

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

3	STATE OF ILLINOIS,	}	Docket No. 17 CV 6260
4	Plaintiff,	}	
5	vs.	}	
6	CITY OF CHICAGO,	}	Chicago, Illinois
7	Defendant.	}	August 20, 2020 1:00 PM

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

APPEARANCES:

12	Independent Monitor:	MS. MAGGIE HICKEY
13	Deputy Monitor:	CHIEF (RET.) RODNEY MONROE
15	Inspector General City of Chicago:	MR. JOSEPH M. FERGUSON
20	Court Reporter:	SANDRA M. MULLIN, CSR, RMR, FCRR Official Court Reporter 219 S. Dearborn Street, Room 2260 Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 554-8244 sandra_mullin@ilnd.uscourts.gov

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1 (The following listening session proceedings were held via
2 telephonic and videoconference.)

3 THE CLERK: Okay. 17 Civil 6260, State of Illinois
4 versus the City of Chicago.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, Carolyn.

6 Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the second day
7 of this special session of court in State of Illinois versus
8 City of Chicago.

9 Today will be another opportunity for members of the
10 community to speak, so I will keep my remarks very short. You
11 may notice today that I'm not wearing a mask because I have
12 changed the venue into my office. It's really for my own
13 convenience of not having to wear a mask, since I have to speak
14 a lot in the next four hours, and also my court reporters don't
15 also have to wear a mask. And I'm sure they can do their job
16 better if they don't have to wear a mask. So that's why I'm in
17 back here in my chambers without a mask. But other than that,
18 we will try to proceed today in exactly the same fashion we did
19 yesterday.

20 And, again, I give my great thanks to the folks who
21 put this together, both from the monitoring team and also from
22 the clerk's office of our district court, that we have a great
23 technology platform. We have the help of our sign language
24 interpreters, our captioning service, and court reporters for
25 today's proceeding, and I want to thank everybody for all their

1 great effort in pulling this together. We have tried our best
2 to model these sessions on the fairness hearings that were held
3 in October of 2018. And I think yesterday, technologically,
4 this went very smoothly. So I thank everybody.

5 I want to take a quick moment to introduce the
6 individuals whom you will see on your screen for the entire
7 afternoon. The Independent Monitor, Maggie Hickey, the
8 Inspector General, Joe Ferguson, and the Deputy Monitor Rodney
9 Monroe. So I want to thank them.

10 And, of course, you'll be able to see our sign
11 language interpreters all day too. And I know it's a very
12 arduous task for them to go an hour and a half or two hours at
13 a time, so I thank them.

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

22 As with the fairness hearings, it is important that
23 we hear from everybody who would like to be heard in this
24 process. We're only able to accommodate approximately 100
25 people between these two days to give oral comments, but we

1 invite written comments from anybody who is interested in
2 providing them. The deadline for that is 4:30 today. And the
3 procedures for providing the comments are available both on the
4 docket of this case and also on the Monitor's website.

5 To make sure that everyone is clear on how we're
6 going to proceed today, especially technologically, I am going
7 to ask the Monitor to please briefly summarize the mechanics
8 and the ground rules for today on the platform. And I do also
9 want to remind everybody that this is an on-the-record federal
10 court proceeding, and the rules that apply in our district to
11 court proceedings apply today, including those that prohibit
12 recording and picture taking. I would just ask that everyone
13 kindly respect those rules.

14 So if I could ask the Monitor, if you could, again,
15 lay out the framework for today, that would be very helpful.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. HICKEY: Thank you, your Honor, I am happy to do
18 that. I want to thank everyone in advance for their
19 participation, and I want to offer a special thank you to Judge
20 Dow's team, Inspector General Ferguson's team, and my own team,
21 for working and facilitating this virtual listening session.

22 We had over 540 registered to sign up for these Zoom
23 listening sessions, and the speakers for the listening sessions
24 were randomly selected from that group. To maximize our
25 connection and to increase efficiency, only the people who are

1 scheduled to appear or speak are on the Zoom meeting. The
2 public may view each session live on YouTube with a slight
3 delay, about 20 seconds. The YouTube links for today are
4 available on the Independent Monitoring team's website,
5 cpdmonitoringteam.com. I'll repeat that,
6 cpdmonitoringteam.com. Our website also includes a link to
7 live transcription, which is available during the session. The
8 court's listening session order is also available on our
9 website, which provides instructions on how to file written
10 comments.

11 For the speakers on today's call, you will not have
12 the ability to turn on your microphone or camera until Judge
13 Dow calls your number. He will only be calling the number, for
14 efficiency sake, and also because there have been some movement
15 of names. So only your number will be called. You should have
16 received your speaker number via e-mail last Friday,
17 August 17th.

18 When the court calls your number, the meeting host
19 will make you a Zoom panelist to begin speaking. For those of
20 you on a computer, Zoom will automatically log you in and out,
21 you may see your screen switch, and then you will be prompted
22 to turn on your camera and microphone and begin speaking. For
23 those of you on telephone, your line will be un-muted after the
24 judge calls your number.

25 You will also be provided a visual cue. The speakers

1 will see green to start, yellow means you have 30 seconds left,
2 and red means you are out of time. For people who call into
3 the meeting, we will provide a virtual 30-second warning. For
4 those speakers, please also keep an eye on the chat function,
5 as the IMT may send messages through that service, if
6 necessary.

7 If you are not available when the court calls your
8 number, you will be moved to the end of the list for today, and
9 the court will call your number again at the end of the day.

10 If you have any logistical questions during the
11 session, please contact this e-mail: [Listeningsessions -- with
12 an s -- @cpdmonitoringteam.com](mailto:Listeningsessions--withan@cpdmonitoringteam.com), which is also listed on the
13 IMT's website.

14 Finally, these hearings are for the community to have
15 a direct voice with the court. The Independent Monitoring Team
16 and the Inspector General's office, though, do want to hear
17 from the community on a continuing basis.

18 Thank you again for your patience and your
19 understanding as we use a virtual platform during this
20 unprecedented time.

21 Thank you, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much. And I also
23 wanted, again, to offer the Inspector General a moment to say
24 anything that he would like at the beginning of the proceeding.

25 So, Mr. Ferguson, anything you would like to say.

1 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you, Judge. Very briefly, and
2 working off of where Maggie's remarks ended, just one other
3 quick note before turning to the important business of hearing
4 from everyone who is in the queue and signed up. These
5 court-hosted listening sessions are just one of several avenues
6 for community input and the expression of lived experience to
7 inform this joint inquiry on which we will be publicly
8 reporting. Today's listening sessions are, by their nature,
9 both public and part of the official record of the court
10 proceedings being conducted pursuant to the authority of the
11 consent decree. So if for whatever reason anyone who is
12 speaking, listening or watching today wishes further
13 opportunity to provide feedback, input or articulate their
14 particular experiences, or wishes to provide it to the IMT or
15 to the Inspector General's office in a less public setting or
16 format, please be aware that there are opportunities to do so,
17 including doing so anonymously. And we strongly encourage you
18 to do so.

