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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	Docket No. 17 CV 6260
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	Chicago, Illinois
	)	August 19, 2020
vs.	)	1:02 p.m.
	)	
CITY OF CHICAGO,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS - INDEPENDENT MONITOR LISTENING  
SESSIONS  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ROBERT M. DOW, JR.

APPEARANCES:

Independent Monitor:	MS. MAGGIE HICKEY
Deputy Monitor:	CHIEF (RET.) RODNEY MONROE
Inspector General City of Chicago:	MR. JOSEPH M. FERGUSON

Court Reporter:	KRISTIN M. ASHENHURST, CSR, RDR, CRR Official Court Reporter 219 S. Dearborn Street, Room 2304-A Chicago, IL 60604 (312) 818-6549 kristin_ashenhurst@ilnd.uscourts.gov
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1 (The following listening session proceedings were held via  
2 telephonic and videoconference.)

3 THE CLERK: Okay. This is 17 civil 6260. State of  
4 Illinois versus the City of Chicago.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, Carolyn.

6 Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to this special  
7 session of court in case No. 17 Civil 6260, State of Illinois  
8 versus City of Chicago.

9 I am going to stop there for just one second to make  
10 sure that everything is -- everybody can hear and see this. So  
11 if there's anybody in the chat room right now who can't hear or  
12 see, please speak up and we'll be able to remedy that.

13 Okay. Sound good. So today and tomorrow are  
14 opportunities for members of the community to speak, and so I  
15 will keep my introductory remarks very short. We have tried  
16 our best to model these sessions on the fairness hearings that  
17 were held in 2018, but some modifications clearly have been  
18 necessary due to the pandemic, most obviously because this is a  
19 remote proceeding.

20 I want to first thank the monitoring team and the  
21 clerk's office team in this District Court for their expert  
22 help in making this possible with the technology, as well as  
23 the sign language service, the captioning service, and the  
24 court reporter.

25 I also want to take a quick moment to introduce the

1 people you see on your screens this afternoon. One is the  
2 Independent Monitor Maggie Hickey. Another is the Inspector  
3 General Joe Ferguson. And another is the Deputy Monitor Rodney  
4 Monroe. So in addition to myself, those are the faces you will  
5 see all day, and you will also see the sign language  
6 interpreter. And, again, we are very grateful for the  
7 assistance of our interpreter.

8           These listening sessions and the accompanying written  
9 comment period arise out of the Independent Monitor's  
10 invocation of her authority to prepare special reports on  
11 issues that are covered by the consent decree. The report she  
12 is currently preparing focuses on the response of the City of  
13 Chicago and the Chicago Police Department to the rise in First  
14 Amendment activity, civil unrest, and related law enforcement  
15 activity over the past few months.

16           As with the fairness hearings, it is important that  
17 all of those who wish to be heard have the opportunity. And  
18 because we cannot accommodate all of those who wish to speak,  
19 written comments are welcome and they're due by tomorrow at  
20 4:30 p.m. And the procedures for written comments are spelled  
21 out in some detail both on the court docket and also on the  
22 Monitor's website. And we certainly appreciate everyone's time  
23 and input on these important issues.

24           To be sure that everyone is clear on how we'll be  
25 proceeding today, I am going to ask the Monitor, Ms. Hickey, to

1 briefly summarize the ground rules for the platform that we are  
2 using.

3 So Maggie?

4 MS. HICKEY: Thank you, your Honor. I want to thank  
5 everybody for their participation, and a special thank you to  
6 Judge Dow, his team, the Inspector General Joe Ferguson and his  
7 team, and my team for working very hard to facilitate the  
8 virtual listening sessions that will take place today and  
9 tomorrow.

10 We had over 540 registrants sign up for these Zoom  
11 listening sessions, and the speakers for those listening  
12 sessions were randomly selected from that group. To maximize  
13 our connection and to increase efficiency, only the people who  
14 are scheduled to appear or to speak are on the Zoom meeting.  
15 The public may view each session live on YouTube and there will  
16 be a slight 20-second delay. The YouTube links for today and  
17 for tomorrow are available on the Independent Monitoring Team's  
18 website, [cpdmonitoringteam.com](http://cpdmonitoringteam.com).

19 Our website also includes a link to live transcription  
20 which is available during the session. The Court's listening  
21 session order is also available on our website, which provides  
22 instructions on how to file any written comments that anyone in  
23 Chicago would like to make.

24 For the speakers on today's meeting, you will not have  
25 the ability to turn on your microphone or camera until Judge

1 Dow calls your name and speaker number. And let me correct  
2 that. He is only going to call the speaker number. You should  
3 have received your speaker number via email last Friday, August  
4 17th.

5           When the Court calls your number, the meeting host  
6 will make you a Zoom panelist to begin speaking. For those of  
7 you on a computer, Zoom will automatically log you in and out.  
8 You may see a brief blank screen, and then you will be prompted  
9 to turn on your camera and microphone. You will have to turn  
10 those on yourself. For those of you via telephone, your line  
11 will be unmuted.

12           We have also provided visual cues for speakers that  
13 are on Zoom. There will be a list -- a timer box, and that is  
14 green to start, and then yellow means you have 30 seconds left,  
15 and red means you are out of time.

16           For people calling into the meeting telephonically, we  
17 will also provide a verbal 30-second warning. For those  
18 speakers, keep an eye on the chat function as the IMT might  
19 send messages through that service, too, if necessary. That's  
20 for the telephone participants.

21           If you are not available when the judge calls your  
22 number, you will be moved to the end of today's speaker list,  
23 and the Judge will then again call your number, if time  
24 permits. If you have any logistical questions during the  
25 session, please contact

1 listeningessions@CPDmonitoringteam.com. Let me repeat that  
2 again. Listeningessions, with an S, @CPDmonitoringteam.com,  
3 which is also listed on the IG's website.

4 Finally, these hearings are for the community to have  
5 a direct voice with the Court. The Independent Monitoring Team  
6 and the Inspector General's Office will continue to want to  
7 hear from the community on an ongoing basis. Thank you again  
8 for your patience and your understanding as we use a virtual  
9 platform during this very unprecedented time in history.

10 Thank you, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Great. Thank you very much. And, again,  
12 thank you to your team. I know a tremendous amount of work has  
13 gone into making this possible, and I do appreciate it.

14 I also wanted to start at the outset by asking the  
15 Inspector General, Mr. Ferguson, if he had anything he would  
16 like to say at the outset of the proceeding.

17 MR. FERGUSON: Yes, Judge. Thank you. One quick note  
18 before turning to the important business of hearing from all of  
19 the people who are gathered for this purpose. These  
20 court-hosted listening sessions are just one of several avenues  
21 for community input and the expression of lived experience to  
22 inform this joint inquiry on which we'll be publicly reporting.

23 Today's listening sessions are by their nature both  
24 public and part of the official record of the court proceedings  
25 pursuant to the authority of the consent decree.

1           If for whatever reason anyone speaking, listening, or  
2 watching today wishes further opportunity to provide feedback,  
3 input or expression of experience, or wishes to provide it to  
4 the IMT or OIG in a less public setting or format, please be  
5 aware that there are opportunities to do so, including doing so  
6 anonymously, and we strongly encourage and hope that you do so.  
7 For those purposes, the ID information can be found at  
8 [www.cpdmonitoringteam.com](http://www.cpdmonitoringteam.com). And the Inspector General's  
9 information can be found at [www.igChicago.org](http://www.igChicago.org).

10           Thanks, Judge.

11           THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much as well. So  
12 just a couple more words about the order in which we'll proceed  
13 today. So we'll first hear today from counsel for the Attorney  
14 General and the City and the Coalition, and then we'll have 45  
15 individual speakers today. And each will have an opportunity  
16 to speak for three minutes.

17           Tomorrow the lawyers will not be speaking, so we'll  
18 move right into the members of the public and so we'll be able  
19 to accommodate 50 individuals tomorrow. I would ask that out  
20 of respect for all speakers, each speaker kindly finish their  
21 remarks at the three-minute time frame. And as I said before,  
22 it is my understanding that each speaker has been given a  
23 number and that there may have been some changes due to  
24 cancellations and substitutions.

25           And so I would ask that you all excuse the informality

1 of using numbers and not names. I am just afraid that I would  
2 get confused enough times with substitutions and the challenge  
3 of keeping this speaker list exactly current. So I am going to  
4 use numbers for the clarity of the record today. But I know we  
5 would appreciate it if each person can introduce themselves at  
6 the beginning of their remarks.

7 So thank you all again for your participation. It is  
8 my understanding that the first person on today's list is  
9 Ms. Pryor from the Office of the Attorney General. If that's  
10 correct, I will turn the floor over to Ms. Pryor.

11 MS. PRYOR: Good afternoon, your Honor. My name is  
12 Shareese Pryor and I am the Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau at  
13 the Illinois Attorney General's office. Our office represents  
14 the State of Illinois, the parties to this case, and the  
15 parties to the consent decree. On behalf of the two attorneys  
16 who worked to enforce the consent decree, thank you for the  
17 opportunity to speak briefly on the important topic of the  
18 Chicago Police Department's response to protesters.

19 The stories of police inflicting abuse on members of  
20 the community that they are supposed to serve and protect are  
21 not new in Chicago. Those abuses were the very impetus of the  
22 2019 consent decree invoked by the City and the Illinois  
23 Attorney General on behalf of the State, and the provisions of  
24 which the CPD is required to implement and follow.

25 In recent months, protesters in Chicago have taken to

1 the streets to express their righteous indignation over the  
2 horrific killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, as well  
3 as to make other calls for social justice reform.

4 Many of the demonstrators were at protests to speak  
5 out against systemic racism and abuses of force by members of  
6 the CPD, particularly against people living in the Chicago  
7 Black community.

8 We have been deeply disturbed by the reports from the  
9 coalition of community groups participating in the consent  
10 decree process and other community members about the brutal  
11 treatment of protesters by some CPD officers.

12 We are concerned by reports of CPD officers using  
13 excessive force, which in some cases resulted in serious  
14 injuries, confiscating or destroying protesters' personal  
15 property including cell phones and cameras, failing to or  
16 refusing to provide medical care, and denying protesters access  
17 to counsel.

18 If these accounts are accurate, these officers'  
19 actions in response to the protesters violate multiple  
20 provisions of the consent decree. These include requirements  
21 that prohibit officers from unjustifiably using impact weapons  
22 or other means of physical force, retaliating against First  
23 Amendment expression, speaking to civilians in a degrading and  
24 dehumanizing manner, and using race, gender, and sexual  
25 orientation as a basis for the law enforcement decision.

1           The consent decree also requires officers to allow  
2 civilians to record them in the course of their law enforcement  
3 duties, provide and arrange for medical care when a person has  
4 been injured by an officer, and allow arrestees to prompt  
5 access to counsel. The consent decree further requires CPD to  
6 adopt a community policing model for law enforcement and to  
7 ensure its crime reduction strategies are consistent with the  
8 principles of community policing.

9           The department's efforts to engage community members  
10 will mean little if it's simultaneously violating those same  
11 community members' rights. Police officers have a difficult  
12 job to do, which is more stressful during periods of civil  
13 unrest. We commend the CPD officers who have shown restraint  
14 even as they or their fellow officers have been assaulted.

15           We acknowledge that many CPD officers do this work  
16 honorably and consistent with the requirements of the consent  
17 decree. But for those who do not, CPD must not accept this  
18 conduct -- misconduct and the attorney general will not  
19 tolerate consent decree violations identified by the Monitor In  
20 the special report. Rather, our office is committed to  
21 enforcing the consent decree.

22           We thank the coalition for bringing these important  
23 issues forward, the Monitor for her special report, and your  
24 Honor for holding these hearings. We also appreciate those who  
25 will share their experiences today and tomorrow as we work

1 together to build a police department that has the trust of all  
2 the communities it serves.

3 THE COURT: Thank you very much. I appreciate it. My  
4 understanding is that the attorneys for the City will speak  
5 next. And I'm just not sure which one. So whoever it is,  
6 please step forward.

7 MS. BABBITT: Good afternoon, your Honor. It's  
8 Elizabeth Babbitt. I will be speaking on behalf of the City of  
9 Chicago this afternoon.

10 I would like to begin by saying we, the City,  
11 understand the frustration and the concerns about the current  
12 pace of implementing the reforms that are required by the  
13 consent decree. As we all know, the challenges of implementing  
14 these reforms has proven especially difficult in the landscape  
15 of the ongoing pandemic, which, as you know, has significantly  
16 impacted CPD.

17 The City and CPD acknowledge that we have fallen  
18 behind on meeting some of the established deadlines of the  
19 consent decree, but we are 100 percent committed to sustainable  
20 and lasting reform. We also understand there have been  
21 concerns related to the protests and looting in the aftermath  
22 of George Floyd's death.

23 We are also proud of our officers who maintain  
24 professionalism and calm under circumstances of high duress and  
25 conflict. The City and CPD are fully cooperating with the

1 Independent Monitor's investigation into those protests and the  
2 City and CPD's response to them.

3 We are keenly interested in hearing the commentary  
4 today and incorporating the feedback into our ongoing work to  
5 ensure consent decree compliance. And I would like to  
6 underscore, as officials with the CPD did last week at the city  
7 council hearing, that while we are behind on some deadlines on  
8 the consent decree, on others we are closer.

9 In the most recent report from the Monitor, for many  
10 of the paragraphs cited, we are just a step or two away from  
11 achieving a level of compliance. There is momentum, real  
12 momentum in the CPD to get policies, training, and community  
13 engagement in a timely manner.

