
6/7/2020	7-8pm	Advertised as "ANYWHERE" - multiple area churches	Stand Together for Racial Justice	268 Going 374 Interested
6/12/2020	6:30pm	Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge	Black Lives Matter Food Drive/Unity Walk	105 Going -286 Interested
6/13/2020	11am-3pm	Benson Park	Black Lives Matter Cookout	192 Going, 1,100 interested
6/13/2020	4-6:30pm	2501 Ames Ave	James Scurlock North Omaha Unity Day and Motorcycle Run (ride to Omaha, to Fremont, to Lincoln then back to Omaha)	
6/15/2020	10am-2:30pm	Federal courthouse	Justice for Decorah Kozee	Going: 32 Interested: 77
6/16/2020	9:00am	1819 Farnam	Douglas County Board	
6/16/2020	2:00pm	1819 Farnam	Omaha City Council	
6/20/2020	6-9pm	Lakeside Hills Park (173rd Arbor street)	BLM Walk to West "O"	Going 200 Interested 1,000
6/20/2020	2:15pm	24th "N" at Plaza De la Raza	Solidarity Saturday CAR VIGIL for packing plant workers	Going: 54 Interested: 112

6/20/2020	1:00pm	7700 Park Dr (Ralston)	Ralston Park Rally	Going: 1 Interested:20
6/23/2020	1pm-4pm	Douglas County Courthouse	Drop All Curfew/Protest Charges Week 2	Going: 1 Interested: 69
6/24/2020	11:30am	Cupcake Omaha 50th Dodge	Protest Chris Janicek	Going: 1 Interested: 1
6/26/2020	4:30pm-8:30pm	Cake Box 107 N 50th street	Protest Chris Janicek	Going: 27 Interested: 117
6/29/2020	6pm-9pm	Douglas County Courthouse	Meeting Downtown at Courthouse	Going: 2 Maybe: 2 Invited: 13
6/30/2020	1130-1:30pm	Cupcake Omaha 50th Dodge	Reject Janicek Protest	1 Going: 12 Interested: 0
7/11/2020	8:30am	Memorial Park	Counter Protest "Back the Blue"	
7/11/2020	7pm-10pm	Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge	Candle Light Vigil for Lenice Blackbird	Going: 40 Interested: 132
7/11/2020	4pm-7pm	Central High School	Rally for OPS students and ALL Omaha Youth	Going: 155 Interested: 708
7/11/2020	6am-8pm	Rolling Ridge	Protest Don Kleine	varies from 1-25 people each shift
7/12/2020	5:00pm	42nd L Streets	Justice For Vanessa Guillen	Going: 168 Interested: 668
7/19/2020	3-4:30pm	Civic Center, March to Police Headquarters	Bloody Sunday	Going:62 Interested: 185
8/1/2020	11am-12pm	Omaha Police Department	Chalk OPD & Your 1st Amendment Rights	
8/11/2020	6:00pm	Omaha City Hall	City Budget Hearing-Do you Hear Us yet?	85 Going 275 Interested
8/14/2020	7pm-midnight	11th and Howard	Liberation Square Occupation	
8/15/2020	10am-1pm	City Wide Canvassing and using MiniVan app	Justice For James Omaha Phase 2; City Wide Canvassing Soft Launch	Going: 9 Interested: 53
8/15/2020	7pm-midnight	11th and Howard	Liberation Square Occupation	
8/16/2020	7pm-midnight	11th and Howard	Liberation Square Occupation	

8/18/2020	2:00pm	1819 Farnam Street	Omaha City Council Meeting	
9/5/2020	2pm-4pm	Midtown Crossing Turner Park	Teach-In: Existence is Resistance	
9/25/2020	12:00pm-midnight	3448 Evans Street	Omaha Freedom Festival	Going:203 Interested:1.5K
9/13/2020 (Postponed from Aug.)	5:30pm-7:30pm	Memorial Park	UNITY TALK: The Community Dialogue.	Going: 17 Interested:53
9/24/2020	6:00pm	Memorial Park or 45th "F" Street	NMO Group Memorial for Jake Gardner	
10/2/2020	2– 8pm	22nd to 24th Wirt Street	BLACK CULXR MATTERS BLOCK FEST	Going: 16 Interested: 69

Note: This list does not include a full listing of the daily protests outside of Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine's neighborhood or weekly protests at 11<sup>th</sup> and Howard streets.