19 For those purposes, the IMT's contact information,
20 again, is www.cpdmonitoringteam.com. And the Inspector
21 General's office contact information is found at
22 www.igchicago.org.

23 Thank you, Judge.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. So I would like to
25 commend our speakers yesterday for adhering to the time limits,

1 and I'd just like to again ask for, out of respect for all
2 speakers, that every speaker please conclude their remarks at
3 the three-minute mark.

4 And I just want to also advise everybody that, as we
5 did yesterday, we will take a 15-minute break at 3:00 o'clock,
6 which will allow the court reporters to switch out. And it
7 takes them a few minutes to uninstall one set of equipment and
8 install the other set. So that will be our only break for
9 today.

10 And the monitor and I will try to help each other out
11 again by trying to confirm who is in the speaker queue and who
12 is not so we can proceed efficiently.

13 And, with that, I believe we're ready to start with
14 Speaker 1 for today, but I do not see that speaker in the
15 queue.

16 Maggie, do you see that speaker in the queue?

17 MS. HICKEY: I am double checking. I do not, your
18 Honor, but I will still call out No. 1 in case they may have
19 registered under, you know, somebody else's e-mail or their,
20 you know, partner's, or something. So if we --

21 THE COURT: Sure. That makes good sense.

22 MS. HICKEY: Yes.

23 THE COURT: Okay. So if Speaker No. 1 could proceed,
24 that would be great -- a great thing to do, so please start.

25 MS. HICKEY: It does appear that Speaker 1 is not

1 present, so let's go to Speaker No. 2.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Speaker No. 2 I see is in the
3 queue, so we can go on to Speaker No. 2, please.

4 MR. TORRES: Hello. I am Speaker No. 2 in the queue.
5 Can everyone hear me okay?

6 THE COURT: Yes, thank you very much.

7 MR. TORRES: Thank you. Hi, my name is Seth, and I
8 use he/him or they/them pronouns. I am a 24-year-old
9 transgender Latino person. I work as a theatrical lighting
10 designer and a live event Zoom specialist.

11 On July 27th in Grant Park, I was with a group of
12 protesters demanding the removal of all racist statues,
13 including Columbus, as well as the demand to pass CPAC, reduce
14 CPD budget by at least 75 percent, and return the stolen land
15 we were on to Indigenous people.

16 I became an impromptu medic. Usually people with
17 some kind of medical training sign up in advance, bring
18 first-aid supplies, and coordinate to treat anyone injured.
19 There weren't enough medics for everyone injured. I've had
20 extensive first-aid training, and I had some first-aid supplies
21 on me, so I started helping people.

22 For about an hour, I circled the outside of the
23 protest to catch anyone injured. The air was thick with pepper
24 spray, and at times it was hard to see and breath. It was
25 chaos with everyone running around and trying to avoid being

1 beaten by the police.

2 In that time, I watched the police hit at least five
3 people in the head or neck with their batons and hit so many
4 more in the leg, arm, back and chest. I watched the police
5 spray multiple people directly in the face with pepper spray.

6 When we started to retreat, there was still many
7 people who -- injured people who needed help. The police had
8 formed a perimeter around the statue, so I thought it was safe
9 to keep treating people where I was. I was so focused on
10 helping people who were bleeding and blinded, but I didn't see
11 the police continue pushing forward. My friend kept saying:
12 Seth, we've got to go. And I look up to see the police
13 continuing to move towards us and using their batons to beat
14 people and pepper spray, those around injured, and the medics
15 trying to help them.

16 At that time, everyone was at least 500 feet away
17 from the statue, and I was at least a thousand feet away.
18 There was no reason to continue pushing forward and hurting
19 people after we had clearly moved away and had no intention of
20 going back towards the statue.

21 Every time I watched a police officer hit someone or
22 spray someone in the face, I just kept thinking to myself that
23 these officers do not think we are people. I feel a trauma
24 around that night. I'm grateful I walked away physically
25 unharmed, but I still get flashbacks on watching the police

1 hurt those who were already injured and the medics who
2 volunteered to help. We hadn't done anything to deserve this.
3 I never saw a protester harm a police officer in any way. I
4 never felt less cared about, less protected, and less safe than
5 I did that night. I will never feel safe around a Chicago
6 police officer again because I know that those officers do not
7 care about me as a person. Their actions prove it. No one who
8 says they protect and serve and then turns around to beat and
9 pepper spray people can expect me to believe them.

10 Thank you for your time, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: I thank you for your time as well.

12 If we could move on, I don't see No. 3 in the queue,
13 but let's find out if No. 3 is actually present.

14 MS. HICKEY: I do not believe they are, your Honor.

15 If you want to move on to the next number.

16 THE COURT: Okay. So Speaker No. 4 could be let into
17 the participation room, please.

18 OLIVIA: Hi, can you hear me?

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

20 OLIVIA: Excellent. I'm Olivia Lopattlsad
21 (phonetic), she/they pronouns. I'm a 23-year-old artist, and
22 I'm here to discuss the police brutality I experienced while I
23 protested police brutality, specifically on the night of
24 June 1st in Uptown. I will also preface by saying that I often
25 walk with a cane as a result of a 30-foot-fall I survived three

1 years ago. And I say this not for you to offer me more
2 sympathy as a disabled person, but because I want everyone
3 listening to understand that CPD did what they did to me as I
4 screamed and clutched my cane.

5 As I thought about how to fill this time, I
6 considered what I might say that could make you understand. I
7 could talk about how they beat my knees as I tried to run
8 towards someone who was being beaten worse than me, causing me
9 to fall and taking my cane from me.

10 I could tell you how three of them dug their boots
11 into my shoulders and knee and screamed threats masklessly in
12 my face.

13 I could talk about how officers held my partner down
14 in a fetal position and beat his genitals and his leg until his
15 phone in his pocket bent and his shin split open.

16 I could tell you about how I was clubbed on the head
17 from behind, glasses shattering into my skull bone, and an
18 officer in front of me yelled: That's what you get. Have you
19 ever wondered what it feels like to pull glass shards out of
20 your own head, to see your best friend screaming and sobbing
21 and know there is nothing you could do to make her safe? Have
22 you ever thought your partner might be dead? Because I could
23 tell you about that.

24 I could talk about all the ways in which CPD broke
25 their own rules in order to prey on their citizens, emboldened

1 by an unconstitutional emergency curfew -- thank you Lori
2 Lightfoot -- that made our active protest de facto illegal.