14 While I don't have time to go over everything that has  
15 been done, let me name a few of the accomplishments. First,  
16 CPD has revised 12 of its use-of-force policies in February.  
17 One significant addition to that was that chokeholds are now  
18 clearly prohibited unless deadly force is authorized by  
19 officers.

20 At the direction of Mayor Lightfoot, the CPD has  
21 implemented safeguards for sworn and civilian personnel, whose  
22 primary responsibilities are focused on reform and consent  
23 decree compliance. From deployments to critical incidents,  
24 mass gatherings, or civil unrest, this is particularly  
25 relevant, I believe, to today's discussions.

1           We are also currently improving our process for  
2 community engagement through a new framework with the goal of  
3 educating members of the public on each policy within the  
4 consent decree and gaining feedback on those ideas.  
5 Eventually, this will evolve into a task force with a  
6 responsibility for ongoing community engagement.

7           We have also launched a force review division within  
8 CPD which is responsible for reviewing use-of-force incidents,  
9 including foot pursuits and the pointing of a firearm. We have  
10 also increased the amount of annual in-service training for all  
11 active sworn officers. We've launched public data dashboards  
12 and made significant progress toward the mayor's 90-day reform  
13 initiatives introduced in early June. So while we recognize  
14 that there is much work to be done, we are moving in the right  
15 direction.

16           The City and CPD's responses to the protests and  
17 looting are of great concern to us, and we appreciate the  
18 opportunity to participate in these listening sessions. We are  
19 here to listen and ultimately to act.

20           THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much. I appreciate  
21 your comments.

22           My understanding is that there are maybe two lawyers  
23 from the coalition who are going to speak. So I invite the two  
24 of you to sort that out and go ahead and give your comments at  
25 this time. Thank you.

1 MS. BEDI: Good afternoon, your Honor. I am Sheila  
2 Bedi, one of the lawyers who represent the Campbell Coalition.  
3 And those organizations include Black Lives Matter Chicago, the  
4 Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, the Chicago Urban League,  
5 Justice for Families, the 411 movement for Pierre Loury,  
6 Network 49, the Chicago West Side Branch of the NAACP and the  
7 Women's All Points Bulletin.

8 Your Honor, Independent Monitor Hickey, Inspector  
9 General Ferguson, during this proceedings, assuming that the  
10 tech and the logistics cooperate, you're going to hear from  
11 Chicagoans who have been part of what has been called the  
12 largest social justice movement in the history of the world,  
13 and they were proud to play that role. People took to the  
14 street lifting up George Floyd's name to protest law  
15 enforcement brutality, violence, and racism. And they will  
16 describe how Chicago police officers responded to protesters  
17 with brutality, violence, and racism.

18 CPD's protest response revealed its propensity to  
19 engage in the exact behavior that inspired these global  
20 protests. People from all walks of life and backgrounds will  
21 be here as they were during the protest. And they will  
22 describe how CPD officers systematically abused their  
23 authority, used lethal force, sprayed them with chemical  
24 restraints that cause excruciating pain, unlawfully detained  
25 them, and mocked those who were bloody, crying out in pain, and

1 begging CPD to recognize their humanity.

2 Now, these violations have been widely publicized, and  
3 in their response, the City of Chicago shirks responsibility  
4 and issues blame. It has defended the use of lethal force by  
5 characterizing protesters as aggressors. But this blame game  
6 misses a fundamental point. This, and indeed the Constitution  
7 itself, protect the people against the power of the police.

8 It sets the standard for police response, standards  
9 which must be followed even when protesters are expressing  
10 disdain for the police, especially when the protesters are  
11 expressing disdain for the police. And instead of upholding  
12 the rule of law, the PD has subverted the requirements of this  
13 consent decree. The CPD mocks the requirements of this federal  
14 consent court order.

15 Now, the stories you will hear today, tomorrow, and  
16 through written testimony, represent just a small fraction of  
17 those brutalized by the Chicago Police Department during the  
18 2020 protests, and a smaller portion still of those who have  
19 been brutalized by CPD throughout history, and it is history  
20 just as surely as the present that we speak to today.

21 We know well that lawlessness, racism, violence, and  
22 corruption has a long history in our city. In 1919, there were  
23 uprisings on Chicago streets and CPD acted with brute force to  
24 quell them. In a report commissioned by city officials in  
25 1920, the City of Chicago admitted that in response to those

1 uprisings, police lashed out and targeted Black Chicagoans.

2           Because of the CPD's violent reaction to the 1919  
3 uprisings, the after-action report then called for, and I  
4 quote, "a house cleaning of the Chicago Police Department." 100  
5 years later, we have a different uprising, but the exact same  
6 Chicago Police Department in need of a housecleaning.

7           Spikes of CPD violence, racism, and lawlessness can be  
8 plotted along a timeline from 1919 until the present. This  
9 decree only exists because five years ago, Chicagoans took  
10 their demands for justice from the street to the city council  
11 in the names of Laquan McDonald, Rekia Boyd, and so many other  
12 Black and Brown people killed or brutalized by the Chicago  
13 Police Department in recent history.

14           This consent decree could be, and it should be, an  
15 antidote to the poison of police lawlessness that has infected  
16 Chicago for well over 100 years, but it has failed. CPD  
17 officers regularly flaunt its most basic. CPD officers refuse  
18 to wear body cameras. They use slurs and hate speech. They  
19 refuse to accurately report uses of force. And in the absence  
20 of decisive, immediate action, the summer of 2020 will be  
21 remembered as just one more spike, one more wave, one more peak  
22 on the deadly timeline of CPD's failure to make Black lives  
23 matter.

24           Or this summer could go down in history as a turning  
25 point and a time of transformation. The transformation will

1 require two things. One, meaningfully implementing the consent  
2 decree terms. And, two, consistent with the people's consent  
3 decree, amending the decree to include additional terms, terms  
4 that curb police power to arrest and harm, and that will  
5 include immediately removing from the streets Chicago Police.  
6 Department officers who brutalize protesters.

7 I want to thank each of you for your time, your  
8 attention, for reciting this critically important platform and  
9 all you have invested in this process.

10 THE COURT: Thank you very much for your comments.  
11 I'm sorry. Again, each time I have to mute -- unmute myself.  
12 But thank you. So it's my understanding, Ms. Sheley, are you  
13 next?

14 MS. SHELEY: Yes, Judge. Good afternoon. I am Karen  
15 Sheley from the ACLU in Illinois. Judge Dow, Ms. Hickey,  
16 Mr. Ferguson, thank you for arranging these hearings and  
17 allowing me to speak on behalf of my clients, Communities  
18 United, Community Renewal Society, One North Side, Next Steps  
19 and the ACLU of Illinois, all members of the coalition who have  
20 the right to enforce the consent decree.

21 The consent decree is a commitment that the police  
22 department will take community concerns into account when  
23 forming policies. Abandon the mentality, lift up the sanctity  
24 of life, hold officers accountable for misconduct, and actively  
25 work to eliminate harmful and unnecessary police contacts.

1           After nearly a year and a half, the City has missed 70  
2 percent of its deadlines to meet the promise of the consent  
3 decree, and has failed to provide any feasible plan for getting  
4 back on track. So this summer -- this summer, the fulfillment  
5 of the promise seems very, very far away. My clients are  
6 living with the consequences of that stalled start. The  
7 Monitor has found the City out of compliance with community  
8 outreach requirements and then making plans to address  
9 community safety concerns. We're seeing on the streets and on  
10 our phones officers who violate the decree's restrictions on  
11 use of force, and it's happening against protesters. You will  
12 hear many of those stories today.

13           In neighborhoods, people have been frightened and  
14 harmed by the militarized presence of officers who during a  
15 pandemic too often refuse to wear masks when interacting with  
16 the public. My clients look at the City's actions this year.  
17 They look at the excessive force, raising bridges, shutting  
18 down transportation, and they feel they're losing their rights,  
19 not gaining them, under the decree.

20           You rightly cautioned us as the decree was entered  
21 that it is not a panacea or a magic wand, but people are losing  
22 faith in the promise. My hope is that the monitor and  
23 inspector general's report will acknowledge the violations of  
24 the decree that we've all seen and identify remedies that the  
25 City will adopt, that we'll need more to instill confidence in

1 the decree.

2 We need a dialogue between the CPD, the City, the AG's  
3 office, and the coalition. We need answers from the City about  
4 how it will meet its deadlines, and we need accountability for  
5 the violations of the decree that are happening in front of us.

6 Judge, for all of this, we need your help and the  
7 power of the Court. We are counting on that power to ensure  
8 that in this generation, the promise of change for the  
9 department is finally kept. Thank you, Judge, for arranging  
10 these hearings. And I want to thank all of the people who plan  
11 to speak today and tomorrow.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you as well. I really  
13 appreciate all the comments from counsel today. So I thank  
14 you.

15 With that, we are going to move to the first member of  
16 the public, and so speaker No. 1, you will be admitted into the  
17 speaker's room now, and we'll await your comments. So thank  
18 you.

19 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, I am checking to see what is  
20 happening.

21 THE COURT: Thank you. My technological capabilities  
22 may not be as good as yours and the host's, so I appreciate  
23 your checking on that. Thank you.

24 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, I would suggest that we move  
25 to speaker number two. I don't think it's a technological

1 thing. I think perhaps speaker one has been unable to join yet  
2 and we'll then move speaker No. 1 to the end of the queue so  
3 they will have an opportunity to speak at the end.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Very well. So, if we could admit,  
5 then, speaker No. 2 into the participant room, that would be  
6 appreciated. Thank you.

7 MS. FRAADE: Hi. Hello. My name is Rachel Fraade. I  
8 am a social worker here in Chicago and I was present at the  
9 Decolonize Chicago protest at Buckingham Fountain and later  
10 moving on to Grant Park. At Grant Park, police brutalized our  
11 crowd of protesters. I was personally pepper sprayed and tear  
12 gassed. The burning continued for hours all over my body.  
13 Over and over I could see Chicagoans who could not see, who  
14 could not breathe. I couldn't spray water into people's eyes  
15 fast enough to soothe the burning, and everywhere I looked,  
16 people were calling for medics. At the front of my line were  
17 people with bikes. Cops stole the bikes and threw these bikes  
18 to the ground and were purposely breaking them. As I left, I  
19 saw piles of bikes twisted and stolen, which took away people's  
20 primary form of transportation, only because they were used to  
21 protect us from the violence we knew the police were about to  
22 bring upon us if they got through the line of bikes.

23 And we were correct. The police pepper sprayed us,  
24 tear gassed us, and beat us with batons. They pointed to  
25 people in the crowd. I saw our protective line, and they were

1 marking their perceived leaders to later target for violence or  
2 arrest. I saw one medic -- and at every protest medics are  
3 clearly marked as such -- with blood streaming from their head  
4 due to a baton strike. I also saw at least one other  
5 individual with blood streaming from their head. I saw people  
6 who could barely move, who could barely see because they had  
7 been pepper sprayed so badly. When I was tear gassed, I had  
8 mucous streaming from my nose and my mouth. I could not stop  
9 coughing even through my mask. And all of this was in quarters  
10 we were enclosed into in the middle of a pandemic that is  
11 spread through respiratory droplets, so the police  
12 substantially increased all of our risk of contracting  
13 potentially deadly COVID-19.

14           Eventually, we retreated. And if you have ever been  
15 in Grant Park, you know that the way out is over a hill and  
16 over a stone wall. Cops pushed us up this hill and over a  
17 stone wall as we walked backwards. We were facing them in  
18 order to make sure we could protect ourselves. So we were  
19 walking backwards up a hill and over a stone wall after we had  
20 been beaten, pepper sprayed and tear gassed, and otherwise  
21 traumatized, and they were beating us even more because we  
22 weren't moving fast enough.

23           They beat people who tripped as they were walking up  
24 the hill. They beat people as they were trying to step  
25 backward over a stone wall. And, again, we were retreating.

1 We were leaving the park and this was not enough for the  
2 police. They were inflicting purposeful, unnecessary violence  
3 against injured protesters. This was not in the interest of  
4 anyone's safety. This was in the interest of a statue on  
5 public land, in fact on unceded Native American land, which we  
6 had every constitutional right to protest.

7           When we left Grant Park they continued to chase us  
8 with pepper spray and threats, and for blocks afterwards,  
9 despite our visible injuries as we were fleeing. Police were  
10 beating people who could not see where they were going because  
11 of the tear gas in their eyes. Their eyes were swollen, tears  
12 streaming down their faces, clearly and visibly unable to see  
13 and walk quickly, and yet they walked behind them with batons.  
14 I was simultaneously fleeing, bringing others along in my arms,  
15 and spraying water into our eyes because the police would not  
16 stop beating us.

17           THE COURT: Thank you very much for your comments. I  
18 do appreciate it. I can't actually see the red markers, but I  
19 think we are ready to move on to speaker No. 3, please.

20           MR. LEWIS: Hello, your Honor, and all other  
21 listeners. I am Djimon Lewis, a college student at Illinois  
22 State University, and I was at the protest on July 17th at  
23 Buckingham Fountain, and then moving up the street to the  
24 Columbus statue. And I came there in support of Black Lives  
25 Matter to protest a fascist statue commemorating Benito

1 Mussolini on unceded land.

2 By the time we left the fountain and marched up the  
3 street, there was a considerable police presence, but  
4 everything was peaceful as we intended. Then we got to the  
5 statue and immediately we were met with forceful resistance.  
6 Cops were shoving and pushing people that were in the front  
7 line back.

8 I saw multiple cops grab objects and push protesters  
9 and try to hit them with it. The first thing I remember seeing  
10 in detail that really kind of traumatized me was I saw an  
11 officer literally grab a protester, push him down the hill, and  
12 then they started shoving people on the hill without warning.