## Reported Property Damage

RB#	Type of Report	Type of Damage (If any)	Est. \$ Loss	Date of Occurrence	Time (if known)	Victim	Address Occurred
AP52238	DOP	Broken Window & Glass Door	\$2,500	5/29/2020	2200	West Lanes Bowling	151 N 72nd Street
AP52373	DOP	Broken Glass Door	\$3,000	5/29/2020	2246	Verizon	7604 Dodge Street
AP52413	DOP	Broken Window & Glass Door	\$100,000	5/30/2020	2300	Central Park Plaza	222 S 15th Street
AP52426	DOP	Broken Window	\$1,500	5/30/2020		Takechi Jewelry	321 S 17th Street
AP52440	DOP	Broken Window	\$150	5/30/2020	1100	Museum of Shadows	1110 Douglas Street
AP52440	DOP	Graffiti	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Kiewit Construction Company	3555 Farnam Street
AP52440	DOP	Broken Window	\$500	5/30/2020		Century Link Data Center	1201 Farnam Street
AP53705	DOP	Broken Window	\$5,021	5/30/2020		Subway	206 S 19th Street
AP53011	DOP	Broken Glass Door	\$700	05/30-05/31/2020	0114	Old Market Emporium	423 S 13th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Glass Door	\$200	5/30/2020		Pepperjacks	1221 Howard Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window	\$100	5/30/2020		Subway	1212 Howard Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Spaghetti Works	502 S 11th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window	\$975	5/31/2020	0200	Upstream	514 S 11th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Security National Bank	507 S 11th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$50	5/30/2020		Juice Stop	510 S 12th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$2,000	5/30/2020		Hollywood Candy	1209 Jackson Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Get Out Omaha	501 S 13th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window	\$400	5/30/2020		Landmark Center	1299 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		801 Chophouse	1403 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$700	5/30/2020		Kiewit Conference Center	1313 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$8,000	5/30/2020		Omaha Performing Arts (Orpheum)	405 S 16th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window	\$400	5/30/2020		OPPD	444 S 16th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Downtown Food Mart	318 S 16th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$50	5/30/2020		Coiffure Salon	314 S 16th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Door & Window	\$5,811	5/30/2020		JP Cooke	1311 Howard Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Picklemans	1503 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Omaha Lounge	1505 Farnam Street

AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$50	5/30/2020		(vacant)	1509 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-Dop	Broken Window	\$200	5/30/2020		(Vacant)	1517 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$15,000	5/30/2020		(Parking Garage and Walkway to West)	201 S 16th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$10,000	5/30/2020		Panda House	301 S 16th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$300	5/30/2020		(Office Building)	714 S 15th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Stokes	1122 Howard Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Blue Sushi	416 S 12th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		The Woolworth Lofts	1122 Howard Street
AP52458	DOP	Broken Window & Glass Door	\$1,000	5/30/2020		National Building	406 S 12th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Mercury	329 S 16th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Himalayan	329 S 16th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		King Fong Café	315 1/2 S 16th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Nustyle Development	309 S 16th Street
AP52516	DOP	Broken Window & Glass Door	\$75,000	5/30/2020		Brandeis	210 S 16th Street
AP52440	DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti/Looting	\$7,000	5/30/2020	1210-0200	DGX	210 S 16th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$1,000	5/30/2020		First National Bank	1601 Dodge Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti		5/30/2020		(Parking Garage)	208 S 17th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$1,000	5/30/2020		US Bank/Woodman Tower	1700 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti		5/30/2020		(Parking Garage)	1608 Harney Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window	\$1,000	5/30/2020		S.Y. Cleaners	1605 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Block 16	1611 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Culprit Café and Bakery	1603 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Omaha Building	1615 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$1,000	5/30/2020		US Post Office	1617 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Tower Park/US Bank ATM	1850 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti		5/30/2020		(UNK)	208 S 18th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		The Douglas Building	209 S 19th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Federal Court House	111 S 18th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		The Brain Exchange	1902 Howard Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window	\$1,000	5/30/2020		The Verdict	1901 Harney Street

AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		City Pointe	1913 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Bank of the West	1921 Harney Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		Omaha Douglas Civic Center Parking Garage	1910 Harney Street
AP52484	DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Wells Fargo Farm Credit Building	1919 Douglas Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Magical Journey's Carriage Service	206 S 19th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Rose Theater	2058 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Parker Heating and Cooling	2001 Farnam Street
AP52506	DOP	Broken Window	\$1,000	5/30/2020			2066 Farnam Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		(UNK)	435 S 20th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Graffiti	\$100	5/30/2020		AVIS	501 S 20th Street
AP52440	Info-DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti		5/30/2020		(UNK)	2578 Harney Street
AP52490	DOP	Broken Window & Glass Door	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Trinity Episcopal Cathedral	109 N 18th Street
AP52499	DOP	Broken Window & Glass Door	\$2,000	5/30/2020		Limelight	1520 Harney Street
AP52500	DOP	Broken Window/Graffiti	\$1,000	5/30/2020		Flat Iron Building	1722 St Mary Avenue
AP52649	DOP	Broken Window	\$2,000	5/29/2020		Scooters	7772 Cass Street
AP52657	Arson	Arson	\$150	5/31/2020		Scooters	7772 Cass Street
AP52987	DOP	Broken Glass Door	\$500	5/30/2020	2350-0000	Wicked Rabbit LLC	1508 Harney Street
AP52994	DOP	Broken Window	\$600	5/30/2020		Scoular Company	2027 Dodge Street
AP53006	DOP	Broken Windows	\$25,000	5/30/2020		1302 Howard Property Holdings	1302 Howard Street
AP53006	DOP	Broken Computers/Work Station	\$6,000	5/30/2020		RDG Planning & Design	1302 Howard Street #302
AP53337	DOP	Broken Window	\$2,200	5/30-5/31/2020	0100	Gavilon	1331 Capitol Ave
AP52589	Arson	Arson	\$400	5/31/2020	2320-2326	Private Party	900 S 15th Street
AP52477	DOP-Vehicle	Exterior Damage		5/30-5/31/2020	0300	Enterprise Rent A Car	1500 Harney Street
AP52463	DOP-Vehicle	Exterior Damage	\$1,400	5/30-5/31/2020	2245-0800	Private Party	1500 Harney Street
AP52456	DOP-Vehicle	Exterior Damage	\$1,000	5/30-5/31/2020	2115-0629	Private Party	1400 Dodge Street
AP52440	DOP	Broken windows/Graffiti	\$8,000	5/30-5/31/2020		Union Pacific Railroad	1400 Douglas Street
AP53165	DOP	Broken Window	\$1,000	5/31/2020	2200	Zen Coffee Company	230 S 25th Street
AP53896	DOP	Broken Window	\$2,000	5/30/2020		Cullan & Cullan	1113 Harney Street
AP54102	DOP	Broken window & Glass Door	\$5,569	5/30/2020		FOV LLC	1207 Harney Street
AP53910	DOP	Broken Red Box	\$800	5/29-5/30/2020		Redbox	7151 Cass Street
AP52245	DOP	Broken Window	\$2,500	5/29-5/30/2020	1900-0745	Hobby Lobby	7646 Dodge Street

AP52245	DOP-Vehicle	Broken Window x2 vehicles	\$600	5/29-5/30/202	2200-0900	Fedex	7110 Dodge Street
AP52245	DOP	Broken Window	\$1,000	5/29-5/30/2020	1900-0200	Factory Eyeglass Outlet	320 N 76th Street
AP52245	DOP	Broken Windows, doors & Graffiti	\$13,000	5/29-5/30/2020	1900-0200	Lund Ross Contractors	119 N 72nd Street
AP52245	DOP	Broken Windows & Graffiti	\$10,800	5/29-5/30/2020	2100-0700	Sears	7424 Dodge Street
AP52245	DOP	Broken Window	\$2,000	5/29-5/30/2020	2000-0200	Angel Nail and Spa	151 N 72nd Street
AP52245	DOP	Broken Windows, doors & Graffiti	\$5,000	5/29/2020	1023-1100	Target	7400 Dodge Street
AP52245	DOP	Broken Window	\$1,000	5/29-5/30/2020	1900-0200	Petco	7110 Dodge Street
AP52245	DOP	Glass Doors	\$15,000	5/29-5/30/2020	1046-0230	Best Buy	115 N 76th Street
AP52245	DOP	Broken Windows and Looting	\$1,000	5/29-5/30/2020	1100-0100	Bucky's	7660 West Dodge Road
AP53981	DOP	Broken Windows and laptop	\$2,400	5/31/2020	0100	SY Cleaners	617 N 36th Street
AP52290	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$500	5/29-5/30/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	72nd & Dodge Street
AP52290	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$1,000	5/29-5/30/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	72nd & Dodge Street
AP52290	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$1,000	5/29-5/30/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	72nd & Dodge Street
AP52290	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$500	5/29-5/30/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	72nd & Dodge Street
AP52362	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$200	5/30-5/31/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	Downtown
AP52362	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$500	5/30-5/31/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	Downtown
AP54191	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$1,000	5/30-5/31/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	Downtown
AP54191	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$1,000	5/30-5/31/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	Downtown
AP54191	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$1,000	5/30-5/31/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	Downtown
AP54191	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$500	5/30-5/31/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	Downtown
AP54191	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$1,000	5/30-5/31/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	Downtown
AP54191	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$500	5/30-5/31/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	Downtown
AP54660	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$500	5/29-5/30/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	72nd & Dodge Street
AP54660	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$400	5/29-5/30/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	72nd & Dodge Street
AP54660	DOP-Vehicle	Body or window damage	\$500	5/29-5/30/2020		City Of Omaha (Police Cruiser)	72nd & Dodge Street
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$383,726</b>				

## Details: National Guard Coordination

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### National Guard (NG) Assets utilized:

[REDACTED]

Dates embedded: Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> – Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>

### Sunday, May 31 2020:

Elements of National Guard begin assembling in Omaha, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- Exchanged Use of Force policies and briefed arrest powers and limitations.

[REDACTED]

### Monday, June 1 – June 8, 2020:

National Guard was available and ready each of these dates. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Guard Troops remained on duty until OPD command released them back to [REDACTED] each day.

[REDACTED]

- Deployed to fixed positions for infrastructure security, traffic blockade, and area denial.
- Mutual decision made to allow Guard Commanders to determine best role for their units (i.e. Use of Infantry vs. MPs vs. MP LNOs) Military Police Law and Order Detachments were determined to be the best suited for front line protest duty, while MP and Infantry were better suited for infrastructure security and area denial.