3 But ultimately what I need you to understand, because
4 I didn't understand it until I experienced it, is that police
5 have a monopoly on violence. They dress in gear designed for
6 warfare, and at their disposal are weapons banned in warfare.
7 And on a whim, they may use unbridled amounts of violence
8 against you. This is not a felony for them, it is rarely even
9 a citation, it is their job. It is a probable felony for you
10 to defend yourself against them. That means that, if and when
11 an officer decides to attack you, no matter who you are or what
12 you have done, that officer has 100 percent jurisdiction over
13 your body, your pain, and your survival.

14 That night, my partner and I were both hospitalized.
15 I would be treated for my head wound and diagnosed with a
16 concussion, and he wouldn't stop steadily bleeding until they
17 stitched him up four hours later. We weren't arrested. They
18 weren't interested in actually enforcing the curfew, rather,
19 they waited for curfew so they would have an excuse to beat us.

20 Countless times since that night I have looked at my
21 partner brutalized, traumatized, unable to walk, and I reflect
22 on the fact that, if it had not been for our simultaneous
23 beating, if I had seen him being brutalized, there is not one
24 thing in the world I would not have done to make that stop. I
25 promise you that, in order to keep him from being harmed, I

1 would have done anything, and I would absolutely be in jail
2 right now. It's something I haven't stopped thinking about
3 since that night.

4 When it comes down to it, we are legally bound to
5 watch the police slaughter anyone they see fit. To intervene
6 is literally illegal. I defy anyone to look me in the eye and
7 claim that they would defer to the judgment of a stranger
8 beating their loved one to death.

9 Thank you for your time.

10 THE COURT: Thank you.

11 I think we have Speaker No. 5 is in the queue,
12 please.

13 MS. LEYVA: Hello, can you hear me?

14 THE COURT: Yes, we can.

15 MS. LEYVA: Hi, my name is Jailene, and I'm from
16 Chicago. I am here today to share what I witnessed and
17 experienced on July 17th. Before this call, and even before
18 registering, I felt anxious, and my hands began to tremble at
19 the memory of the police brutalizing members of my community.

20 The police (unintelligible) on people and sprayed
21 them directly in the face. I personally could not breathe and
22 was constantly gagging and crying so badly that most of the
23 people tried to comfort me in the middle of the police
24 brutalizing everybody.

25 I saw the police trample people with their own bikes.

1 I saw one young black man being assaulted with his own bike
2 after being pushed to the ground, his legs were caught
3 underneath his bike, and he was helpless. And, yet, the police
4 pushed the bike onto his body and kept trying to beat him.

5 I also saw a young man of color bleeding profusely
6 after being hit by the police. His head, face, entirely, and
7 glasses were -- and his shirt, too, were completely covered in
8 blood, and he was still bleeding as the police continued to
9 attack him. No, they did not pull him aside for medical
10 attention. Like, they just kept beating him and pulling his
11 shirt, and even ripping it.

12 I saw a person on the ground ask me for my help and
13 for water. They begged for comfort and reassurance as they
14 were being beaten by the police. At another point, the police
15 moved together to another side, but one of the officers looked
16 so enraged by just, like, our right to protest that he
17 disobeyed this collective decision and went back just to lunge
18 at a protester.

19 A dear friend of mine was also attacked by the
20 police. Her bike was taken. But before her bike was taken,
21 she was beat by it. She was stuck underneath the bike as well.
22 And she actually had to spend a lot of time on her own to
23 recover physically and emotionally from this event.

24 Although I am a Latina, I know that I have a
25 privilege. So when all of this was happening I tried -- gave

1 my white privilege to help people out. And in the middle of
2 this chaos caused by the police I saw that, despite me getting
3 injuries and feeling almost, like, almost breaking down after
4 all the strain of, I don't know what, there were moments where
5 the police didn't even try to attack me because they saw me as
6 a small white woman. They attacked men. They attacked men of
7 color. They attacked black men. They attacked white people
8 too, but you could see the bias in action when I was there in
9 the front lines and I was selectively seen.

10 After the police finally took control of the Columbus
11 statue and pushed everyone out brutally, I saw one police
12 officer take off his hat and (unintelligible) as though this
13 were some type of game where, I don't know, we were some
14 criminals, or some thugs, or something, and not there as our
15 civil, like, right to protest. They even cheered and started,
16 like, joking with each other and laughing despite multiple
17 people sustaining so many injuries that medics -- the few
18 medics that we had could not keep up with how many people were
19 being injured.

20 And even as we were moving back to Grant Park, just
21 to continue with the general protest and march, the police, we
22 were all walking away because the police told us to. And one
23 of the people that stayed back to make sure everyone left
24 safely was taken by the police. And so it doesn't even matter
25 if we, like, left or not, the police were still harassing us,

1 they were still yelling at us. They still tried to intimidate
2 people. And even though this person asked for the help of
3 white people when they were taken, the police didn't care.

4 And I know that there was people there that were
5 minors, there was high schoolers there, there was young college
6 students, there was members of the community who tried to,
7 like, help each other out because nobody, nobody that I saw
8 there ever tried to reach out for the police, that were helping
9 us.

10 We held each other. We hugged each other. We
11 communicated sometimes as strangers to make sure that we got
12 home safe because the police were not the ones to talk to,
13 especially considering that they made people bleed, they stole
14 their bikes, they crushed their bodies under the tires and
15 under bikes.

16 And so I, as a community member, would like to see
17 the police defunded by at least 75 percent because they did not
18 keep the community safe. They prefer to beat on people and
19 spray them directly in the face over a statue that does not
20 take kindly over human life.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 THE COURT: Thank you for your time as well.

23 Speaker No. 6 in the queue?

24 MS. HICKEY: I don't believe so, your Honor. We will
25 also call seven, who I don't see in the queue, but I know eight

1 is. But just in case there is a phone number, we will call
2 No. 6 and then No. 7.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. So if No. 6 does not
4 sound like is available at this time, we will skip to No. 7.
5 Is No. 7 available?

6 Okay. Maybe we will move on to No. 8, then, please.

7 AMBER: Can everyone hear me?

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

9 AMBER: My name is Amber, she/her, I'm black, I'm
10 26-years-old, and I work in a research center at the University
11 of Chicago. I have been to a number of protests this summer
12 where I have seen CPD officers initiate attacks and use
13 unprovoked violence against protesters. Today I'll focus my
14 comments on an incident that happened to me, specifically on
15 July 17th at Grant Park. During a Black Indigenous Solidarity
16 Rally, I witnessed a CPD officer grab a woman's bike and pull
17 it away from her. As he pulled it, she fell to the ground, and
18 he started pepper spraying her as she laid on the ground. I
19 ran over to help her -- help pull her up and pull her away from
20 the attack, and when I got to her, he started spraying me too.
21 I turned to run, and as I was running away from him, I felt his
22 baton crack down on my head. So to be clear, after he finished
23 pepper spraying the woman who was laying on the ground, he hit
24 me over the head as I was running away from him. Right away I
25 lost the ability to hear anything. I lost my balance. My head

1 started bleeding profusely. My clothes were immediately soaked
2 in blood.