13 I saw another police officer tackle a protester who  
14 was (unintelligible) another protester, as they tried to take  
15 the statue from peaceful protesters. And I saw the person who  
16 had gotten tackled beaten in their head with a baton until they  
17 were bleeding profusely. And the officer did not remove  
18 himself until after the person was clearly incapacitated. And  
19 no other officers removed that officer, either.

20 Within seconds of that incident, from my advantage  
21 point, because I had moved, I was shoved back to a vantage  
22 point on the hill to create space because I was not with any  
23 other protester that could protect me. I did not know anybody.  
24 I saw an officer try to punch a person with a bike in the face,  
25 while trying to grab the bike from them, and then pepper

1 spraying them directly in the face.

2           Once they pepper sprayed the person directly in the  
3 face, they grabbed their bike, hit them with it, and then  
4 tossed the bike into another pile of bikes, effectively  
5 breaking it and taking their property. The next thing I saw  
6 from my vantage point before I was forced to flee because of  
7 tear gas and forced to flee the scene with other protestors  
8 back and up and over the hill, I saw an officer taunting  
9 protestors with his badge number and name covered, repeatedly  
10 calling protestors expletives and using foul language.

11           I was increasingly getting scared of the situation  
12 because it looked so brutal. There were multiple people  
13 suffering from wounds, bleeding profusely from their noses and  
14 their heads, getting beat indiscriminately with batons, and I  
15 felt the need to try to create a space, a barrier between  
16 myself and the other police officers with the other protestors  
17 who were also being teargassed and beaten.

18           I saw another person who -- I actually saw this person  
19 on the way to safely leaving the area; they were getting their  
20 heads wrapped. And that was just among the things I have seen.

21           THE COURT: Thank you for your comments. I really  
22 appreciate it.

23           I think we're ready to move to the fourth speaker  
24 then, please.

25           MS. KAFURA: My name is Cailie Kafura. I use she/her

1 pronouns. I am 27 years old. I am with Rising Tide Chicago  
2 and I work as a nanny.

3 On July 17th, young folks from across Chicago arrived  
4 at the Columbus statue to make a change that the City of  
5 Chicago was too racist to make themselves: To remove a statue  
6 of a colonizer who committed genocide and enslaved people.  
7 What followed was nothing less than an atrocity as the Chicago  
8 Police Department, who pretends to protect and serve the people  
9 of this city, unleashed violence that has left our entire  
10 community traumatized.

11 CPD used batons to repeatedly beat folks to the point  
12 where blood was pouring down the faces of my friends and their  
13 shirts changed color. Medics providing urgent first aid to  
14 people were also beaten or dragged away from the severely  
15 injured by the police.

16 Friends of mine were teargassed and pepper sprayed at  
17 point blank until they were burned, blinded, and throwing up.  
18 Some were left to sit in jail while experiencing this  
19 excruciating pain without any medical attention whatsoever.

20 CPD ripped bikes from the hands of people who depended  
21 on them as their only means to get them to work, and then used  
22 them as weapons against those very same people. Some folks who  
23 tried to document these abuses faced retaliation in the form of  
24 being punched and shoved by CPD. The police who did not beat  
25 anyone stood by and grimaced as their colleagues broke many

1 laws that they're supposedly supposed to uphold.

2 This is why we say that there are no good cops.  
3 Adding absolute injury -- adding insult to injury, numerous  
4 people who were arrested went missing in the system as the  
5 police refused them phone calls, food, water, medical  
6 attention, and did not even fill out paperwork for hours so we  
7 could not find our friends and family.

8 A reminder that the Chicago Police Department unleashed  
9 all of this violence on to their own Chicagoans --  
10 (unintelligible due to audio breaking up) -- all to protect a  
11 statue of a colonizer. All of my friends are still traumatized  
12 from that day and all of the countless days that CPD and Lori  
13 Lightfoot have been collaborating on kettling, trapping,  
14 beating, macing, and dehumanizing us on the streets of Chicago.  
15 Young Black and Brown folks are being brutalized for literally  
16 protesting police brutality.

17 The actions of the police and the City should  
18 demonstrate to you all exactly why we need far more than  
19 reform. We need you all to actually listen, actually act,  
20 defund and abolish CPD because blue lives murder and Black  
21 lives fucking matter.

22 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments.

23 We can move on to speaker 5, please.

24 MS. SALEH: Hello. Can you hear me?

25 THE COURT: Yes, we can. Thank you.

1 MS. SALEH: I apologize. I am having some technical  
2 issues. Good afternoon, your Honor, and everyone present to  
3 give their testimony in this historical moment of power for  
4 Black and Brown youth organizers.

5 My name is Mariam Saleh. My pronouns are she and her.  
6 I'm a 24-year-old Palestinian organizer speaking on behalf of  
7 the Black Lives Community Coalition. It is a new group founded  
8 by my friend Ken Davis that focuses on empowering and  
9 protecting Black and Brown communities throughout Lake County  
10 through policy, training, change and community.

11 I am a Palestinian Muslim with refugee parents, and  
12 I've been involved my entire life in liberation work and have  
13 spent the last six years in Chicago organizing with groups such  
14 as VJPSOT, Chicago Rights, and various others. The parallels  
15 of genocide and systemic oppression against Black people in  
16 America, particularly at the hands of law enforcement, and  
17 Palestinians under Israeli occupation are disturbingly similar.

18 On Friday, July 17th, I attended the rally for Black  
19 and Indigenous Solidarity to stand against police brutality on  
20 both local and national levels. When I arrived, the crowd was  
21 gathered around the Buckingham Fountain. As we walked toward  
22 the statue, CPD arrived in riot gear guarding the statue in  
23 masses. I was in front of the crowd when the violence of the  
24 police erupted. Without warning, CPD began to strike dozens of  
25 peaceful protesters in the head and all over their bodies with

1 batons to the point of severe injury. Even as protesters tried  
2 to disperse, CPD kept on hitting with batons. The majority of  
3 the faces I saw with bloody heads were Black.

4 As we ran away, we were gassed, which made it hard to  
5 breathe. I choked on thick chemicals that were burning in my  
6 eyes. Moments later they began to aggressively spray everyone  
7 in the face with mace in front of me, including one of my close  
8 friends. A mixture of mace and tear gas made it increasingly  
9 difficult to breathe and see, and I witnessed them steal  
10 protest marshals' bikes and throw them at youth activists.

11 In 2018 the American Public Health Association  
12 revealed that police brutality is an epidemic at this time.  
13 The military provides police with close to \$800 million  
14 annually, and this continues the oppression towards the Black  
15 and Brown community. Outside of this protest, my experiences  
16 with law enforcement include militarized police presences in  
17 many public areas, as well as sexual harassment from CPD in  
18 those spaces, and as well as on-the-ground protesting.

19 My experiences at the rally were not the first time I  
20 have witnessed this disproportionate violence at the hands of  
21 the authorities. However, since that Friday, my mental health  
22 has drastically declined as it was a re-traumatizing  
23 experience. The excessive funding given to CPD makes it  
24 further unlikely to get help. We know that crime is not  
25 committed out of a vacuum. It is imperative that we fund

1 social institutions to prevent crime.

2 \$95 million should not be given to fund the cop  
3 academy in Garfield Park. Already that's a hotspot for law  
4 enforcement. That money needs to be redistributed to Black and  
5 Brown communities where over 54 schools and 6 mental health  
6 facilities were closed under Rahm's administration. We need to  
7 abolish policing systems and defund the police to stop the  
8 cycle of crime and invest in the communities themselves  
9 instead.

10 Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak.

11 THE COURT: Thank you very much for participating. I  
12 think we are up to Speaker No. 6, so if that person can be  
13 admitted to the room.

14 (Pause in proceedings.)

15 MS. SHEMANSKI: Hello. My name is Aimee Shemanski. I  
16 am a resident of the 46th Ward in Chicago, and I have heard a  
17 lot of people talk about the protest in later July. I would  
18 actually like to talk about earlier on, my experience on  
19 May 30th. So very -- I think one of the first ones.

20 My partner and I, we arrived near the river at about  
21 5:00, 5:30, and things were still mostly peaceful, but somewhat  
22 rowdy. And between about 5:30 and 6:30, there was steadily  
23 escalate -- there was a steady escalation of really just  
24 sentiments. And at every step of the way, it was CPD that  
25 would kind of instigate this escalation.

1           We were near the front of the line, directly face to  
2 face with officers. And I noticed to my left a tall, white  
3 gentleman in, like, a black zip-up that seemed to actually know  
4 the officers. He wasn't -- he didn't seem to be part of the  
5 protest, and he was actually leaning forward and chatting with  
6 the officers, which was quite difficult to do with the volume.  
7 And they were doing everything they could to incite panic, but  
8 this man really stood out to me because he later dropped, like,  
9 a smoke bomb, and it was, like, yellow-colored. It was just  
10 like a cheap thing from any roadside stand that you could get  
11 in Indiana, and it was really designed to incite panic.

12           As the situation started to escalate, we watched them  
13 push the line back. And they singled out a woman who had been  
14 yelling quite loudly on my right. And as they were pushing us  
15 back, pushing us back, we climbed up on the cement planters  
16 that were there in the plaza that groups of people were  
17 standing on. And they singled her out specifically, and they  
18 kind of manhandled her, physically. wrapped their arms around  
19 her. And I watched her, really, be thrown to the ground. And  
20 when she rose her hands were bloodied and dirtied, as well as  
21 her knees.

22           We moved on. They started to funnel us up the street.  
23 And as we went up the street, we were following one of the  
24 leaders, one of the organizers of the protest, and we could  
25 hear it escalating behind us. And as we heard shouting and

1 then, like, a loud crash, we decided to duck out through an  
2 alley. And at the end, we -- I heard, like, three loud pop,  
3 pop, pop.

4 And I grew up with guns around. It sounded like  
5 gunshots. I believe they were nonlethal rubber bullets because  
6 I didn't see anything about protesters being actually shot in  
7 the news. And it continued to escalate from there over the rest  
8 of the night, but absolute terror in that moment. People  
9 shouted about shots being fired and just ran.

10 Thank you.

11 THE COURT: Thank you very much for your comments.

12 I think we're up to No. 7 now, please.

13 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, if you want to move on to No.  
14 8, it does not appear that No. 7 is on the line or in the  
15 queue. We will add them to the end.

16 THE COURT: Thank you. I am just looking at my  
17 attendance list too, and I'm seeing the same. So we'll go ahead  
18 and skip over No. 7 for the moment and move on to speaker No.  
19 8, please.

20 (Pause.)

21 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, we are going to have to move  
22 to No. 9.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. So we're up to No. 9,  
24 and we'll leave 1, 7, and 8 in the queue for the end of the  
25 proceeding today.

1 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, if you want to move to  
2 No. 10, I know No. 10 is ready. I am sorry. I'm only looking  
3 down because I am trying to monitor the speakers in the queue.

4 THE COURT: I appreciate that. And I am also trying  
5 to keep track of where to pick up again when we get through the  
6 45th for today. So we'll move on to speaker No. 10, please.

7 MS. HICKEY: And I am doing the same, your Honor, so I  
8 can help cue you at the end.

9 THE COURT: Wonderful. Thank you. Thank you very much.

10 MR. MICHAEL KAISER-NYMAN: Hi. Thanks for letting me  
11 speak at this session. Thanks for holding this session.

12 I went to a number of protests in -- mostly in the two  
13 weeks or so directly after George Floyd's murder, and wanted to  
14 share a few things that I experienced and that I saw there.

15 Some of the protests I went to were in the downtown  
16 area, some were on the north side, and some were on the south  
17 side. And kind of reflecting on my experience, one of the first  
18 really shocking things, or maybe not so shocking for some of  
19 us, is just the dramatically different police response at these  
20 events.

21 One of the events I went to on the north side was in a  
22 relatively affluent white neighborhood. And there were -- I am  
23 not a professional at this, there were maybe 1,000, 2,000  
24 people there, and I saw five officers the entire time I was  
25 there. And that was a really nice change from the protests that

1 I had been at downtown and on the south side, where at times it  
2 felt like there were more police officers than protesters.

3 And, you know, as somebody who doesn't face a lot of  
4 police in my day-to-day life, this was a really stark,  
5 personal, eye-opening experience about the different ways that  
6 people experience police presence depending on where they live  
7 and their race.

8 I was also really surprised at the relatively few  
9 police who wore masks, especially given just the degree to  
10 which we, our city and our state, are suffering from the  
11 pandemic. I was pleasantly surprised that I almost never saw  
12 protesters without masks. I was very disappointed that I, in  
13 the first week or so of the protests, I almost never saw police  
14 masks. As they continued, I did see some with masks, but I  
15 would estimate maybe 10 percent of police who were wearing  
16 masks. And these are from people who are supposed to be  
17 keeping us safe and they were putting our health at risk.

18 Most of the time that I was involved in the protests,  
19 I personally did not feel unsafe. The times that I felt most  
20 unsafe were the times I was around the police. When I was  
21 around police wearing riot gear, when I was around police who  
22 had helmets on, face shields down, that was when, to me  
23 personally, the protests felt most unsafe. I never felt unsafe  
24 around any of the other protesters, but when there was this  
25 militarized response from the police, I felt like anything bad

1 could happen at any particular moment and it was really nerve  
2 wracking.

3           The only time that I felt like there was a real,  
4 immediate, present possibility of violence and danger was at a  
5 protest that was ending around -- around sunset. And as the  
6 protest was concluding, some of the protests -- what seemed  
7 like organizers were encouraging us to move along more quickly.  
8 And then I realized it was because we were getting close to the  
9 curfew time. And as the protest was wrapping up (no audio)...