[REDACTED]

**Communications:**

[REDACTED]

**Air Assets:**

- Use of NSP fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft necessary due to the microwave downlink capability.

[REDACTED]

**Pros:**

- Force multiplier for law enforcement
- Visible deterrence

[REDACTED]

- Mobility of force

**Cons:**

- Logistical issues with equipment

[REDACTED]

- Presence may create negative image of over-militarization

Overall, the assistance of the Nebraska Army National Guard was an excellent asset for OPD. There were logistical issues initially, but those were rapidly overcome and the Army was able to stand up a force to be inserted wherever OPD Command felt appropriate. Good working relationships were established between OPD Command and discussions took place over future training and operations.

[REDACTED]

## Rapid Deployment Force

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### Details:

On Friday, May 29, 2020 - Sunday, June 7, 2020 the Omaha Police Department Rapid Deployment Force was mobilized to address protests in Omaha resulting from the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota while in police custody. Several of the protests, especially on the nights of May 29<sup>th</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup> became violent with protesters assaulting Omaha Police Officers and law enforcement officers from other agencies with various projectiles such as rocks, bottles, chunks of concrete, etc. Artillery fireworks and Molotov cocktails were also thrown at the police lines. PepperBalls and chemical munitions were deployed to disperse the rioters.

Ultimately, no Omaha Police Officers were seriously injured. Several businesses in the area of 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge experienced destruction to property and looting. Numerous businesses in the Downtown Omaha area sustained heavy damage to store fronts and looting.

### Sustaining the RDF:

- RDF Command and squad leaders kept overall morale high among personnel during stressful and dynamic engagements.
- Support from the community in the form of food and drink was integral to keeping morale up and officers healthy.
- Support from outside agencies was imperative to the success of the overall mission.

[REDACTED]

- RDF officers were extremely controlled and measured in their response to protester aggression and violence.
- RDF officers sustained only minor injuries.
- The chemical munitions deployed by RDF were effective.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- RDF chemical munitions officers had a well-defined chain of command within the program, with clear rules of engagement and mission objectives.

[REDACTED]

- Solid chemical munitions plans were in place prior to engagements which created a measured deployment with clear objectives and goals. This also allowed for the preservation of supplies and prevented over-deployment of munitions.

[REDACTED]

**Potential RDF Preparedness Improvements:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Rapid Deployment Force Conclusion:**

Overall, OPD RDF operations during the riots in late May and early June were a success. There were no seriously injured officers, few reports of seriously injured protesters and rioters, and buildings sustained relatively minor damage and looting compared to other metro areas across the United States. The OPD Rapid Deployment Force was tested and performed well. Areas for improvement were also identified, and the Rapid Deployment Force will only get better as a result of these engagements.

[REDACTED] Emphasis should also be placed on increased training sessions for the RDF.

The City of Omaha was fortunate to have an existing, multi-jurisdictional RDF to help address these events. The RDF was formed approximately 15 years and has trained together for many years.

**Details: Tactical Operations Section**

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Mobile Command Observations:**

The Mobile Command Center (MCC) was utilized for most days during the operational period. [REDACTED]

The MCC functioned as designed when it was allowed to operate as the command post. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**Outside Agency SWAT Observations:**

[REDACTED]

**Alpha-Bravo Emergency Staffing**

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### **Operations Overall Section Summary**

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The period from May 29 - June 7, 2020 marked an unparalleled time in the city of Omaha. Like many other cities across the country, Omaha experienced civil unrest for the first time in nearly 50 years. No one currently on the Omaha Police Department had ever experienced large scale protests and violent unrest until this period. The rapidly unfolding events of May 29<sup>th</sup> and following days revealed both strengths and weaknesses in Omaha Police Department operations, policy, training, and equipment.

#### **Operations:**

In general, Omaha Police Officers operated with patience and tolerance in an effort to promote free speech. Unfortunately, and as seen in many other cities, peaceful protesters were used by agitators to promote conflict with police and create ill-will. It was not uncommon for protesters deep within the crowd to throw objects at officers, knowing it was difficult for officers to get to them through the peaceful protesters in front. This made removing primary agitators difficult. Officers were regularly pelted with objects, and several were injured. Officers were screamed at and even spit on, yet remained professional. Organizers naively hosted these events, without fully understanding their own actions or responsibilities.

Like most protests, events during this period that were coordinated with police and managed properly by organizers experienced no issues. Unfortunately, some of these events were organized by individuals that claim to be police abolitionists, vowing to resist and not cooperate with police in any manner. Even more troubling, some protesters subscribe to Marxist, socialist, and/or anarchist ideology. They even refer to one another as comrades or proletariat, and see their efforts as revolutionary. They tend to view police as a repressive part of a larger system that only serves to protect the rich and powerful. They call for abolition of police, courts, prisons, and the military. Obviously, managing a protest organized by individuals with this mindset can be quite challenging.