3 Later that day, at that same event, I was detained by
4 CPD officers. They put zip ties on me, first so loosely that
5 my hands slipped out of them, and they accused me of breaking
6 out of them. So then they put them on so tightly that they
7 were cutting into my wrists and left bruises around my wrists
8 for days, actually. I repeatedly asked officers why I was
9 being arrested. I never got an answer. I asked officers
10 repeatedly to please loosen the zip ties because they were
11 causing extreme pain, and one officer told me verbatim: That's
12 too bad, you shouldn't have been protesting.

13 Eventually I was told that I had been wrongfully
14 detained, and I was free to go. And I immediately went to the
15 hospital to get staples in my head from the baton injury.

16 I just want to say that swinging a baton at the head
17 of unarmed, fleeing young people doesn't feel like public
18 safety to me, it feels like terrorism. Refusing to loosen zip
19 ties from around someone's wrist because they shouldn't have
20 been protesting doesn't feel like protection, it feels like
21 political repression. Pepper spraying a woman who is laying on
22 the ground does not feel like doing your job, it feels
23 personal, and it feels completely barbaric.

24 I was -- that was sincerely the most horrific thing
25 that I ever experienced. Outside of the physical pain I was

1 in, I was completely terrified the entire time. I'm still
2 traumatized. I never did anything wrong. I never posed a
3 threat to any officer, and, yet, I still experienced this level
4 of violence and complete disregard for my safety and my life.
5 And beyond the disregard for my life, it's clear to me, after
6 the experiences that I had this summer, that these officers are
7 completely blood-thirsty and sadistic, and they are eager to
8 inflict this cruelty towards anyone who dares to speak out
9 against them, especially Indigenous people.

10 We cannot train this away. We have to defund this
11 racist, murderist, torturist police department, abolish the
12 police and rethink public safety entirely. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments. I
14 appreciate it.

15 Speaker No. 9, please.

16 MS. HAYDEN: Hi. Can everybody hear me?

17 THE COURT: Yes, we can, thank you.

18 MS. HAYDEN: Wonderful. My name is Megan Hayden. I
19 am white, 25 years old, my pronouns are they/them. My bike is
20 my primary transportation.

21 On July 17th, I was bike-marshalling for the first
22 time. Bike marshals are used to facilitate a protest and
23 create a barrier between protesters and the police when needed.

24 I'm going to jump to the moment when things
25 escalated. So fireworks were thrown by protesters. The police

1 were pushed back from the statue. Another marshal and I threw
2 down our bikes and ran towards what appeared to be like a
3 growing skirmish. I saw three officers dragging and beating a
4 man who was bleeding from the head. I approached with my hands
5 open, yelling to get them to stop. A hand grabbed the front of
6 my shirt, and I was thrown out of the way by an officer, and
7 then I watched them take the man away.

8 And then shortly after, I was -- my attention was
9 sort of pulled to the right where the police were surrounded
10 around a tree, like up a hill and around some trees, to try to
11 surround us, and then we rushed to create a bike line. Once
12 the line was established, we were harassed by an especially
13 irate officer who was threatening a protester with a baton. I
14 got hit because I put my hand to shield them. I saw the same
15 officer threatening protesters with jail time. He was clearly
16 bothered by people's disrespect and took it out with
17 aggression.

18 I continually de-escalated officers from retaliating
19 at protesters who were insulting them. There was some friendly
20 banter with one officer. He even told me I was doing a good
21 job. I wish I told him that he needed to do a better job at
22 de-escalating his co-worker. It's not my job to make sure his
23 fellow officer keeps his cool.

24 Things broke into chaos as soon as the people in
25 brown uniforms came. I heard no order of dispersal, and there

1 was no warning of gas. They sprayed a brown chemical agent in
2 the air and our line broke. People started running,
3 (unintelligible) assisting them. The police gave no exit plan.
4 Instead, they caused chaos. I watched officers beat people
5 with batons until they let go of their bikes and the police
6 took them away. None of the bikes were abandoned willingly.

7 I was helping people move away from the gas and was
8 aware of an officer nearby using pepper spray indiscriminantly.
9 His actions were uncontrolled and erratic. A protester near me
10 held up their umbrella to shield us. One officer grabbed the
11 umbrella, while the other sprayed us. I was sprayed in the
12 face from less than two feet away. In pain and shock, I let go
13 of my bike to shield my eyes. After someone flushed my eyes, I
14 tried to find my bike. It's my primary form of transportation.
15 Another protester managed to get the frame back, but the front
16 wheel had been ripped off by a police officer.

17 I had bruises for days afterwards, and the burning
18 lasted well past 24 hours. Sometimes I still have trouble
19 sleeping, getting all -- angry -- getting angry all over again.

20 Nothing the police endured matched what they
21 unleashed. It was wildly unjust, and I hope the court takes
22 that into account.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 THE COURT: Thank you for your time as well.

25 Speaker No. 10, please.

1 MS. DAVIS: Hello. Hi. Can you hear me okay?

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

3 MS. DAVIS: Hi everybody. My name is Kimberly Davis.
4 She/her/hers. I am a 24-year-old black woman and organizer. I
5 am the founder of the abolition focus group Black Lives
6 Coalition Lake County, which focuses on policy change,
7 antiracism education and community engagement. I am currently
8 studying clinical social work at the University of Chicago.

9 On July 17, 2020, I attended the decolonized
10 Zhigaagoong protest to show local and national solidarity
11 against police brutality. When I arrived at the Buckingham
12 Fountain, protesters were gathered, waiting for further
13 instruction. Shortly after, the protest began to move uphill
14 and then downhill towards the Columbus statue. As we
15 approached, I saw CPD in riot gear circled around the statue,
16 blocking it from protesters. As we approached, I saw -- as we
17 continued, popping sounds filled the air, and I began to see
18 thick black and grey smoke and sparks of red.

19 When the protesters attempted to pass the statue, CPD
20 took batons and began beating dozens of protesters attempting
21 to pass the statue. They then began to throw bicycles at
22 protesters and steal the bicycles of safety marshals. I saw
23 dozens of protesters, mainly black, with bloody face injuries
24 fleeing from the statue.