10           MS. HICKEY: It appears, your Honor, that Michael  
11 Kaiser-Nyman's internet went out, but he was also out of time.  
12 So we can move on to the next speaker, No. 11.

13           THE COURT: Very well. Thank you. So if we could  
14 admit speaker 11, please.

15           MR. EUGENIO: I am J. Michael Eugenio. I use he/they  
16 pronouns. I am (inaudible) mixed and I work at a community  
17 non-profit in Woodlawn. On July 17th at the Black and  
18 Indigenous Solidarity rally, I won't ever forget the look on  
19 their faces, the gleeful rage and vitriol as they ripped the  
20 mask off my friends' faces to pepper spray them. She had to  
21 quarantine after that for fear of exposure because, obviously,  
22 we later found out they sprayed before it was authorized over  
23 the scanner.

24           I won't forget the callous cheers in which they hit a  
25 stranger in the head with a baton and then ripped her bike

1 away -- she had put herself between a police officer and a  
2 baton because they were targeting Black youth because there was  
3 someone recording them beating someone else. They then threw  
4 the bike onto another protester, and looking back at us with a  
5 wink as another officer picked up the bike to stomp on it  
6 before adding it to the growing pile. The pile of bikes has  
7 yet to be returned to protesters.

8 I won't forget the frenzied stare-down as a white  
9 shirt pulled a knife out to slash bike tires and his clear  
10 frustration that protesters were the ones who had to  
11 de-escalate the situation. I won't forget the tinge of regret  
12 in their eyes as they realized how much spray they deployed,  
13 choking on spray only to look and see how much they made us  
14 suffer, and banned by the Geneva Convention. We weren't  
15 prepared. Laughing through their coughs.

16 I especially won't forget a few faces, blank faces of  
17 the cops as they stood behind fearful and in awe of what their  
18 fellow officers were capable of. Just last week that same  
19 disaffected disdain I saw on the grin of a white-shirt officer,  
20 no badge, no body cam, as they tried to rush through a barrier  
21 to get to the young Black organizer rallying against CPD's  
22 shooting a Black youth and giving him a million dollars bail.  
23 That officer was clearly frustrated when officers protected the  
24 protesters, though just the next day they illegally chased,  
25 kettled, sprayed, beat, threatened with the barrel of a rifle,

1 arrested, and sexually harassed many of those same organizers.

2 And earlier that week, some of those young Black women  
3 later joking with their abusers. All of these people were  
4 expressing their First Amendment rights, standing in public  
5 parks and streets protesting that systemic abuse, police  
6 brutality, the lack of compassion and the lack of  
7 accountability.

8 I have a hard time sleeping. I have a hard time  
9 working and focusing. I keep thinking back to their looks of  
10 absolute vitriol, the searing gas on my skin. They don't see  
11 as human much less as someone to protect. or serve. My mouth  
12 and throat were full of ulcers, worrying that they will kill  
13 and lie the same way they did from Fred Hampton to Laquan  
14 McDonald. At least Rahm could acknowledge, after years of  
15 pushing, how racist CPD is.

16 How long will it take Lori to make that  
17 acknowledgment? How many will have to suffer? How long will  
18 she continue to value property over people? It makes me sorry  
19 to be a Chicagoan. It shows me there is absolutely nothing to  
20 reform the system.

21 Much of what I have described and I have seen and  
22 heard about so, so much more goes against the extremely  
23 incremental. consent decree. Even if we met all of its  
24 measures, I don't think we'll be safe right now. I keep on  
25 because. I know how much more others have suffered. We must

1 defund and abolish CPD. There's -- there's no saving it. We  
2 must protect Black lives. We should be building the city we  
3 wish to save, not wasting our time reacting to its oppression.  
4 Thank you.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you for your comments.

6 I think we are up to No. 12 now. Is that right?

7 MS. HICKEY: That's correct, your Honor.

8 MR. GEORGE: Hello. Thank you, your Honor. Thank you  
9 everyone and thank you everyone present. My name is Landon  
10 George. I use he pronouns. I am a farmer and musician. I lost  
11 my job as a musician in North Carolina. What I did was I came  
12 up to Wisconsin to start work on farm.

13 While in Wisconsin, we sell our produce at farmers'  
14 markets in Chicago, so I would frequent the city every weekend,  
15 usually Friday through Sunday. I was in Chicago, and I heard  
16 about the rally that was going on at the Buckingham Fountain on  
17 the 17th of July. I appeared at this rally. What I saw was  
18 atrocious and it is making me shake just thinking about it.

19 We started at Buckingham Fountain. Everybody was  
20 getting ready, getting excited, talking about justice. But  
21 when we moved to Grant Park to -- (audio breaking up) -- the  
22 entire mass of the movement, they were pushing us up. It felt  
23 being -- like I said, I am a farm worker and it literally felt  
24 like I was kettled and pushed by these cops who were heavily  
25 armed and in riot gear.

1           When we got to the monument of Columbus, the first  
2 thing I saw was cops grabbing people's bikes, throwing them  
3 against the ground, throwing them at the people who owned the  
4 bikes. (Audio breaking up) -- forced them -- I had to stop  
5 (inaudible) -- on the ground (inaudible). The cop grabbed my  
6 neck and threw me to the ground. Why did you do that? The next  
7 thing I know we're at the protest. Everybody stands up around  
8 us. The police (inaudible) and literally the blood (inaudible).

9           These guys wanted violence and they wanted blood and  
10 they got that pretty soon. You can see the scar on my head.  
11 This is the scar that I got from a baton to the head from the  
12 CPD. It was the same guy who grabbed me by the neck. And I  
13 guess he had something to prove. When I got hit by the baton.  
14 in the head, I couldn't see anything. Blood covered my eyes  
15 and face. I was rushed back by unknown people, helped by  
16 strangers, and my head got wrapped. I then got back to my truck  
17 and drove all of the way to Wisconsin. This kind of violence is  
18 insane because it is happening to good citizens. I don't know  
19 what else to say, but we have to defund this.

20           THE COURT: Thank you for your comments. I am sorry we  
21 didn't catch them all, but we caught as many as we could. But  
22 thank you.

23           I think we're to No. 13, please.

24           (Pause.)

25           MS. WISE: Hi, everyone. Can you hear me?

1 THE COURT: Yes, we can hear you. Thank you.

2 MS. WISE: Okay. Hi. Thank you for having me. My name  
3 is Jeannine Wise. I am 45 years old. I live in Chicago and I  
4 am a chef and a culinary instructor. I just wanted to note that  
5 it was very traumatizing to hear from the attorneys from the  
6 City defending the CPD. That was very painful.

7 So on May 30th I went to peacefully protest the murder  
8 of George Floyd, and to put myself between Black people and the  
9 police because I believe that Black lives matter. In the  
10 afternoon, I ended up on the Wabash bridge. The police formed a  
11 line and had horses behind them. And they did not call to  
12 disperse at that time.

13 I was between the police and some Black people that I  
14 didn't know. And the police -- there was an officer pushing  
15 into my chest horizontally with a baton like this, and he was  
16 pushing me very, very hard. And I was afraid of stumbling. I  
17 was trying to hold my ground, but I wasn't fighting. I never  
18 raised my voice. And I was afraid that I was going to fall on  
19 the ground and get trampled because the police were advancing,  
20 but also because of how much it hurt to have the baton pushed  
21 into my ribcage and my chest.

22 I asked him to stop and he wouldn't. He kept shoving  
23 me. So I put my hands up. I thought he would stop if I was  
24 protecting myself, but he shoved the baton into the fingers of  
25 my bone and was pushing with his body weight. And so I screamed

1 and I said, "Stop. Please stop." So he gave me a look, and he  
2 jumped to a person next to me, which was a Black person and  
3 started shoving him even harder. And I said, "Stop. Stop.  
4 Please stop."

5 And the police officer next to him looked at me and  
6 said, "You want to be in it. Now you're in it." And he  
7 grabbed me by my neck and he lifted me up, and I flew. I went  
8 airborne by my neck. He dragged me backwards so quickly that my  
9 shoe flew off and my hat flew off. He dragged me down the  
10 street through horse poop so hard that my back was scraped up  
11 and bleeding. And then two other officers jumped on me and I  
12 was screaming, "Stop. You got me. You got me. You won."

13 They put me in zip ties. I sat on the curb of the  
14 Trump Tower for three hours. They -- this is when the bridge  
15 went up. I sat on a sheriff's bus for three hours. They took us  
16 to Belmont and Western, didn't let us in, had no females.  
17 Didn't tell the females that we were there, to process us. I  
18 was in zip ties for six hours, very tight.

19 They told us if we didn't want to be arrested, we  
20 shouldn't have burned the city down. None of us had been  
21 involved in any burning or looting or anything. Then I was in  
22 jail for the night. My name cleared at 3:00, I had no warrants,  
23 at 3:00 in the morning. They wouldn't let me out until 8:00.  
24 To this day I have no idea if I have been charged with  
25 anything. They said it would be disorderly. conduct. It was

1 terrifying. It was brutal. It was traumatic. And it was  
2 uncalled for.

3 Thank you for your time. Thank you for hearing me.

4 THE COURT: Thank you for your participation. I  
5 appreciate it.

6 I think we are at No. 14.

7 And just so everybody knows, at 3 o'clock we are going  
8 to take a break for 15 minutes. We are going to switch court  
9 reporters at that time, and so we'll keep going until then in  
10 the speaker queue. And we are at No. 14. So if 14 could be  
11 brought in as a participant, please.

12 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, my understanding is that 14  
13 is not in the queue, so we are going to go to No. 15, who is  
14 ready. And we'll add 14 to the end and recall them, if they  
15 possibly then have a better internet connection.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. So we are up to No. 15,  
17 then.

18 MS. HICKEY: Correct, your Honor.

19 MS. POCHEL: Hi. My name is Janie Pochel. I am from  
20 Chicago. I live in Albany Park. I was at the July 17th rally,  
21 the solidarity rally. As we got to the statue, I saw the police  
22 just started beating people, to me it seemed like for no  
23 reason.

24 As people started -- as the police started coming on  
25 there was a hill -- I was with children. I work with the youth

1 group, so I was with kids. The youngest one was eight. She was  
2 up on the hill on Roosevelt. And that's where a lot of the  
3 young people, a lot of the disabled people, people trying to  
4 run from the police violence were being pushed onto the street  
5 towards Lakeshore Drive because they were -- they were, like,  
6 kettling us into that area.

7           As they jumped over the barricade, they just started  
8 indiscriminately beating people. My eight-year-old niece got  
9 pepper sprayed. They watched police just start punching people  
10 in the face. We all watched them just punching people in the  
11 face for no reason, just for being there, for practicing their  
12 rights.

13           We stayed just a little while longer because we  
14 couldn't get out because the police were forcing us back and  
15 pepper spraying people as they were trying to escape. My niece  
16 has had a hard time sleeping. They are severely traumatized.  
17 They cry every time they see a cop now. I didn't think that  
18 our -- it was a nice rally. It was a good time and then the  
19 police violence just really made that a hard thing.

20           And even before that, on May 30th, the police were  
21 pulling people's masks off. After that, they just, you know, at  
22 the July 17th, I was with other kids. Some of them had asthma.  
23 And it was the same thing that we have heard over and over  
24 again. The police were just beating people for basically no  
25 reason. And, yeah, that's all. That's all I have to say. Thank

1 you.

2 THE COURT: Thank you, very much.

3 No. 16, I believe. I think I see that she is in the  
4 queue here. So we can go ahead with No. 16, please.

5 MS. SCOTT: Hello. My name is Caroline Scott. I am  
6 24 years old and I use she/her pronouns, and I attended the  
7 July 17th solidarity rally at Buckingham Fountain and the  
8 subsequent. march to Grant Park.

9 When we approached the Columbus statue, I saw hordes  
10 of police cars coming. I was facing Lake Shore Drive. So they  
11 asked for white people to come to the front. So I joined a  
12 front line with white protesters, many of whom had bikes.

13 Initially, some CPD officers came up to us; none of  
14 them were wearing masks. They were in full riot gear. They saw  
15 us. They turned around to another side. Then a few minutes  
16 later they came back. And at the line of white people there was  
17 one Black man who was not with the line. When they came back  
18 and saw this line of white people, they went for the Black man  
19 at the end of the line. They grabbed him. He jumped back when  
20 they grabbed at him for simply standing, you know, with the  
21 protestors. You know, he jumped back. They grabbed him. There  
22 were three officers on him, pulled him to the ground face down  
23 and then arrested him and took him away. In a line of white  
24 people, they went after the one Black man.

25 After that, officers -- a couple of officers stayed

1 with us, and then most of the action was coming from the other  
2 side. At that point, I started to feel the tear gas, even  
3 though it was coming from about probably about 100 feet away.  
4 You know, breathing became more difficult. My eyes started to  
5 burn.

6           Then I saw a cop teargas three people about six feet  
7 away from me. At that point, the tear gas became very  
8 aggressive. I couldn't breathe. None of us could breathe. We  
9 all needed to back up. We were coughing. We had to take off  
10 our masks. Like I said earlier, no police were wearing masks.  
11 We needed to share water. All of this was extremely dangerous  
12 given the conditions of the pandemic, but we could not breathe.  
13 My skin was burning. My eyes were burning. And we had to  
14 recover. And then at that point, we started to push back.