The Omaha Police Department faced staffing and command and control issues initially, but improved each day. Command officers gained valuable experience and confidence to handle large scale

events. Improvements are still needed in some incident command structures so that clear communication and direction exists. However, OPD command worked through these issues and accomplished tasks rather easily.

The use of force during the events of this period was mostly in the form of chemical munitions deployments. These are typically effective, without causing lasting injury. The comprehensive review of use of force incidents by the Safety Review Board found most to be within policy. Those that were not were addressed immediately. The review identified a need for officers to bookmark body worn camera videos showing their incidents, for quicker reviewing by command. Literally hundreds of hours of video exist from this period, making reviewing of actions very time consuming.

**Policy:**

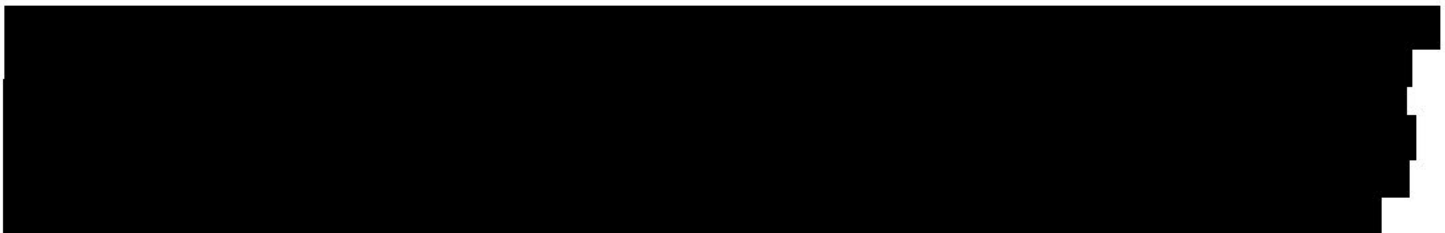
OPD's policies on civil disorder and mass arrest are in the process of being updated. The events of this period exposed "holes" in existing policies and procedures on these subjects. Some parts of the Response to Resistance policies need reviewed and updated in relation to application during civil unrest, as well as proper reporting during crisis situations.

**Training:**

Clearly, more department-wide training on protest management and civil disorder response needs to be done. Crowd de-escalation training should be added, as well as 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment case law. Additional training for RDF personnel should happen annually, to include multi-agency coordination. Chemical munitions training and other use of force training should include how to apply concepts in a crowd management/civil disorder situation. OPD clearly needs to re-emphasize verbal commands during use of force situations. Multi-location incident command structures need to be trained and exercised so that command is aware of the complexities of these situations.

**Equipment:**

As previously identified, OPD needs better long-range communication equipment so that directions can be given to the public. That equipment has been ordered. OPD also used the Alert Sense system as a public notification platform. It worked very well, and provided additional evidence of our communication efforts.



# OPD SAFETY REVIEW BOARD SUMMARY

## OPD Chief's Report Review Process

When an officer uses force, the officer completes a "Chief's Report" that describes the type of force used and the reason for its use. The officer then attaches any accompanying documentation to the Chief's Report, and submits the Chief's Report Packet through the chain of command.

The officer's chain of command reviews the Chief's Report Packet and any accompanying videos, determines if the use of force was within policy, and forwards the Packet to the Safety Review Board for further review.

When the Chief's Report Packet is received by the Safety Review Board (SRB), the SRB Secretary distributes the Packet and any related videos to the first SRB member for review. The first SRB member reviews the reports and videos, documents their recommendations, and routes the Packet and videos to the next SRB member. The last member to review the Packet and videos is the SRB Chairperson.

### SRB membership:

- (1) The Deputy Chief of the Executive Services Bureau – Chairperson,
- (2) The Training and Community Services Section Captain,
- (3) The Training Unit Lieutenant,
- (4) An at-large Lieutenant selected by Chief of Police, and
- (5) A designated Administrative Assistant – SRB Secretary.

### CURRENT SAFETY REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

OPD DEPUTY CHIEF GREG GONZALEZ (CHAIRPERSON; EXECUTIVE SERVICES BUREAU DEPUTY CHIEF)

OPD LIEUTENANT STEVEN MEISTER (SOUTHEAST PRECINCT LIEUTENANT)

OPD CAPTAIN RUSSELL HORINE (TRAINING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTION)

OPD LIEUTENANT KEN FOX (TRAINING UNIT)

MR. MIKE MAXON (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/RECORDING SECRETARY)

**Counseling or Reprimand:** If the SRB recommends counseling or a reprimand, that recommendation is forwarded to the officer's supervisor, who is then responsible for issuing the discipline.

**Suspension or Termination:** If the SRB recommends a suspension or termination, the case is forwarded to the Internal Affairs Unit for continued investigation and final disposition.

## Safety Review Board Data: Chief's Reports for Use of Force (Date/Type of Force)

\*Data Source: OPD Chief's Report spreadsheet compiled by SRB Recording Secretary.