25 As this happened, chemicals began to fill the air,

1 making my eyes water and my lungs irritated. We were forced to
2 run backwards up the hill and then back down to the main
3 street. As we started walking back to the fountain, CPD was
4 lined on either side of the road. I was also informed that my
5 friend, who also attended the protest, was severely maced after
6 having a bicycle thrown at her face.

7 Every day I bear witness to the genocide of my
8 people. I have attended over a dozen protests in the last two
9 months, and I know what I have witnessed has changed my
10 psychological well-being forever.

11 By doing this work, I am reminded of the damage White
12 Supremacy has done to myself and the Black and Brown people of
13 this nation. Every day I live with the ongoing fear that I
14 will die at the hands of police brutality. This fear stays
15 with me on the streets that I march in, the home that I live
16 in, and in the future I see for myself and my people. As steps
17 are not taken towards defunding and abolishing the police, we
18 sacrifice the well-being of our youth and future generations to
19 come.

20 As long as there is air in my lungs, I will use every
21 last breath I have to fight against this system and what it has
22 done to my people.

23 Thank you for your time, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Thank you very much for your comments. I
25 do appreciate them.

1 Let's see, I don't see No. 11, Speaker No. 11, in the
2 queue, but we'll make a call out and see if Speaker No. 11 is
3 present.

4 MS. HICKEY: I believe you can move on, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Okay. I do see the next several speakers
6 in the queue, so Speaker No. 12, please?

7 Okay. How about No. 13?

8 Oh, there is No. 12.

9 MR. RAFAEL: Hi, my name is Luis Rafael. I attended
10 the Black and Indigenous Solidarity Rally. And for full
11 disclosure, I just want to say that I usually don't participate
12 in protests. I'm an introvert. I feel left out when I don't
13 chant along, so that day, I went because it was, like, just a
14 very peaceful protest. It was endorsed by, like, the Chicago
15 Teachers Union. And the reason I mostly went was because, in
16 the past, I seen that it's usually about 60, 70, even 100
17 police officers in riot gear, but not one paramedic in site.
18 And that, to me, is very alarming, especially because of the
19 brutality that we've been noticing nationwide, not just in our
20 city.

21 With prior knowledge from an EMT course at Malcolm X,
22 I went in as just a medic in incognito mode. And it wasn't
23 until when I saw that a police officer was beating a person on
24 the floor, it was -- I believe it was a person who was
25 Caucasian because usually they're the ones on the bikes under

1 the title of marshal. They put themselves in front of the
2 people and the police. So the police threw the person on the
3 floor and (unintelligible) punching them in the face, which
4 then -- so I jumped off from my EMT course two years ago to
5 pursue philosophy and public policy. So at that point I told
6 the police officer, hey, there is no need to -- there is no
7 need to keep on punching the person in the face. If you have
8 to arrest him, if you must, arrest him, but please stop
9 punching him. The police -- you could tell he was high on
10 adrenaline, so I knew that if I touched his hands, that would
11 be, for some way it would be an act of violence on my end. So
12 to stop the punching, I threw my body over his face -- well,
13 over the person on the floor's face. I expected the blows on
14 my back, but then the police officer's partner came from the
15 other side and whacked me in the head with a -- I wish it was a
16 baton, it was a pole he found on the floor. And then I looked
17 up and that same police officer was whacking people just with
18 that pole he found on the floor. It was like from -- it was
19 from a sign.

20 So I just -- I told him, I said: Hey, man, at this
21 point, you know, you're no longer serving the people, you're no
22 longer protecting the people, now you're terrorizing them.
23 Look at yourself. And then he saw the blood gushing down. And
24 I said: Actually, can I get your badge number? Because I knew
25 that he saw the blood, and he got scared, he started walking

1 back. And then he kept on turning around so I wouldn't see his
2 badge number, which, at that point, the blood started gushing
3 down my glasses so I couldn't see any longer. And I'm very
4 blessed and grateful that there was a lot of other medics who
5 were there as volunteers.

6 And that's what I saw, just a lack of the city
7 sending out medics. And, yeah, I saw a lack of accountability
8 for police. And I think even doctors have a more strict --
9 well, if doctors keep on making mistakes, like their license
10 will get revoked. But there is no such thing with police.
11 There is no one there holding them accountable.

12 So the only thing that, if I can, if I may ask is
13 that we take a look at the need of exchange of power and defund
14 police. And, actually, just prevent violence by sending -- or
15 creating, like, a crisis response team where you have, like,
16 sociologists go and attend situations. And, again, fund our
17 schools. The ones here in the south side of Englewood, which
18 is where I live, they're very underfunded. And this is where
19 we would like to see the money go, rather than police who are
20 just reacting to situations like this one.

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

23 Speaker No. 13, please.

24 MS. OWA: Hello, can you hear me?

25 THE COURT: Yes, I can hear you. I'm sorry, yes, I

1 was muted myself. I apologize. Yes, we can hear you. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. OWA: My name is Ashabi Owa. I am an organizer
4 and artist in Chicago. My pronouns are she/they. I'm
5 currently about to start at Loyola University in Clinical
6 Mental Health Counseling Program. And I would just like to
7 talk about my experiences on May 30th, as well as July 17th.

8 The protest May 30th, was, again, a peaceful one. It
9 only started to escalate when the police got notice that they
10 were able to use brute force against protesters. I, amongst
11 several other people, were in the crowd trying to make sure
12 that other people that were hurt (unintelligible) were staying
13 safe. Whenever I go to protests, if I'm not organizing them
14 myself, I usually try to document everything. And at the
15 protest of May 30th, I was present with my partner and their
16 other partner, and we were there being present, trying to make
17 sure that people were staying safe. I had to step away and
18 make sure that the people who were protecting us were able to
19 do that. Those people happened to be white. They were not the
20 police. The police were antagonizing us and beating us with
21 their batons and grabbing people and shoving them to the ground
22 and also beating them until they were bleeding. I had to watch
23 as my partner, who was trying to protect me, had a baton shoved
24 in their face by a police officer who would not let up. And
25 from there, I had to put my body in front of the police and my

1 partner so that they were okay.

2 After that incident, we had to run and get away
3 because they kept hitting us, shooting flares into the air and
4 throwing smoke bombs and tear gas into the crowd when the
5 National Guard came. And we had to run away and find an area
6 to escape because all the bridges were lifted when the curfew
7 was enacted at least 20 minutes before police started attacking
8 us.