15           And there was no verbal warning from police at all of  
16 any of their activity. When we were pushing back, I was waiting  
17 for one of my friends who I was with who had a bike and her  
18 bike was damaged. I was waiting for her to join us. I had a  
19 police officer scream at me to walk faster. Eventually we were,  
20 you know, pushed back up against the -- going up the hill.

21           But, again, I will note that there was no verbal  
22 indication from CPD officers. It was organizers telling us to  
23 back up and organizing us to back up. Whereas, police officers  
24 were simply approaching.

25           When I joined other people as we moved back, I saw so

1 many people who were bloody and beaten. Once we got back onto  
2 the street, police did start kettling, and at that point me and  
3 the people who I was with, we left.

4 When we got home, I was washing my mouth out with this  
5 red poison for about five minutes. I took a shower the next  
6 day when I woke up, my arms were still burning. And I was  
7 still spitting out poison from my mouth. And that was my  
8 experience while exercising my constitutional right to protest.

9 THE COURT: Thank you very much for your comments. I  
10 appreciate it.

11 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, at this time No. 17 and 18  
12 are not in the queue. So if you want to go to No. 19.

13 THE COURT: Very good. Thank you. I am starting to  
14 track the same way you are, so I appreciate you  
15 double-checking. We'll go on to No. 19, please. Thank you.

16 MS. PULLEY: Hi. Thank you for having these public  
17 hearings. I was at the -- I was also at many of the protests  
18 that have happened over the course of the last three months.  
19 And I'm going to limit my comments to discussing what I  
20 personally experienced at the July 17th protest.

21 I was at the protest along with thousands of other  
22 Chicagoans. I was standing at the perimeter of the action in  
23 an attempt to take pictures and video. I was shoved to the  
24 ground and pushed into the people standing in front me by CPD.  
25 I was kicked, shoved, and beaten while simultaneously being

1 yelled at by CPD to move.

2 To provide a fuller picture of the situation that I  
3 was exactly in, and to understand the scope of the physical  
4 impossibilities, I will describe to you very briefly the  
5 parameters. I was leaning against the concrete wall. And in  
6 front of me were thousands of people. The Chicago police then  
7 jumped over this wall yelling at us to move where we had  
8 nowhere to go and then proceeded to shove us to the ground,  
9 kick us, and beat us.

10 Under no just society was this reasonable, nor was it  
11 in keeping with our supposed constitutionally protected rights  
12 to freedom of assembly, to petition the government for redress  
13 of grievances, and protecting our freedom of speech, all of  
14 which are found in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

15 When I was finally able to get up, I witnessed the  
16 police spraying unknown chemical agents of varying colors --  
17 they were yellow and they were white -- directly into people's  
18 faces. I saw one person's entirely formerly white shirt dyed  
19 red because of the gashing wounds that were bleeding profusely  
20 out of his head.

21 I saw people collapsed on the ground unable to get up  
22 because they were being beaten by a baton. I then could not  
23 breathe because I started inhaling the toxic chemical agents in  
24 the air and had to grab strangers who were next to me in order  
25 to stabilize myself.

1 CPD is under the consent decree, but they do not  
2 believe that it is real and that it has any effect on their  
3 operating. Their behavior has increased in violence, continuing  
4 the unconstitutional pattern and practice of racist behavior  
5 that prompted the consent decree in the first place and that  
6 were found in the report by the Department of Justice. There  
7 has been zero change to their behavior.

8 And I implore the Court to understand that even during  
9 the consent decree, CPD violence has increased, not decreased.  
10 If this occurred in any other country, this would produce deep  
11 condemnation and scorn for the country's populations, and  
12 nothing has been produced out of that because the story of what  
13 we are experiencing is not being told.

14 During this consent decree, there has been no  
15 consequence for CPD for the brutality, for these violations of  
16 our human rights, and we must then ask, is this consent decree  
17 going to be a cover for an illusion of change, or is it going  
18 to actually produce change felt on ground by everyday people in  
19 Chicago?

20 How many of us have to die? How many of us have to be  
21 beaten? How many of us have to be tortured? How many of us  
22 have to be ignored before change occurs? How many of us will  
23 be unable to breathe like George Floyd, like so many of us who  
24 were pepper sprayed and couldn't breathe at the protest? How  
25 many of us will continue to have to relive this trauma again

1 and again because this fight is not about a choice? It is  
2 about our actual lives. It's about survival.

3 We will continue to be beaten while we are trying to  
4 save our lives, but will the Court intervene? Now is the time  
5 for the Court to intervene and be on the side of justice.  
6 History is watching our actions closely and will be taking  
7 extreme lessons with every step and misstep that is taken in  
8 this moment.

9 THE COURT: Thank you very much.

10 I think No. 20 is in the queue, so I think we can  
11 please admit No. 20 to the participant list.

12 We do not actually. I think I saw No. 20's name in  
13 there earlier, but I don't see it now.

14 MR. GUILLORY: I am sorry. My name is Kobi Guillory.  
15 I am with the Chicago Alliance against Racism and Political  
16 Suppression and Black Lives Matter Chicago. I was assaulted by  
17 CPD twice over the past few months. The first time was on  
18 May 30th at the protest downtown. I was with a large crowd that  
19 was kettled into a bridge near Trump Tower.

20 For those who don't know, kettling is when the police  
21 barricade a crowd into a very small area and make that area  
22 smaller and smaller and smaller, and during that time they give  
23 these dispersal orders, but they make it impossible for people  
24 to disperse. So that just gives them a chance to brutalize and  
25 make mass arrests on protesters.

1           And personally, I was hit with batons multiple times  
2 over the course of four hours when it was impossible for me to  
3 leave that area.

4           People were being shoved. People were being hit with  
5 batons in the head. I saw one person get pepper sprayed by the  
6 police. Police were making threats to us, verbal threats. Their  
7 badge numbers were covered. Many were not wearing face masks.  
8 And I had marks on my forearms and on my stomach for days after  
9 that, after that event.

10           And then on July 17th, I was teargassed at Grant Park,  
11 and it was like many people are describing. I couldn't see. I  
12 couldn't breathe. The tear gas was in my throat. It was burning  
13 my arms. My shirt was soaked, my facemask was soaked, and so I  
14 was completely discombobulated.

15           And while I was standing there unable to see what was  
16 going on, unable to breathe, a police officer shoved me to the  
17 ground with a baton and threatened to hit me with it. And the  
18 people who helped me were the medics. And I do want to also add  
19 that the medics were targeted by CPD as well. People who are  
20 identified -- who identify themselves visibly as people who are  
21 there to help people, who are there to help keep people safe,  
22 were also being targeted by CPD, were also teargassed, also  
23 beaten, and also had their bikes stolen by CPD.

24           And one thing that other people have mentioned as well  
25 is that all of this is happening during a pandemic. When we

1 have had to listen to the City say for months that there is no  
2 money for protective equipment for nurses, there's no money for  
3 masks for everyone, there's no money to pay for people's  
4 housing during one of the worst economic crises we have seen  
5 since the Great Depression, but they have money to pay officers  
6 overtime so they can brutalize protesters. They have money for  
7 tear gas, but there is no money to keep people safe from this  
8 virus that is killing predominantly or disproportionately Black  
9 and Brown people.

10           So one of the things that was said by the CPD -- I  
11 mean by the City's lawyers at the start of this is we need to  
12 build trust between the communities and the officers or  
13 whatever. And quite frankly, with all due respect, I think  
14 that's bullshit. I think what we need to do is listen to what  
15 the people are actually saying. The people are demanding that  
16 CPD be defunded. That are demanding CPAC so that we can hold  
17 these people responsible for what they are doing to us.

18           The people know how we are going to end this trauma,  
19 so we need to listen to the people. You all need to listen to  
20 the people. because the problem is that we don't have the  
21 control over the police. We don't have control over our own  
22 communities, and that's what we need. We need control. We don't  
23 just need to be providing little pieces of info a minute at a  
24 time. We need to control the situation. Thank you.

25           THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you for your comments.

1 I don't see No. 21.

2 MS. HICKEY: That's correct, your Honor. We want to  
3 move to No. 22.

4 THE COURT: I see 22 and 23 in the queue, though. So  
5 if we could please move on to 22 and 23.

6 MS. BAILE: Hello, can you hear me? Hello. My name is  
7 Charlotte Baile. I am 24. I am a white Jewish woman who works  
8 as a restaurant worker and a professional artist. I have three  
9 counts of police brutality that I would like to speak to.

10 The first was on the big protest to protest George  
11 Floyd's murder on March 30th downtown. I was working as a  
12 marshal, and I was going to help somebody who had had their  
13 pants ripped open by CPD, who were surrounded by six or seven  
14 cops. And I went to go help this person put their pants on and  
15 I was shoved in the chest with a baton, shoved to the ground  
16 and I hit my neck and back, among other things, among being  
17 screamed at and not really given any orders or directions, just  
18 being screamed at.

19 The second was on June 1st, I was caught at the Uptown  
20 at the Wilson Red Line stop. I was one of about seven or eight  
21 white people. There were about 40 or 50 Black people. There  
22 were about 150 riot cops.

23 When the clock struck 9:00, the riot cops. charged us.  
24 There was no order of dispersal. There was just mayhem.  
25 instantly. I remember crouching over a 60-year-old Black man

1 who they were kicking and beating with a baton, maybe four or  
2 five cops at a time beating this man. And when I went over by  
3 him, they hit me on the back of my neck, my back and my legs,  
4 and there was another Black man next to him who kept saying, "I  
5 didn't do anything wrong. I didn't do anything wrong," over and  
6 over again.

7           Later, I would find my friend who had been beaten over  
8 the head multiple times and had her glasses broken into her  
9 scalp and I had to pick glass shards out of her head before she  
10 went to the hospital for a concussion. We found our other  
11 friend who had been beaten so badly he couldn't walk and had a  
12 gash on his leg that would not stop bleeding, and he passed out  
13 from blood loss into my arms before he went to the hospital.

14           And finally, I want to talk about July 17th. I was at  
15 the protest in order to support solidarity, and also to put my  
16 body between CPD and Black and Brown protesters. And I was  
17 gassed three separate times, which had an immediate effect on  
18 me. My throat closed up immediately. There was no coughing. It  
19 was -- my throat closed instantly. and I began to choke and  
20 cough in order to start breathing again. And I couldn't.

21           And I had to crawl on the ground and grab people's  
22 legs in order for them to carry me to the medic encampment  
23 which then got gassed. After I got out of the medical  
24 encampment that got gassed, I pulled contacts from somebody's  
25 eyes who had been pepper sprayed in the face and then I turned

1 around and saw somebody bleeding from the eyes because they had  
2 been pepper sprayed so badly.

3 I cannot ever forget these events. This trauma will  
4 never go away. And I have only started experiencing this two  
5 months ago. This is a drop in the ocean to what other people  
6 have happen to them every single day.

7 Thank you so much for your time.

8 THE COURT: Before you go, can I ask your name and  
9 what number you were? I am sorry. It sounds like that might  
10 have been No. 24.

11 (No audible response from the speaker.)

12 MS. HICKEY: I believe she was No. 22 and her name was  
13 Charlotte Baile. It's the wrong name under 22 that you have on  
14 your list, your Honor. I apologize.

15 And I believe No. 23 is ready.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

17 So No. 23 then. Thank you.

18 No. 23.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Hi. My name is Katie Williams. I am 37  
20 years old. I am a farmer and I am a student.

21 I'm going to speak mostly about my experiences at the  
22 protest on July 17th that ended up at Grant Park. I showed up  
23 to that protest in, like, a silk tank top, some cotton shorts,  
24 with a backpack with a book in it. I had no intention -- I had  
25 no idea what was going to go on. I didn't know where the police

1 were. I didn't know what the protesters were planning on doing,  
2 and I wasn't prepared to protect myself in any way from  
3 anybody.

4           It became obvious that the protesters were going to be  
5 able to get to the statues when they began to throw cans of  
6 water at the police. The police obviously weren't going to be  
7 able to stand there anymore and things were definitely going to  
8 get violent at that point. So when the police left -- left the  
9 statue and left it to the protesters, I was on the front line  
10 of the line of bikes that formed so that the people who were  
11 inside trying to take down the statue were protected, or were  
12 at least distanced from the police.

13           Everybody on the line, everybody on the outside,  
14 everybody that was facing the police, everybody that was facing  
15 all of the police violence that day had done nothing wrong.  
16 They hadn't thrown a single can of water. They had not thrown a  
17 firework. None of them even knew what was going on. I can  
18 promise you that.

19           Everyone next to me was wearing cotton. They brought  
20 their bike. It's the most important thing probably to them in  
21 the week. They just had silly little backpacks on. They were  
22 just out there trying to convince the City that standing behind  
23 a genocidal rapist is not the sort of symbol we want in the  
24 middle of our city.

25           So, anyway, while in the front lines, I got hit in the

1 head with a baton when I was trying to get a police officer to  
2 stop hitting somebody on the ground. A number of police  
3 officers were dragging another person by their hair. Their  
4 hair was getting ripped out. Again, I just tried to ask the  
5 police officers to stop. They shoved me. I got hit again, that  
6 time across the chest. I got dragged by the police. through --  
7 they tried to steal my bicycle. I held onto my bicycle harder  
8 than they thought I was able to which made them very angry and  
9 made a number of them jump on top of me and try to hit me and  
10 get the bike from me.

11 The most painful thing was holding onto the bicycle --  
12 well, the two things were the police hitting me with the baton.  
13 I still can't -- I don't have full movement of this wrist and  
14 hand from where they struck me with the baton. And then the  
15 pepper spray which burned my skin for over 24 hours.