Friday, May 29th	
<b>Location: 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge</b>	<b>Total Chief's Reports = 36</b>
PepperBall	25
OC Spray	6
CS/OC/Smoke Grenades	6
Baton	2
Cruiser Damage	3
Saturday, May 30th	
<b>Location: 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge</b>	<b>Total Chief's Reports = 28</b>
PepperBall	19
CS/OC Grenades	3
Rubber/Sponge Ball	1
OC Spray	2
Takedown	2
Tackle	2
CRCH	1
FN Munitions	1
<b>Location: Downtown</b>	<b>Total Chief's Reports = 32</b>
PepperBall	20
Damaged/Lost City Property	1
Cruiser Damage	2
OC Spray	3
Rubber/Sponge Ball	1
CS/OC Grenades	2

<b>Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup></b>	
<b>Location: 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge</b>	<b>Total Chief's Reports = 3</b>
PepperBall	2
OC/CS Grenades	1
<b>Location: Downtown</b>	<b>Total Chief's Reports = 17</b>
Damaged/Lost City Property	1
PepperBall	8
OC/CS Grenades	4
OC Spray	1
Cruiser Damage	2
Stinger Ball	1
Hand Strike	1
Sponge Ball	1
<b>Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup></b>	
<b>Location: Downtown</b>	<b>Total Chief's Reports = 6</b>
Hand Strikes	1
Leg Strikes	1
PepperBall	5
<b>Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	
<b>Location: Downtown</b>	<b>Total Chief's Reports = 1</b>
PepperBall	1
<b>TOTAL Number of Chief's Reports May 29<sup>th</sup> through June 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>123</b>

*Note: Some Chief's Reports document multiple types of force used, therefore the total number of types of force used exceeds the total number of Chief's Reports. Due to the size and number of protests that became unruly, OPD summoned mutual aid and most of the metropolitan agencies responded to assist.*

*Note: One PepperBall deployment on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 72nd and Dodge and one PepperBall deployment on May 30<sup>th</sup> in Downtown were referred to the OPD Internal Affairs Unit.*

## **Safety Review Board Policy Recommendations**

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### **Command oversight during Chief's Report reviews**

[REDACTED]

### **Markers for Body Worn Cameras (BWC)/Mobile Video Recorders (MVR)**

[REDACTED]

### **Equipment/Less-Lethal Weapons**

[REDACTED]

## **Safety Review Board Equipment Recommendations**

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There were some officers who did not have a helmet but did have a gas mask; some who had a helmet but no gas mask; and others who had neither. During the incident, dangerous items were thrown at officers and OC/CS chemical munitions and PepperBalls were deployed. This adversely affected some officers. It's unknown if the impacted officers did not have operational gas masks and helmets or if the officers were not carrying the equipment with them during the event.

[REDACTED]



A method must be implemented to better identify officers during civil unrest, protests, and other incidents. Larger name tags or serial numbers on helmets and/or uniforms may help to better identify officers/command. The Department could possibly label officer's serial numbers on their helmets or shields or other equipment.

THE SAFETY REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDS TRAINING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- 1) VERBAL COMMANDS PRIOR TO PEPPERBALL DEPLOYMENT
- 2) PROFESSIONALISM
- 3) ARRESTS OF AGITATORS
- 4) PEPPERBALL MALFUNCTIONS
- 5) PEPPERBALL USE DURING CIVIL UNREST/PROTESTS
- 6) CHIEF'S REPORT DOCUMENTATION

The Uniform and Equipment Committee should consider protective gear to be issued to all front line UPB officers to carry with them, similar to RDF "turtle gear." Similar gear that is not as large could be stored in cruisers. This will provide more safety for the officers on the front lines who have dangerous items such as full water bottles, rocks, fireworks, and Molotov cocktails thrown at them and will help prevent officer injuries.

## **Safety Review Board Training Recommendations**

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### **Topic: Lack of verbal commands for PepperBall deployments**

- There were instances when officers were close enough to suspects to give loud verbal commands, but did not appear to have done so. In some situations, verbal commands had been announced previously over loudspeaker, but that was well before the use of force, or in a different area. There were also equipment issues with the gas masks, as loud commands may have been difficult for suspects to hear due to the nature of the gas mask which is meant to provide a seal.

### **Topic: Professionalism**

- There were times during some BWC videos where officers made unprofessional comments to one another about using force towards protesters. Officers need to be reminded they are always in the public eye, and must maintain their professional bearing even when talking to one another. These cases were addressed through Internal Affairs or the Safety Review Board process.

### **Topic: Arrests of agitators**

- There were clearly agitators who were inciting others and throwing objects at officers. The objects seen on video being thrown at officers include full water bottles, a large flower pot, rocks, large fireworks, and Molotov cocktails (not an all-inclusive list). There was also an individual spraying urine from a spray bottle at officers, and intelligence that gasoline would be used as a weapon to start officers on fire although this did not occur in Omaha.
- Attempts must be made to identify and arrest these suspects and remove them from the area.
- There did not appear to be clear cut arrest teams on some videos to deal with the specific agitators due to manpower shortages.