9 That was the incident on the 30th, and I'd like to
10 continue with the incident on July 17th at Grant Park.

11 That protest, again, started very peacefully. There
12 was no antagonation from us. We were first at Buckingham
13 Fountain, and then we walked towards Grant Park. From there,
14 police officers started grabbing umbrellas, started shredding
15 banners, started attacking protesters with batons and tear gas.
16 Again, like I mentioned, I have my camera on me whenever I go
17 to protests, and I was able to document all of these things
18 that occurred. I was able to see that the police were
19 attacking other people. They were attacking my friends. I saw
20 police teargassing other people in their face, not even two
21 feet away from them. As I was documenting, I had police come
22 and kettle around us. There was a police officer that whipped
23 out their baton and started yelling, "Get back before I beat
24 the fuck out of you." From there, one other protester, who is
25 an organizer, came and started recording them, and that was the

1 incident that led to them calming down.

2 Me, as a black woman, I usually don't feel safe
3 coming to protests because I'm fully aware that police don't
4 look out for me and take care of me. And the only time I felt
5 safe was when I was around people of community. The police
6 officers were not there to take care of me or make sure that I
7 was okay, they just came after blood and came to attack people.

8 At one point I was standing, watching this man who
9 was on the ground kneeling, with his fist in the air, and the
10 police started to move forward. As I was trying to see why
11 this man was kneeling on the ground, I walked around, and I saw
12 that he had a gash in his head, and he was bleeding profusely,
13 from his head down to his pants. There was blood, and he
14 wouldn't get up off the ground until police started to stop.
15 At that point, I had to call a medic to make sure this person
16 stopped bleeding off from his head, and, from there, police
17 officers started teargassing us and making sure that we were
18 being pushed away back to Buckingham Fountain. From this
19 moment forward, I didn't realize that I was also teargassed,
20 and the moment I realized that was when I started crying after
21 seeing one of my friends who came to see if I was okay.

22 I think something that is reiterated in a lot of
23 these conversations is that police are here to protect us.
24 There is no reason for us to be at these protests in fear for
25 our lives when we're just here to make sure our voices are

1 being heard, our demands are being met.

2 It's very clear the money that's being to allocated
3 CPD is not being used to protect the people that are paying
4 their taxes and paying their bills and paying the communities
5 to make sure that we're okay. It's very clear that CPD needs
6 to be defunded and that all of those funds would be allocated
7 towards schools and underfunded areas in Chicago.

8 That's all I have to say. Thank you so much for your
9 time.

10 THE COURT: Thank you for yours. I appreciate it.
11 If we could move on to Speaker No. 14, please.

12 MS. JACKSON: Hello. Can everybody hear me?

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

14 MS. JACKSON: Hello, my name is India Jackson.
15 She/hers. I am a black, 19-year-old college student from the
16 south side of Chicago, and I am with an organization called
17 GoodKids MadCity. I am going to try my best to keep this short
18 and concise.

19 On August 15, 2020, I attended a protest downtown in
20 the loop. While we were marching, I overheard somebody say
21 that the police were going to start teargassing folks, so we
22 all started running, but to no avail. We ended up being
23 kettled in as the police started teargassing the crowd and
24 started beating people with their batons and sticks, and stuff.
25 And I was hit in my back with a baton, like, four times. And I

1 was teargassed. Luckily the tear gas didn't make it into my
2 eyes, but I have permanent marks and discoloration on my arm
3 and my legs from the tear gas touching my skin.

4 As I was trying to run, I saw the police ram a man so
5 hard down on the concrete that his forehead started gashing
6 blood. And I was hoping that seeing him bleeding would be
7 enough to make them stop attacking this man, but they proceeded
8 to haul him up and starting hitting him some more with his
9 batons before they arrested him.

10 So we were eventually all kettled in until the police
11 started going "bag check" and letting people out. And they
12 didn't really let everybody out because they were specifically
13 looking for people to arrest. I was one of the lucky ones that
14 got out. But as I was pushed out of the scene, they closed it
15 off, and, like, I watched helplessly as five of my friends were
16 wrongly beaten and detained.

17 I hope that people can see this and see that this is
18 a perfect example of (audio breaking up) CPD because at this
19 point they are being paid (unintelligible) color, and that's
20 not right. They are being paid, and we need money for
21 resources.

22 That's all I have to say. Thank you for your time,
23 your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Thank you very much for yours.

25 Let's see, we can move on to No. 15, then, please.

1 SPEAKER KERSTETTER: Hello. Can you hear me?

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

3 MS. KERSTETTER: Okay. Thank you. Hello. My name
4 is River Kerstetter. I am 28-years-old, and I am an Indigenous
5 artist and teacher living in Chicago. My pronouns are she/her.

6 On July 17th, I attended the Black Indigenous
7 Solidarity Rally in Grant Park to show solidarity with my Black
8 and Indigenous sibling, working for an end to structural racism
9 and police brutality and to protest the statue of Christopher
10 Columbus, a racist and violent man who represents hundreds of
11 years of genocide slavery and white supremacy.

12 When the crowd arrived at the statue, police
13 surrounded us, leaving us with no way to leave. I joined other
14 protesters in linking arms in order to protect more vulnerable
15 people from potential violence. Many police officers were not
16 wearing masks and many were laughing or openly cursing at
17 protesters. Soon after surrounding us, police began to shove
18 and teargas people without warning or explanation. I'd like to
19 remind all those listening that tear gas is banned in war by
20 the 1925 Geneva Convention, but for some reason police are
21 allowed to use it on protesters.

22 At some point, I asked a nearby officer: Why are you
23 hurting us? To which he responded: Because you're not
24 listening. This is how this works.

25 This comment was very alarming to me because the

1 police were telling us to move but left us no way to leave, and
2 I couldn't see how our presence could justify such
3 disproportionate violence.

4 Without warning, a police officer shoved me to the
5 ground and beat me repeatedly on my back and ribs with a baton.
6 I tucked my head beneath my arms and didn't fight back. I
7 don't remember much from this moment because all I could feel
8 was blinding pain from being hit over and over with a baton.

9 After some time, others helped separate me from the
10 officers. Police continued to beat and gas other people. Many
11 people, including many young people, were screaming out for
12 medical attention, but police did nothing to help them.

13 When we tried to leave, officers let my friend pass,
14 but told me I would have to go another way, although it was
15 unclear as to why. Because my friend is white and I am
16 Indigenous, I couldn't help but wonder if the officer was
17 treating us differently because of the color of our skin.

18 Eventually, the police did let me pass, and my friend
19 and I went home. I was left with a large bruise on my back,
20 cuts on my legs and sharp pain in my ribs. These injuries and
21 memories of the violence I witnessed made it extremely
22 difficult for me to sleep and go about my days for several
23 weeks.

24 Later, on July 27th, my doctor diagnosed me with a
25 bruised rib. As I'm speaking today, almost a month later, my

1 rib is still in pain. Many of my friends who attended the
2 protest that day were also hurt, gassed and traumatized by
3 police.

4 I am horrified at how violent the police acted
5 towards protesters that day and how they have hurt many other
6 protesters recently. I was left with a bruised rib, but I know
7 that Black Chicagoans and other people of color are treated far
8 worse by Chicago police every day.