16 So I mean, I guess nobody has talked about so far the  
17 fact that the protesters did throw water cans. at the police  
18 and this is what -- oh, I've got to go, but I just have to say  
19 they were mad at those protesters and they didn't care to seek  
20 any sort of justice for them through any sort of means. And  
21 instead, they decided to beat their way through them, through a  
22 bunch of peaceful protesters.

23 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments.

24 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor --

25 THE COURT: By my count -- I don't see 24, but we're

1 on -- 25 through 28 I do see. Is that what you have, Maggie?

2 MS. HICKEY: That's correct, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: So if we can move through 25, 26, 27 and  
4 28, and then we'll see where we stand with respect to the  
5 3 o'clock break. Okay. So thank you.

6 MS. HICKEY: Thank you, your Honor.

7 MR. KARL: Hello, everyone. Thank you. My name is  
8 Elliott Karl. I am 30 years old, a fourth generation Chicagoan.  
9 A recent master's of public policy graduate from the University  
10 of Chicago. I have been active in the movement for Black lives  
11 since 2015, mostly serving in security roles where I seek to  
12 protect peaceful protestors from the police and the conflicts  
13 that can arise between the two of them. I am trained in  
14 de-escalation and self-defense only.

15 Two years ago I returned to Chicago from Oakland,  
16 California. In California, I often saw officers intimidate and  
17 invoke conflict with protesters, especially when it involved  
18 racism. and police violence. And that's not a surprise. to me.

19 I have, however, been really surprised on how things  
20 have rolled out in my home city, and especially on May 30th and  
21 July 17th.

22 You see, on May 30th, I was surprised to see a 6-foot,  
23 250-pound man, white police officer squeeze his way between a  
24 building and crowd of people and crack a baton on the head of a  
25 five-foot five woman of color. I was surprised to see how

1 blood squirts from someone's head with every heartbeat. I was  
2 surprised because it didn't need to happen and no one was made  
3 more safe.

4 I was later surprised when they shut down public  
5 transportation. and raised bridges. I was surprised it took me  
6 almost two hours running from gangs of police officers downtown  
7 to get back to my bike. so that I could get home. I was  
8 surprised because it didn't have to happen.

9 I was surprised because officers routinely pushed  
10 their bodies up against me in the security roles. They  
11 whispered into my ear telling me to be smart, watch out, get a  
12 real job, and so much more violent, homophobic things. And  
13 these are fellow civil servants who are confused about what  
14 commitment to community looks like.

15 And on July 17th during the Columbus statue protest, I  
16 was especially surprised when I was beaten by the Chicago  
17 police without orders to disperse, without a warning, and  
18 without a route to disperse into. I was standing with other  
19 bike security volunteers forming a barrier between a piece of  
20 property and the people they are sworn to. protect.

21 I was surprised when the mob rushed us -- the mob of  
22 cops rushed us. We couldn't move our bikes fast enough. I was  
23 surprised when they ran with clubs drawn in their hands, our  
24 hands in the air. I watched groups of police officers, five  
25 people deep, beat people who were in fetal positions under

1 their bikes.

2 I was surprised when I was sprayed with pepper spray  
3 in the eyes from two feet away. I was blinded. I couldn't see.  
4 I couldn't get away fast enough or I would have complied. I  
5 would have complied. I couldn't get away. We couldn't get away.  
6 There was no amount of washing that would get the burn off of  
7 my body five hours later.

8 I am surprised by the PTSD. I am surprised by how long  
9 it took the bruises to heal. I am surprised that we were not  
10 able to keep us safer, although we tried and we tried.

11 I am a white man. I am a civil servant. And I am only  
12 sometimes treated like a BLM protester. But this is a movement  
13 being led by Black and Brown youth. And if this could happen  
14 to someone like me, what will happen to them? Who is keeping  
15 them safe? It is not the police.

16 I will not be surprised again. We must defund and  
17 abolish the Chicago Police Department. Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Thank you. We have No. 26, then, please.

19 MR. ANDERSON: Hi. I am Tim Anderson. I am a white  
20 man in my late 30s. I do analytics consulting for a living.

21 I attended the rally on July 17th in solidarity with  
22 the Black and Indigenous youth organizers. The events began  
23 with joyful performances. When I arrived at the Columbus statue  
24 with my bike, people had surrounded the statue and there were  
25 no police. I stopped on the hedge-covered hill leading up to

1 Roosevelt Road. Four minutes later, I noticed a young organizer  
2 on Roosevelt. An officer had knocked out her front teeth and  
3 her face was bloodied.

4 Minutes later, a mob of officers rushed down the hill.  
5 I froze, expecting professionalism. Those around the statue  
6 linked arms for safety. I slowly and calmly moved towards the  
7 officers and stopped, wanting to remain safely. but unsure how.  
8 The officers' angry taunts immediately escalated into  
9 indiscriminate use of shoves, batons, and pepper spray. For the  
10 moment I was spared as officers rushed to join in beating  
11 someone who they had knocked to the ground and dragged away  
12 from the base of the statue.

13 Suddenly an officer shoved me. I moved closer to the  
14 street but was soon confronted by another. Seconds later, he  
15 pushed me. I flew backward receiving bruises and abrasions on  
16 me knees and arms, and he threw my bike into the street. I  
17 collected it and spent the next half hour observing more  
18 abuses, including the arrest of a legal observer and the  
19 confiscation of hundreds of bikes.

20 My heart raced from the trauma for hours. I will be  
21 all right, but not all Chicagoans are. A few years ago, I and  
22 many of my fellow professionals watched as President Obama  
23 highlighted young community organizers. Later we marched with  
24 the March for Our Lives in solidarity with Black and Brown  
25 youth fighting gun violence, police disinvestment in their

1 communities. Their stakes are much higher than mine.

2 Last Saturday, I saw images of many of those same  
3 young organizers, including one who led community outreach for  
4 Mayor Lightfoot, run for their lives from a police riot and  
5 kettling tactics led by Superintendent Brown clad in riot gear.  
6 They seemed to placate the presence of the Chicagoland Chamber  
7 of Commerce and other property management who invoked white  
8 flight earlier in the week if the mayor would not support them.

9 The next morning, CPD released a PR campaign  
10 criminalizing the protesters' exercise of First Amendment  
11 rights in efforts to protect each other in contrast to a failed  
12 action earlier in the day. These are tragic repetitions of  
13 racist processes foundational to policing and won't be  
14 corrected until local budgets get federal relief and  
15 communities take control of the police. Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Thank you very much.

17 I think we are at No. 27, please.

18 MS. BRAUN: Hello. My name is -- can you all hear me?

19 THE COURT: Yes, we can. Thank you.

20 MS. BRAUN: Yeah. Okay. My name is Carly Ann Braun. I  
21 am 27 years old. I use (inaudible) she/her pronouns. The first  
22 incident of police assault I want to talk about happened in  
23 Grant Park on July 17, 2020, in the late afternoon, early  
24 evening. I was linked with another protester and a cop shoved  
25 me to the ground. From the ground I saw my friend, who was

1 clearly marked as a medic, likewise shoved down.

2           Then the cop who had just shoved me to the ground  
3 forcibly pulled me up. He grabbed my left bicep and forcefully  
4 pulled me to my feet. I turned to get my bearings and put my  
5 hands in the air. When another officer in a dark uniform about  
6 20 feet from me sprayed a rust-colored liquid at the right side  
7 of my face, burning both my eyes, my cheek, and most notably  
8 the inside of my ear, which was very, very painful.

9           I turned away and started walking up the hill with a  
10 wet mask covering my mouth and my nose and pepper spray in my  
11 eyes. I was disoriented and trying to fend off the panic,  
12 trying to breathe. I was headed to the street away from the  
13 statue when I realized I was about 10 feet away from another  
14 police officer. And he was standing at the top of a hill  
15 yelling right at me. Mostly blinded, partially deaf, and  
16 struggling to breathe, it was too late when I realized the cop  
17 was telling me to back up, and he pushed me hard in the chest.  
18 I was very confused because wasn't the point of macing me to  
19 get me to leave?

20           When I didn't move fast enough, the officer pushed me  
21 again in the chest, this time seemingly as hard as he could. It  
22 was such a hard push I rolled down the hill. Luckily my friends  
23 found me, washed my eyes, washed my face, and I could see well  
24 enough to watch as we retreated with blue helmeted police  
25 officers spraying people all around me.

1           As my friends and I were leaving, I was shocked by the  
2 attitude of the police officers. As a white person who is  
3 generally treated with a lot respect from police officers,  
4 these police officers were extremely emotionally escalated and  
5 behaved unprofessionally in a way that I could never behave in  
6 my job without receiving serious reprimand.

7           I remember seeing one particularly cruel officer  
8 telling us that we were stupid. And he very notably had a  
9 Black-and-blue-striped band stretched across his badge covering  
10 his ID number.

11           Secondly, on August 16th I attended a protest at  
12 McKinley Park at 2:00 p.m. At the end of the beautiful  
13 family-friendly rally, we marched on to Western, where police  
14 swarmed around us. One officer in a white shirt was yelling at  
15 people to get off the street. He grabbed a guy right next to  
16 me by the elbows, put him in handcuffs saying, "You just walked  
17 right past me. You're getting cuffed," and put him in the back  
18 of a police car.

19           I was incredibly shaken by these experiences because  
20 my whole life until now I was told that police were supposed to  
21 keep me safe, but now I know that they are perfectly willing to  
22 violate my constitutional rights and meet me and other  
23 protestors with excessive force and escalate violence.

24           THE COURT: Thank you very much.

25           I think No. 28 is in the queue as well. So if we could

1 please move on to No. 28.

2 MR. GRAHAM: Hello. Thank you for this opportunity to  
3 speak. And thank you for the many people sharing their  
4 harrowing stories with you.

5 My name is Rick Graham and I am here representing the  
6 Northwest-Siders for Racial Equity and Justice. Our mission is  
7 to educate, engage and mobilize northwest city residents, city  
8 and suburbs alike, in order to ensure rapid and full  
9 implementation of the Chicago police consent decree and build  
10 equity and wide avenues for community. voices and policing.  
11 Our purpose is to ensure that police operations are grounded in  
12 racial equity and that the police are just in their conduct,  
13 and that's difficult right now.

14 As a community-based organization, we work directly  
15 with the northwest-side citizens and civics who report back to  
16 our communities on district progress. We will also coordinate  
17 with other local groups across the city, learning, sharing our  
18 findings, and lending our voices when needed, all with the goal  
19 of ensuring that progress being made by CPD on the consent  
20 decree is comprehensive in scope, citywide in its reach, and  
21 most critically is equitable toward all communities.

22 To the last point, there was a march in my northwest.  
23 side in support of the murder of George Floyd and in support of  
24 the Black Lives Matter movement. CPD officers were on hand, and  
25 over a thousand people. marched. The officers were not

1 carrying any batons in their hands. There were no helmets, no  
2 shields at their arms. Some smiled. Most responded when  
3 greeted. And I can't help contrast our experience of policing  
4 with what I have seen on the news, what you are hearing today,  
5 and doubtless will hear from others in other communities over  
6 these two days.

7 At the very least, Northwest-Siders for Racial Equity  
8 and Justice expect that the monitors of this decree and the  
9 Court will not allow this moment to pass. We expect that  
10 whatever enforcement options that exist in the decree will be  
11 exercised to ensure that changes are made, that all voices are  
12 heard, and that people across this city can experience policing  
13 that is fair and equitable and police officers will both serve  
14 and protect in a just manner.

15 We expect this decree to result in operational  
16 policies that are written, built into officer training, and  
17 enforced to promote racial equity. And we expect a citywide  
18 citizen-led oversight process that will be codified in law in  
19 order to survive changes in leadership.

20 Thank you.

21 THE COURT: Thank you very much for your comments.

22 By my count, we are -- of the next five, we only have  
23 No. 30 in the attendee list at the moment. Do you have the  
24 same, Maggie?

25 MS. HICKEY: I do. No. 30 is ready. I do not see

1 No. 29. I haven't counted ahead as fast as your Honor. I'm  
2 going through it.

3 THE COURT: We'll move on to No. 30 if we can, please,  
4 and we'll keep putting the other folks who we're skipping into  
5 the queue for the second call.

6 So Speaker No. 30 can go ahead, please.

7 Hello, can you hear me?

8 THE COURT: Yes. Thank you.

9 MS. ANTUNEZ: My name is Adriana Antunez. I'm a  
10 resident of Chicago, a college student, and a trained advocate  
11 for survivors. Let's get into it. We came together on July 17th  
12 in solidarity with Black, Brown, Indigenous folks who are being  
13 brutalized by CPD and oppressed by the racist system we live  
14 under. It's a righteous act of protest to tear down symbols of  
15 genocide and white supremacy, especially since our mayor  
16 refused to listen to the people of Chicago.

17 On that day, CPD did what it does best. They protected  
18 property over people. CPD beat and brutalized Black, Brown, and  
19 Indigenous bodies in order to protect a statue of a rapist, a  
20 tyrant, a mass murderer. That's what CPD protected. CPD does  
21 not and do not protect the people of Chicago. The people of  
22 Chicago have to protect themselves from CPD.

23 CPD already had reclaimed ground by the statue when  
24 they further terrorized protesters. I was forced to watch a  
25 fellow protester, a friend, be beaten right in front of me.

1 His hands were in the air. He wasn't resisting. CPD still  
2 beat him. They left bruises on his back. His knee was so  
3 bloody, the blood soaked through his pant leg.