**Topic: PepperBall malfunctions**

[REDACTED]

**Topic: PepperBall during civil unrest/protests**

[REDACTED]

**Topic: Chief's Reports documentation**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Safety Review Board Areas of Noted Excellence**

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**Topic: Professionalism and Composure**

- After reviewing hundreds of BWC videos, it was clear the officers did an excellent job of maintaining self-control and composure. Officers were constantly bombarded by thrown objects and verbal attacks from agitators who attempted to provoke negative responses or actions from the officers.

**Topic: Officer Safety**

- Officers did remarkably well maintaining officer safety protocols by staying in groups and watching out for each other. For example, officers were observed pulling back or taking hold of other officers who were becoming separated from their group, or who came too close to agitators.

**Topic: Communication with Command**

- Officers were observed requesting and receiving orders about when to engage protestors, and the officers then followed those directives. This resulted in direct and quick responses toward agitators who were throwing items at officers, attempting to interfere with officers, or trying to pick up or move gas canisters or other devices officers had deployed.

**Topic: Detailed Reporting**

- Some officers were careful to document various occurrences they observed or heard, and not just their own actions. For example, many officers detailed the times when they heard announcements being made to the crowd, and also marked the times on their Body Worn Camera videos. This type of detailed reporting will be extremely helpful in the prosecution of those who were arrested, and helped ensure an accurate timeline of events is documented.

**Coordination with Outside Agencies**

- Officers worked well with outside law enforcement personnel who arrived to assist with the civil unrest response. OPD officers were observed coordinating effectively with outside officers even in the midst of highly stressful and sometimes chaotic situations. This effective coordination helped to ensure that outside officers provided a vitally needed force enhancement.

**Safety Review Board Section Summary**

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The Safety Review Board (SRB) was tasked to prepare a summary of reported use of force incidents that corresponded with the civil unrest in Omaha between May 29<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. There were 123 reported use of force incidents reviewed with SRB recommendations, 3 of those incidents were found to be not within policy, and 2 were recommended to the Internal Affairs Unit. The SRB included training, equipment and policy recommendations to assist in improving future responses to civil unrest. Many other metropolitan law enforcement agencies assisted OPD during this period and any incidents of force involving those agencies were referred to the appropriate agency for review.

<b>Safety Review Board Findings</b>	
Incidents Within Policy	120
Incidents Not Within Policy	3
Incidents Sent to Internal Affairs	2

# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SUMMARY

The Omaha Police Department (OPD) executive team believed there was an opportunity to engage those impacted most by the protests and subsequent arrests by using the tenets of Restorative Justice. The fundamental goal of the project was to foster dialogue and understanding, while providing those arrested with an opportunity to avoid having a criminal conviction on their record.

Deputy Chief Michele Bang coordinated with Sergeant Anthony Conner (President of the Omaha Police Officers Association), Matt Kuhse (City of Omaha Prosecutor), and Nicole Brundo (Douglas County Attorney's Office, Juvenile Division) to develop a diversion program for both adults and juveniles. It was determined persons with the following types of protest-related charges would be considered for inclusion in the program: curfew violation, unlawful assembly and failure to disperse. It was further determined the Omaha Police Department would be a participant only, and would not be involved in the selection of participants or the determination of whether or not participants met the diversion program requirements.

Ms. Shawn Coonfare (Director of the Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center) oversaw the diversion program for the juveniles and the Concord Mediation Center was hired to facilitate the juvenile sessions. Mr. Gerald Kuhn (Assistant Director of the City of Omaha Human Rights and Relations Department) facilitated the adult session. The National Safety Council of Nebraska was selected to oversee the adult program, which in addition to a talking session included a requirement of eight hours of community service.

Both the adult and the juvenile programs were based upon the Restorative Circle Process. This process fosters active listening and trust building activities, ultimately leading to the open sharing of ideas. Twelve juveniles were selected to participate in the juvenile program. The group met August 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> to participate in two hour sessions. The juveniles were required to be present and each was invited to participate in the program, all of whom did at some level. The adult session included five participants, all of whom were between 20-30 years old. The adult session consisted of a four hour discussion session and took place at the National Safety Council of Nebraska on August 19<sup>th</sup>.



## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT WORKING TEAM

OMAHA POLICE DEPUTY CHIEF MICHELE BANG

OMAHA POLICE SERGEANT ANTHONY CONNER  
(PRESIDENT, OMAHA POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION)

OMAHA POLICE SERGEANT JASON HEFT

OMAHA POLICE OFFICER LEIGH CULVER

MATTHEW KUHSE (OMAHA CITY PROSECUTOR)

NICOLE BRUNDO (DOUGLAS COUNTY ATTORNEY  
JUVENILE DIVISION)

SHAWN COONFARE (DIRECTOR, DOUGLAS COUNTY  
JUVENILE ASSESSMENT CENTER)

GERALD KUHN (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OMAHA  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATIONS DEPARTMENT)

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL OF NEBRASKA

CONCORD MEDIATION CENTER

After the sessions, juvenile participants were asked to provide a reflection. One of the key takeaways from these reflections was that for many of the youth, they expressed never having felt “heard.” The circle was the first time they had a platform to authentically share and be listened to. Some of youth

participants shared deeply painful experiences as it related to discrimination they felt or observed, some within their own family. In fact for the youth, internal family dynamics related to race and discrimination were discussed as much as institutional racism as it related to police and society. Because of the nature of the disclosures, the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) followed-up with each of the youth to ensure they were not left to deal with these vulnerable feelings without support and closure.

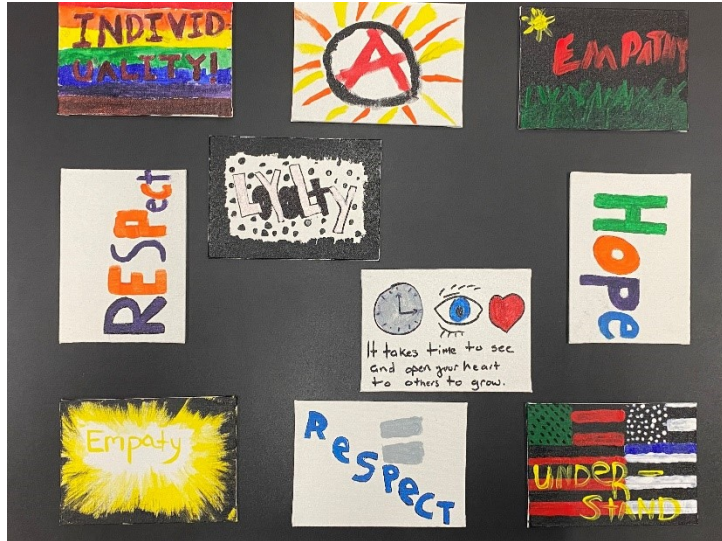
*“IN FACT FOR THE YOUTH, INTERNAL FAMILY DYNAMICS RELATED TO RACE AND DISCRIMINATION WERE DISCUSSED AS MUCH AS INSTITUTIONAL RACISM AS IT RELATED TO POLICE AND SOCIETY.”*

*OPD DEPUTY CHIEF MICHELE BANG*

In the adult sessions, many of the participants also relayed their personal struggles, to include recovery from addiction and job loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each expressed feeling very passionate about why they were present at the protests and a few relayed they felt their arrest was unfair. One protester said they consciously stayed past curfew to drive the point home that they felt the curfew curtailed the rights of the community protesters.

OPD Deputy Chief Michele Bang, Sergeant Jason Heft and Officer Leigh Culver participated in both the adult and juvenile sessions for OPD. Each was able to share their individual experiences and their observations of the overall stress of the protest created for frontline officers, command officers and police executive staff. One thing that was clear is that many of those who were arrested did not recognize the scope of the protest, the amount of damage caused, the violent actions taken towards officers during the protests and how quickly a protest can get out of control and potentially become deadly. There were discussions about the pressure police experience in trying to keep everyone safe while allowing for protests and the laws and tools (general) that were available to OPD to manage a protest. There were also discussions about the fact that OPD officers had not seen protests to this scale since the civil rights movement in the 1960’s and there were lessons learned by OPD. Mr. Kuhn (City of Omaha Human Rights and Relations Department) presented a video produced by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) discussing the laws surrounding protests. This video was helpful because like many members of the community there was a general misunderstanding as to why the police did not allow protestors to be in the street, and when police consider a protest an unlawful assembly, for example. This video set the framework for the participants to be educated should they choose to participate in future protests.

OPD participants also discussed police perception of the George Floyd incident, the initial catalyst for the national protests. Like the vast majority of officers, those in the group agreed the conduct of the police officer involved was not within the scope of police training and ethics and that he should be held accountable. There was discussion of the use of force and the challenges in balancing the need to make an arrest when the party shows resistance and how quickly a seemingly benign encounter can become a deadly force encounter. Additionally, the program provided an opportunity for OPD



*Closing Project Artwork Completed by the Adult Group*

participants to reflect upon and discuss their own understanding and feelings as it related to discrimination and racism.

In the juvenile session in particular there were several moments of powerful connection between the young people on the cusp of entering adulthood and the OPD participants. OPD participants were able to acknowledge and validate the individual pain and struggles many of the youth shared. This included an OPD participant telling their personal story of growing up. In turn, the youth also accepted and recognized their actions impacted not only the OPD participants, but also all of the officers working the protest.

## **Conclusion**

All of the participants successfully completed the diversion requirements. There will be future sessions for any protest-related arrests that occurred after the initial protests in May and June.

Of note, the Lincoln Police Department and Lancaster County Attorney observed the adult session to see if the model could be replicated in Lincoln. They are now moving forward with a Restorative Justice model in their jurisdiction.

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