9 I feel that the Chicago police abuse their power, and
10 our city would be much safer for everyone if we defunded the
11 police and fund things that actually keep us safe, such as
12 housing, healthcare, education and food for all.

13 Thank you, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Thank you very much for your comments. I
15 appreciate it.

16 I do not see 16 or 17 in the queue, but let me ask if
17 No. 16 is available to speak now.

18 MS. HICKEY: I believe you are correct, your Honor.
19 And if you want to just call out 17, and then we can move to
20 18.

21 THE COURT: All right. How about, is 17 available to
22 speak now?

23 Okay. It appears that Speaker No. 18 is in the
24 queue, so if we could move on to Speaker 18, please.

25 MS. ARTIS: Hello.

1 THE COURT: Hi.

2 MS. ARTIS: Sorry, do you hear an echo at all?

3 THE COURT: I did, but now I just hear you.

4 MS. ARTIS: Okay, great. My name is Elizia. I am a
5 resident of Chicago, here to talk about my experiences this
6 spring.

7 On Saturday, May 30, 2020, I chose to protest the
8 lack of humanity afforded to Black individuals when they
9 encounter the police. That Saturday was not my first or last
10 protest in this vein, as I am a Black woman with a Black
11 mother, father, and brother, hoping to raise a Black child.

12 My encounter with the Chicago Police Department took
13 place at roughly 6:30 PM. I say roughly because my first
14 correspondence with friends about the incident began at
15 6:45 p.m. It took us at least ten minutes to run to our car
16 safely from where the incident took place, the intersection of
17 North State and West Kinzie, in the patio section of the
18 restaurant called the Public House.

19 CPD blocked off State and Kinzie in front of us, and
20 they were encroaching on State and Hubbard behind us. While
21 witnessing minor spats in which protesters yelled at the
22 police, I was under the impression that we were being let
23 through the police line to meet up with other protesters
24 approaching from the west on Kinzie. This was not the case.

25 As we moved towards our friends and peers, the police

1 used shields and batons to push people back. This is when I
2 saw a young man pushed to the ground by a police officer and
3 beaten while he used his hand to try to shield his face. Since
4 the surrounding officers were not trying to stop this from
5 happening, I shouted: You can't do that. Simultaneously, a
6 younger woman next to me threw a dirt clod from the Public
7 House patio in the police's direction. I want to make this
8 very clear, not at them, and not even a symbol of something
9 like that would ever cause an armed officer to say that they
10 feared for their lives.

11 Three officers approached us while, due to poor crowd
12 control, a small group of protesters also fled toward us. The
13 protesters knocked over the young woman next to me. As more
14 protesters and police approached, I chose to cover her body so
15 she would not get trampled. At this point, the police reached
16 us, and I was beaten with a baton on my back. I estimate the
17 officer beat me for 15 to 30 seconds. I can't say for sure
18 because I was focused on blocking the young woman who was
19 covering her head as an officer reached around me to beat her.
20 I also focused on the uniqueness of my screams. This was the
21 first time I heard myself make a sound I could only describe as
22 a combination of shock, fear, and gurgling pain.

23 When the officers stopped beating me, he said: Get
24 the "F" out of here. This was the first time an officer told
25 me I couldn't be in that location. I froze for a moment and

1 said "no" because I was helping the young woman look for her
2 phone that fell out of her hand as she covered her head from
3 the beating. The officer who beat me, and another, began
4 shouting at the two of us. So I said: Okay, but tell us where
5 to go so we don't get beaten again. There is no where to go.

6 The police slowly rearranged the human-made barricade
7 around the mayhem to let us out. My husband and I then ran
8 through a series of alleyways to avoid the many police
9 barricades.

10 Thank you for your time.

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

12 I think we can move on to No. 19, then, please.

13 MS. GALLO: Hello. Can you hear me all right?

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

15 MS. GALLO: Good. My name is Stephanie Gallo. I am
16 a Master's nursing student and EMT. I am a volunteer street
17 medic for Chicago Action Medical and attended the July 17,
18 2020, Black and Indigenous Solidarity Rally as a medic. I did
19 not see any city or publicly funded medical group there. All
20 the medics I know of are volunteers. My statements do not
21 represent Chicago Action Medical or any other organization.

22 For the past decade, I have worked as a wilderness
23 EMT in some of the wildest and most extreme regions of our
24 earth. I have seen and treated grizzly bear attacks, sea lion
25 bites, jellyfish stings, extreme heat and extreme cold

1 injuries. I have saved near-drowning victims. None of those
2 incidents echo in my mind as much as the violent police
3 brutality and subsequent civilian injuries I witnessed on
4 July 17, 2020, at the Indigenous People's Rally in Chicago.

5 I will not be comparing these police actions to
6 anything I have seen in nature because they are incredibly
7 unnatural and inhuman actions. I saw one police officer bounce
8 from foot to foot and wave their arms and baton around, mocking
9 protesters. I saw police officers spray peaceful people with
10 sensory-crippling sprays and hit their hands to rip away their
11 bicycles. The police then shoved and threw people. The police
12 were not being judicious in who they chose to brutalize. The
13 police were targeting every single person they encountered,
14 even my fellow medics. I saw people beg for police to stop
15 touching them and hurting them and to leave them alone.

16 At one point, I was assisting a woman self-administer
17 her inhaler for her asthma that was exacerbated by the
18 chemicals the police were spraying. I looked up to see a line
19 of six police with helmets on and batons out walking towards
20 us. I turned to my fellow medic and said: I'd really like to
21 not get beat up today. He agreed, and we grabbed this woman
22 under her shoulders and helped her to an area away from the
23 oncoming police.

24 It was reported by CPD and media that civilians were
25 using broken-off parts of banners as weapons. The only people

1 I saw do this were police officers. I saw an officer pick up a
2 piece of PVC pipe and swing it at a line of people with
3 interlinked arms, while these people backed away from the
4 threatening officer. The officer then threw the pipe at the
5 legs of these retreating people.

6 As I treated patients, clouds of sensory-crippling
7 sprays rained down on me. On that evening, I could feel the
8 burning effects on my skin, in my nose and eyes for hours
9 afterwards. We ran out of water we were using to flush
10 chemicals out of the eyes of those that the police sprayed.

11 I have attended multiple protests in Chicago as a
12 civilian and a medic. And as you already know, my observations
13 are not an island. This is a part of a pattern of brutality on
14 civilians at the hands of the Chicago Police Department. The
15 City of Chicago and the Chicago Police Department has failed
16 the people and will continue to fail the people if drastic
17 changes are not made right now. Thank you for your time.