4 Then they advanced. An officer dug his baton into my  
5 chest, ignoring my cries that he was touching my chest, he was  
6 touching my breast. His solution for that was to shove his  
7 baton against my gut before proceeding to shove it into my  
8 chest once again. I felt his fist push into my breasts; I felt  
9 his baton press into my breasts. Then they hosed us down with  
10 pepper spray as if we were rabid dogs, when in fact they were.  
11 CPD pepper sprayed protesters, medics, legal observers during a  
12 pandemic that targets (inaudible). Officers weren't even  
13 wearing masks.

14 I am 22 years old and I now know the shape and color  
15 of a police can of pepper spray. An officer sprayed us from  
16 3 feet in front of us. We were choking on the poison in the  
17 air. People were writhing in the pain. I couldn't help them.  
18 CPD refused to let us help them. We were tripping over each  
19 other and ourselves. trying to get away from them.

20 We were forced by CPD to jump over concrete barriers.  
21 We were shoved by CPD, and when we fell due to their force,  
22 they towered over us and shouted at us to keep moving.

23 I am five-foot two, 105 pounds. CPD left bruises on my  
24 breasts. I had to walk around for days with bruises on my  
25 breast. The pain of being pepper sprayed lasted over five

1 hours despite the multiple showers I took. I threw up in the  
2 shower due to being gassed. It was only after the pain subsided  
3 from being pepper sprayed that I noticed bruises on my legs,  
4 how my knees were scratched in trying to get away from them.

5 And on August 15th, nearly a month after the display  
6 of police officer brutality, police in riot gear once again  
7 gassed and severely injured civilians. Is this who you want in  
8 your schools? You cannot reform your way out of this. Black  
9 lives matter. Defund CPD. Decolonize Chicago.

10 And to the lawyers of the city that stated that we  
11 have to get along with these pigs who beat and brutalize young  
12 people, screw you. Fuck 12. I yield my time.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

14 Maggie, I don't know if you have cross-checked me, but  
15 I am up to 35 as the next one I see in the participant list.

16 MS. HICKEY: That's what I see your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Then let's admit participant 35 into the  
18 participant room please.

19 MR. DICOLA: Can you hear me, your Honor?

20 THE COURT: Yes. Thank you. We can.

21 MR. DICOLA: Good afternoon, your Honor. My name is  
22 Joseph DiCola, and I am a legal-aid attorney in Chicago and a  
23 member of National Lawyers Guild. And -- I work part-time at  
24 the NLG in Chicago as the legal observer administrator.

25 Legal observers, or LOs, are typically lawyers, law

1 students, or legal workers. Legal observers are volunteers who  
2 have completed an attorney-supervised training to observe the  
3 activities of law enforcement in relation to demonstrators  
4 exercising their First Amendment rights. This includes  
5 documenting any arrests, use of force, intimidating display of  
6 force, denial of access to public space, and any other behavior  
7 that tends to restrict demonstrators' ability to express their  
8 political views.

9           When the arrests occur, LOs gather names and contact  
10 information to allow attorneys and loved ones to follow up with  
11 CPD about the arrest. LOs sometimes serve as witnesses in the  
12 criminal or civil proceedings that arise from arrests and  
13 excessive force at protests.

14           We wear bright green hats that say Lawyer National  
15 Guilt Observers. NLG Chicago LOs have observed in all about 60  
16 protests since May 30th. LOs have observed CPD using force not  
17 in self-defense. And I will also note that the majority of  
18 officers refused to wear masks to prevent the spread of  
19 COVID-19.

20           On May 30th, police in riot gear chased protestors  
21 through the streets in multiple locations and times, grabbing  
22 and beating people at random with fists and batons. A young  
23 teenager was seized and beaten by police for no reason on the  
24 Wabash bridge. LOs saw police drive cars through crowds. And  
25 one of the LOs was beaten. and arrested.

1           On May 31st, we observed a team of SWAT officers exit  
2 their vehicle, pepper spray LOs and about seven demonstrators  
3 without saying a word, and then return to the vehicle and drive  
4 away. In Grant Park, dozens of officers in riot gear attacked  
5 a crowd of protesters causing many injuries and stole bikes  
6 from protesters. CPD targeted the LOs with pepper spray as LOs  
7 gathered to get arrestee information, and intentionally knocked  
8 an LO's notebook from their hands and blocked them from  
9 retrieving it.

10           On July 18th in front of the mayor's house, CPD  
11 officers drove a vehicle onto the sidewalk, striking  
12 demonstrators, bending a bicycle in half, and dislodging a  
13 trash can bolted to the ground.

14           On August 15th, I was an LO at a protest downtown.  
15 CPD responded with hundreds of police in riot gear to a  
16 relatively small march, composed mainly of Black and Latin  
17 young people. Police used pepper spray on protesters, LOs, and  
18 medics. CPD was yelling "forward march," as they repeatedly  
19 advanced on the group from Michigan and Wacker to LaSalle and  
20 Adams.

21           CPD rushed the crowd repeatedly and attacked the  
22 medics. After driving the people onto LaSalle, CPD blocked  
23 Adams and Monroe and began beating and arresting people who had  
24 not outrun the rushing line of riot police. I never heard any  
25 dispersal orders issued, and CPD did not let me and two other

1 attorney LOs leave upon our request.

2 We were detained for 10 to 15 minutes in the kettle.  
3 CPD insisted that we empty our bags and leave our property  
4 behind before they permitted us to leave. And they seized a  
5 green hat that a legal observer had. LOs observed that  
6 Superintendent Brown was present on LaSalle while the kettle  
7 was in effect.

8 Our LOs' experiences demonstrate the City's pattern of  
9 disregarding the consent decree and the First Amendment rights  
10 of protesters. Based on the oppression LOs have witnessed, CPD  
11 wishes to silence protesters' critiquing of the police budget  
12 and the institution of policing. Thank you very much, your  
13 Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, sir.

15 Let's see. Let's do one more speaker, and then we'll  
16 do the break because I see the next court reporter has walked  
17 into the courtroom to set up her equipment. And it takes a bit  
18 of time to shift gears here, so we will do one more before the  
19 break.

20 I didn't see speaker 36 in the list here, but I do see  
21 speaker 37. So let's move on to 37, please, and then we'll take  
22 the break. Okay?

23 (Slight pause.)

24 Now that I look, I thought I saw 37 -- go ahead.

25 MS. BALL: Okay. Good afternoon, your Honor. Thank

1 you everyone for being here today. My name is Lizzy Ball. I am  
2 speaking as a private citizen and resident of Chicago, 26th  
3 Ward.

4           When I first signed up to speak at this session a long  
5 week ago, I had planned to talk about how as a social worker  
6 and a mental healthcare provider, I have witnessed the toll of  
7 police terror on our communities, especially on Black and  
8 indigenous people, people of color, LBGTQ people, and people  
9 with disabilities, whom CPD routinely target, harm, and  
10 terrorize. However, I now can speak firsthand to the horrors  
11 of police brutality. Please take care that what I am about to  
12 say is disturbing.

13           On Saturday, August 15th, a few days ago, while I was  
14 riding my bike alongside a youth-led protest in the Loop who  
15 were speaking out against police brutality, I was surprised and  
16 attacked from behind, beaten off my bike and to the ground by  
17 several grown men in riot gear with batons and violently  
18 arrested. Very few wore masks. My bike was stolen and my  
19 backpack was destroyed. Rather than being read my rights,  
20 several cops shouted in my face without masks, "You lost."

21           I spent the night locked up enduring further terror,  
22 dehumanization, and the denial of basic human rights. During  
23 the 14 hours I was detained -- 12 of which were documented by  
24 the police -- I was caged by -- with several wonderful people  
25 who had experienced similar systematic terror and violence by

1 the CPD, including nurses, journalists, and very young  
2 organizers.

3 We were covered in pepper spray. Unable to socially  
4 distance, bruised, battered, and yet we remained strong by  
5 supporting each other. I trust my community to protect me. I do  
6 not and never will trust the police to protect me or my loved  
7 ones. "You lost," the cop yelled. This is not a game for  
8 communities who live in terror and trauma from the police.

9 We can all see clear as day that CPD has no intent of  
10 honoring any consent decree or any letter of the law. We must  
11 stop this overfunded, unchecked violent gang immediately. We  
12 must take action against this violence. I say this from a place  
13 of love. The healing begins only by condemning and defunding.  
14 CPD. Thank you. And free Mohawk.

15 THE COURT: Thank you very much. So we will resume at  
16 3:15. And by my count, we have 15 people out of the first 37  
17 who were skipped over, so we'll go starting with No. 38. We'll  
18 finish up to 45. And then we'll just recall, kind of as if we  
19 were in a status call, set of status hearings, we'll just  
20 recall the cases one after the other. And hopefully those  
21 individuals who were skipped over earlier today will be on the  
22 line starting at 3:15 and we'll march through until everybody  
23 has been given a second opportunity today.

24 So with that I thank everybody for your attention and  
25 your patience. And right at 3:15 we'll start up again. So

1 thank you, everybody.

2 (Recess taken from 3:00 to 3:15 P.M.)

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1 THE COURT: Okay. Good afternoon, everybody. I just  
2 want to confirm with the Monitor that she is ready to  
3 proceed.

4 I can see you. Are you ready to proceed?

5 MS. HICKEY: I am ready, your Honor. I believe we  
6 are on No. 38.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.

8 And Inspector General Ferguson, are you there too?

9 MR. FERGUSON: I am.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Excellent. And you're ready to  
11 proceed as well?

12 MR. FERGUSON: Yes, I am. Thank you, Judge.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Wonderful. Before we proceed, I  
14 just -- I am not a producer of social media at all. I don't  
15 know how to Tweet, I don't know how to post, but I know many  
16 people do. And I just want to remind everybody that this is an  
17 official court proceeding, and the rules about recording court  
18 proceedings apply. So I just want to remind everybody of that,  
19 and that's not permitted because this is a court proceeding.

20 And with that, my recollection, and I think you just  
21 said this, is we're up to 38; is that right?

22 MS. HICKEY: That's correct, your Honor, No. 38.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. And I see that person  
24 is in the queue here. So if we could move on to Speaker  
25 No. 38, that would be most appreciated. Thank you.

1 MS. CARBON: Good afternoon. Can everyone hear me?

2 THE COURT: Yes, thank you, we can hear you fine.

3 Thank you very much.

4 MS. CARBON: Thank you very much. Your Honor, I wish  
5 to thank you, Ms. Hickey, the Independent Monitoring Team, and  
6 all the people behind the scenes working for this opportunity  
7 to allow me to participate in this listening session.

8 My name is Suzanne Carbon. I live in the 39th Ward.  
9 I am a private citizen. Hearing the testimonies today of those  
10 violated by those who should be protecting them is  
11 heartbreaking.

12 I approach this opportunity to address those in power  
13 to offer some practical solutions. In reading through the  
14 consent decree, the PBPA lieutenant contract, and the  
15 monitoring plans, I was struck again and again by the lack of  
16 accountability and consequences for misconduct and lack of  
17 implementation. The current system is clearly broken, which we  
18 all know. What I'd like to do is offer two ideas that may help  
19 bolster accountability and would help rebuild community trust.

20 One: Today, when CPD police officers are sued, they  
21 do not pay anything from their own pockets to resolve the  
22 claims. I believe this financial -- financial insulation from  
23 accountability of the consequences of their actions is due to  
24 indemnification. Chicago and other cities and counties across  
25 the country have these -- I'm having a hard time with the

1 word -- indemnification policies, which means the city pays  
2 defense attorneys, costs, and any settlements or judgments that  
3 arise from officer actions on the job.

4           While the agreement with Chicago and the CPD include  
5 some exceptions for willful or egregious misbehavior, it has  
6 really been the general rule not to indemnify -- it has been  
7 the general rule not -- the exception to indemnify officers,  
8 even though there is reasonable basis to decline to do so.

9           Since the city allocates the money to the department  
10 during the annual budgeting process, coverage comes from  
11 central funds. This central fund then picks up and fights the  
12 tab for misconduct that, really, you and me, the taxpayers,  
13 pick up -- pay for.

14           In doing some research, I see the residents have  
15 bankrolled about 500 million in payouts, which, by the way, is  
16 about what our budget shortfall is. This arrangement fails to  
17 achieve any kind of deterrence goals or accountability for  
18 officers.

19           I suggest a better remedy for accountability would be  
20 for police officers to carry professional liability insurance.  
21 The city would pay the basic insurance premium, but an  
22 officer's premium would increase due to lawsuits or other risky  
23 behavior, making the officer responsible for paying the  
24 difference. This approach would allow plaintiffs to recover  
25 damages when their rights were violated, and these payoffs

1 would have financial consequences for the officer, making them  
2 have skin-in-the-game and some accountability. Since the PBPA  
3 contracts and political pressures often make it very difficult  
4 to fire officers, incorporating internal financial pressures  
5 might convince poorly performing officers they should choose a  
6 different line of work.

7 Further, I implore the monitoring team to consider  
8 having Chicago and its municipal liability insurers consider  
9 conditioning immunity on the CPD adopting the consent decree  
10 reforms you're working so hard to implement. A benefit for CPD  
11 on this approach could be a reduced premiums for adoption and  
12 measured decreases in your consent benchmarks. Additionally,  
13 this data could be used to inform training, policies,  
14 supervision and disciplinary decisions moving forward.

15 Lastly, I think another way to incentivize internal  
16 compliance would be to make police testimony inadmissible in  
17 court without body camera footage to support assertions. Video  
18 footage camera provides complete, concrete evidence of a police  
19 encounter without relying entirely on the police report and the  
20 officer's memory to help -- and it would help defense lawyers  
21 understand all the details of a police encounter and possibly  
22 clear up any discrepancies in favor of their client.

23 I hope video-recorded -- I hope video, recorded from  
24 police body cameras, are also being used to train new and  
25 existing officers on how -- what to do -- on what to do and not

1 to do during difficult encounters with the public.

2 I thank you for your time, and I yield my time if I  
3 have any remaining.

4 THE COURT: Great. Thank you very much. I  
5 appreciate it.

6 MS. CARBON: Thank you.

7 THE COURT: In looking at the list here, I think the  
8 next speaker who is in the queue here is No. 41.

9 Is that what you have as well, Maggie?

10 MS. HICKEY: That's correct, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. So if we could have  
12 Speaker No. 41, please.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon, your Honor. My name  
14 is Cruz Rodriguez, and I am a second year law student at Loyola  
15 University Chicago School of Law.

16 I was a participant in what started off as a peaceful  
17 protest on Saturday, May 30th, in response to the murder of  
18 George Floyd. The peacefulness was disrupted when CPD showed  
19 up, ready to violently fight us. It felt like we were enemies  
20 and they were a military force sent to eliminate us.

21 At around 4:30 PM, I made my way to State and  
22 Madison, where there was a heavy police presence at the  
23 intersection. They all, in riot gear, circled around a CPD  
24 vehicle used to transport arrestees, facing protesters with  
25 their batons in hand. I was walking east on Madison, where I

1 came to see two officers who did not have their badge numbers  
2 or name tags on. They also did not have their body cameras  
3 under uniform. I approached and asked if they could identify  
4 their badge number or which precinct they were from. One  
5 laughed at me, while the other raised his baton at me to back  
6 up. One told me to "F" off and another spit in my direction.

7 At the same intersection at 4:37 PM, I witnessed two  
8 white-shirt police officers and three blue-uniformed ones run  
9 over to a stagnant car on the southwest side at the  
10 intersection. I was in front of the vehicle recording. I  
11 heard one officer tell the young Latino girl who was driving to  
12 turn off her vehicle. Four seconds later, he reached into her  
13 window, opened her car door and pulled her out of the vehicle  
14 from her left wrist. He immediately put his hands under her  
15 shoulders and pulled her arms up very aggressively, arresting  
16 her. This all happened in a time span of 20 seconds from the  
17 time he ran up to the vehicle. And she was a 17-year-old  
18 minor.

19 At 6:18 PM, I made my way north on State Street and  
20 Randolph after what seemed to be 100 officers began to move  
21 north behind me with their batons out. When I made it slightly  
22 north of the intersection, they ran towards us and began  
23 hitting and arresting everyone in sight. I recorded as a woman  
24 was arrested by two officers from behind, one being a  
25 white-shirt police officer. She was not facing them, she was

1 looking down on her phone when they pulled her to the ground by  
2 her ponytail from behind. Then they flipped her over onto the  
3 ground facing her down by the ponytail once again. Three more  
4 officers ran over. One kicked her on the right hip.

5 Throughout the summer, I experienced much more  
6 disrespect and abuse from CPD officers at other protests,  
7 including being told -- including being sexually harassed and  
8 saying, quote, "Nice short-shorts, faggot," end quote, by an  
9 officer in a passing CPD vehicle while I was on the sidewalk.

10 As a legal professional, I cannot see how the city is  
11 proud of the supposed professionalism of CPD. CPD attempts to  
12 justify these responses by mentioning the destruction of  
13 private party. But what I remember from my first year of law  
14 school is that the law values personal rights over property  
15 rights. These deadly and violent responses from officers are  
16 unjustified.

17 And that's all I have for today. Thank you for your  
18 time, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Thank you for yours as well.

20 I think the other two I see in the queue here are 43  
21 and 45. Is that right? Is that what you have as well?

22 MS. HICKEY: That's correct, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay, great. So we can move on to  
24 No. 43, please.

25 MR. MICHAEL: Hi. Thank you, your Honor. My name is

1 Cody Michael. I'm a resident of the Buena Park neighborhood  
2 here in Chicago, Illinois.

3 On May 30th of this year, I was attending one of the  
4 many protests in downtown Chicago. My friend, Kyle Ryan, a  
5 fellow Buena Park resident, attended with me.

6 While I witnessed several acts of minor civil  
7 disobedience, there was nothing I witnessed in the crowd around  
8 me that could have justified what came next. After marching in  
9 the streets for several blocks, without incident, near the  
10 intersection of Jackson and Dearborn, a battalion of 20 to 40  
11 CPD officers in full riot gear marched through the group of  
12 protesters to engage in what I now know is called kettling.  
13 After sectioning us off from the larger march ahead of us, they  
14 blocked the intersection and formed a circle. This is when  
15 tensions escalated.

16 There was a young woman of color standing right next  
17 to us who was fully exercising her right to free speech with an  
18 officer who was staring her down. After a protester on the  
19 other side of the intersection threw a water bottle into the  
20 middle of the police circle, with seemingly no other  
21 provocation, this officer, who I now know was Officer Hector  
22 Morales, Badge No. 13068, proceeded to beat this woman right in  
23 front of our eyes. She was young, maybe 5'3", 120 pounds  
24 soaking wet. My friend, Mr. Ryan, jumped in to defend the girl  
25 and put his body between them. He was met with several billy

1 club hits and got pushed over a Divvy bike that was left in the  
2 streets, probably because our mayor ordered them shut down.

3 After watching Officer Morales beat this woman and  
4 take down my best friend, he then turned towards me, club  
5 raised. I will never forget the look of rage in his eyes as he  
6 turned towards me. By the way, I was raised I stand, don't  
7 sit, in the face of injustice. I'll fully admit, I dropped my  
8 protest sign and ran towards him at this point, and I paid the  
9 price for it. Officer Morales proceeded to beat me so hard his  
10 club broke. This attack happened at exactly 3:32 PM. I know  
11 this because the attack that broke his baton also destroyed my  
12 wristwatch.

13 After Officer Morales broke his baton on me, he was  
14 whisked away into the crowd of CPD, and the situation  
15 de-escalated. The woman, Mr. Ryan, and myself were neither  
16 arrested for whatever conduct justified our beating, nor were  
17 we offered any medical attention.

18 I would also like to note the majority of the CPD  
19 officers I witnessed were not wearing face masks at this  
20 protest and most of the others I attended. I also witnessed  
21 numerous officers with covered badge numbers and without body  
22 cams or had their body cams turned off when they were obviously  
23 on duty.

24 Mr. Ryan and I sustained minor injuries, and I'm glad  
25 to report that we are okay. I know, and I've heard today, that

1 most people of color are not so lucky. I'm not here to suggest  
2 this for myself, I'm here because the City of Chicago deserves  
3 better. I refuse, as a resident of this city and this country,  
4 to have my tax dollars fund my own beating in the street and  
5 the systemic beating and murder of Black people and other  
6 minorities. I do not believe that any amount of reforms, all  
7 of which have been tried and so far have failed in every city  
8 and town that has even attempted, are sufficient for the CPD.  
9 I believe that the CPD should be dismantled and rebuilt from  
10 the ground up, the majority of their multibillion-dollar budget  
11 redistributed to alternative, nonviolent solutions and  
12 community investment. Lori Lightfoot and CPD leadership have  
13 proven to me, far beyond a reasonable doubt, that they are  
14 incapable of serving and protecting our great city. Thank you.

15 THE COURT: Thank you very much.

16 I think the only one speaker left in the queue is  
17 No. 45. And then I'm going to go back through, just to make  
18 sure that nobody else has come back from the prior ones who  
19 were skipped over. So if we could go to No. 45, please.

20 MS. CAMPANELLI: Thank you, Judge Dow. Can everybody  
21 hear me?

22 THE COURT: Yes, we can. Thank you.

23 MS. CAMPANELLI: Thank you so much, Judge Dow, and  
24 all of you, for allowing me a few minutes today.

25 So the core of any reform is to rebuild the trust

1 that has been lost between the CPD and the community it serves.  
2 We don't trust the police because of how they treat the people  
3 they arrest. Those arrested are routinely denied access to a  
4 phone and denied access to counsel. They're isolated and  
5 intimidated.

6 As the public defender of Cook County, I believe that  
7 the grandest gesture that Chicago police could make to restore  
8 this trust that we keep talking about is one of the simplest:  
9 Give those arrested access to a phone within an hour of arrest.

10 So since 1963, Illinois law has guaranteed that those  
11 arrested shall be allowed access to a phone to make a  
12 reasonable number of phone calls within a reasonable amount of  
13 time after arrest. This isn't happening, Judge. Since April  
14 of 2018, I have had a police station representation unit to go  
15 to the police stations whenever there is a request. We're  
16 getting calls only for about one percent of those arrested.  
17 And when we show up, after being called, my lawyers get the  
18 runaround. They're obstructed by the police. They're told the  
19 client has been moved. They're told he was never there. All  
20 false claims by the police. Because of COVID, my lawyers could  
21 not physically go to the police stations, so I asked the  
22 Chicago police, with the help from the Independent Monitor and  
23 the Inspector General, to allow phone contact between my  
24 lawyers and those who called us for help. Chicago police would  
25 not agree to allow phone communication, unless those arrested

1 first signed a waiver that absolved the police for not  
2 providing a private setting for an attorney-client phone call.

3 We've been collecting data since 2018, and I have  
4 been keeping score. The overwhelming number of those arrested  
5 never get a phone call. And for those who do, it generally  
6 takes five hours before they do. Yet, even with these dismal  
7 numbers, judge, in two years, we've visited 2,054 clients and  
8 walked out uncharged 367. That's 18 percent of those we  
9 visited who never should have been arrested at all.

10 If phone access were provided to everyone within an  
11 hour of arrest, trust would return. Communities would know  
12 that the Chicago police treat people humanely and that they  
13 care about their rights. Suspicion would be replaced by  
14 cooperation. Instead, we are met with antagonism, deception,  
15 and trickery.

16 Over the past two-and-a-half years, we have gotten  
17 every excuse from Chicago police obstructing access to our  
18 clients. The most common are: He is not in custody; we don't  
19 know where he is; he is at a different police station; he is  
20 not under arrest, so you can't see him; we don't acknowledge  
21 your Declaration of Rights form; it's our policy not to allow  
22 you to see the client until he is processed; or, he didn't ask  
23 for a lawyer.

24 All these statements, Judge, are simply Chicago  
25 police denying my clients access to their Fifth Amendment

1 rights. And certainly this has continued during the protest.

2 So police play with our lives. And they complain,  
3 then, that they don't get cooperation. Well, why should people  
4 cooperate? Instead of raising bridges, we need to lower them.  
5 Instead of cornering and trapping protesters, we need to march  
6 with them. Why are they fighting so hard against this, Judge?  
7 Why do they intimidate people, ask yourself, instead of  
8 treating people with dignity? It would bring a lot of trust.

9 I am asking you to look at this consent decree and  
10 change the language, by the way, which is currently, "when  
11 practicable," which doesn't comply with the Illinois law.

12 Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Thank you very much as well.

14 Let me go back, then, just to make sure because I  
15 know we said at the beginning that we would go back in order.  
16 So I'm just going to read off the numbers, and if any of these  
17 speakers are present, I'll pause a few seconds and see if  
18 anybody raises a virtual hand to jump in.

19 So we skipped No. 1. My list says Jennifer Tagler.

20 No. 7, No. 8, No. 9, No. 14, No. 17, 18, 21, 24, 29,  
21 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 39, 40, 42, and 44.

22 I have not seen the attendee list change at all in  
23 the time I've been reading that, so it appears that no one else  
24 has come into the queue.

25 Can I ask the Monitors, is your list the same as

1 mine?

2 MS. HICKEY: Yes, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Okay, very well. Well, as I said at the  
4 beginning, we will have a similar process tomorrow, except the  
5 lawyers won't get the first half hour. So we will start with  
6 Speaker No. 1 on the Thursday list at 1:00 o'clock, and we'll  
7 follow the same format as we did today.

8 I do want to thank, and I know I speak with the  
9 thanks also of the Monitor and the Inspector General, everyone  
10 for participating today. And I do invite all of those, either  
11 who did not get a speaking slot, or for some reason were unable  
12 to appear at the speaking slot they did get, to submit written  
13 comments. And I'm certain that you could submit any other  
14 information you may have, too. A lot of people have mentioned  
15 videos, what they may have taken with their phone, or  
16 otherwise. I'm sure if you have that type of information as  
17 well, you can submit that to the Monitor and/or the Inspector  
18 General. I know both have also talked about the different ways  
19 you can do that. And so we encourage everybody to come forward  
20 with their stories and their information. The more complete  
21 the information that is received, the better job we can do of  
22 documenting it, and it will all be reflected in the Monitor's  
23 Report.

24 Before we end for the day, let me just ask both the  
25 Monitor and the Inspector General whether they have any

1 additional comments they want to make?

2 MS. HICKEY: I have nothing, your Honor. I just  
3 wanted to thank everyone for sharing their experience with us.

4 MR. FERGUSON: And the same for me.

5 THE COURT: Okay, very well. Well, the court will be  
6 in recess until 1:00 PM tomorrow, and we will call the case  
7 promptly at 1:00.

8 Thank you very much, everybody, and have a good  
9 night.

10 MS. HICKEY: Thank you, your Honor.

11 \* \* \* \* \*

12 C E R T I F I C A T E

13 We certify that the foregoing is a correct  
14 transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled  
15 matter.

16  
17 */s/ KRISTIN M. ASHENHURST, CSR, RDR, CRR*

18 \_\_\_\_\_

19 */s/ SANDRA M. MULLIN, CSR, RMR, FCRR*

August 25, 2020

20 Official Court Reporters  
21 United States District Court  
22 Northern District of Illinois  
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