18 THE COURT: Thank you very much for your time.

19 I think we're on to No. 20; is that right?

20 MS. HICKEY: Yes, your Honor, that's correct. And I
21 believe No. 20 is ready in the queue.

22 MS. REYNOLDS-TYLER: Can you hear me?

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

24 MS. REYNOLDS-TYLER: Thank you. My name is Trina
25 Reynolds-Tyler, and my pronouns are she/they, and I'm 27 years

1 old. I'm a Chicago native and a recent graduate of the
2 University of Chicago here at School of Public Policy. I am a
3 data analyst and an organizer.

4 On May 30th, minutes after I arrived downtown, I saw
5 police attempting to illegally arrest friends of mine. The
6 police were shoving the crowd who was peacefully marching down
7 the street. This peaceful march was met with police shoving
8 and pulling people into them in an attempt to disrupt the
9 protests and arrest them. While they were not successful, many
10 people were bruised and stepped on, including myself. As soon
11 as the police began to engage with people, everyone began to
12 scream, and the order that existed before police had arrived
13 dissipated. People were confused and began to swarm. Police
14 contributed to a vortex of chaos and escalation.

15 As I approached a bridge near the Trump Tower, I
16 realized that we had been kettled. Hundreds were surrounded by
17 police officers. This felt incredibly unsafe. Not only
18 because the police were closing in on us, but also because
19 there was little room for space to protect ourselves from
20 COVID-19. At that point, many people started sitting on the
21 bridge, unsure of where to go next.

22 I noticed the officers began to ready themselves to
23 move because they positioned their batons across their bodies
24 and formed a stronger line. Officers began to synchronicity
25 say "move," while pushing the people who were already packed

1 like sardines on the bridge. People were screaming for them to
2 stop, yelling that they couldn't breathe and demanding that --
3 to let people through.

4 It felt like I was in the middle of a rugby scrum,
5 squeezed between people and often being lifted off of the
6 ground because the pressure of my body was so intense. I
7 repeatedly told officers stop pushing because someone behind me
8 was having trouble breathing and was laying on the ground. I
9 repeatedly told officers to stop pushing because they were
10 hurting me. An officer hit my leg with a baton multiple times
11 during an arrest of someone beside me who was dragged in, head
12 first, and thrown across the police line by police officers.
13 Because of the police pushing, I was separated from the people
14 that I came with, the people who would keep me safe.

15 On that day, police participated in reckless
16 endangerment. They put the lives of so many people in
17 jeopardy, while -- who were protesting, practicing their First
18 Amendment right to protest. Police presence escalated tensions
19 and created a dangerous space for everyone near or around the
20 protest. They did not report the force that they used. My
21 friend, through FOIA request and footage, has confirmed that
22 the police do not always submit tactical response reports when
23 they use force, and thus TRRs are not an accurate measurement
24 of the use of force and abuse of power.

25 When police are in proximity to people, situations

1 become violent. The data generation -- generating process or
2 the data that we use to determine that police are doing a
3 better job is flawed. I know people who have been stopped and
4 searched without receiving records of that search, seen
5 complaints of violence by police where TRRs were only generated
6 after being called out, and body cameras that police -- where
7 police officers have the discretion about whether or not they
8 turn them on.

9 We need to reduce the power of police and have first
10 responders that are rooted in care.

11 Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Thank you very much.

13 I don't see Speaker 21 in the queue, but I'll ask if
14 Speaker 21 is available.

15 MS. HICKEY: I don't believe so, your Honor. I
16 believe No. 22 is ready, though, so if you want to call No. 22.

17 THE COURT: Speaker No. 22, then, please. Thank you.

18 MS. DELANEY: Hello. Can you hear me?

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

20 MS. DELANEY: Thank you so much. Hello, my name is
21 Erin Delaney, she/her. I am a labor organizer. I will focus
22 today on one of the instances of police violence I have
23 experienced over the past few months in Chicago.

24 On July 17th, I was attacked by a Chicago police
25 officer while on Roosevelt Boulevard. I attended the march

1 that day which led Chicagoans to the Columbus statue. While
2 watching police flood the green leading up to the statue, with
3 no audible call for dispersal, and no opportunity to do so,
4 unprotected Chicagoans were met with a sea of swinging batons.
5 Screams of help came from the crowd. People were climbing on
6 top of each other trying to find a way out. Someone, pulled
7 out by protesters, bleeding from their head so badly that they
8 could not stand. They were covered in blood. I saw orange
9 Mace streaming up from the crowd like fountains.

10 My husband and I ran to the concrete barrier on the
11 south side of the statue. We were assisting injured people
12 trying to disperse. My husband attended to one person who was
13 maced so badly they could not walk or see. He put him on his
14 back and carried him to safety away from police. There was an
15 officer approximately two feet in front of me wearing no
16 protective mask. I said: I am just trying to get people out
17 of here safely. He said nothing and maced me directly in my
18 face. I could feel the Mace soaking the front of my body
19 completely. He then beat me repeatedly with his baton, hitting
20 it on my left arm and back multiple times with enough force to
21 draw blood. The officer then maced me again on the left side
22 of my face, soaking the side of my body.

23 My husband returned to pull me away from the peace
24 officer who was beating his wife. Fortunately -- I'm sorry, my
25 husband was maced as well. The officer tore his bike from his

1 hands and whipped his baton at his head. Fortunately, the bike
2 got in the way of the officer's swing and only a small cut was
3 left on my husband's forehead. His bike was confiscated. I
4 could not see. I pulled my mask off. This was the only time I
5 had to remove my mask at a protest. I struggled to breathe. I
6 have severe asthma. I was not only incapable but afraid of
7 destroying my only inhaler by contaminating it with Mace. The
8 burning was unbearable. I was shaking uncontrollably. I
9 remember stumbling, my bike still in my hands, just screaming
10 down the street. My husband pulled me along. I cried out for
11 water. While surrounded by officers sworn to protect and
12 serve, only volunteer medics came to my aid. The burning did
13 not subside for days. The injuries on my arm and back are
14 still healing.

15 I would like to remind the judge that I pay the
16 salary of the man who saw it fit, who without a word, maced me,
17 beat me, and then maced me again.

18 The Chicago Police Department should have been
19 disbanded a century ago when they murdered labor organizers at
20 Haymarket, decades ago when Jon Burge's torture became public
21 knowledge, the day after Rekia Boyd was murdered. I am
22 appalled by Lori Lightfoot's obviously clouded judgment in
23 respect to the wildly irresponsible police force. The thin
24 blue line is choking the life out of the city.

25 Free Mohawk Johnson, who remains incarcerated at Cook

1 County Jail after his bail has been paid and dismantle CPD.

2 Thank you for your time today.

3 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments.

4 Speaker No. 23, please.

5 MS. NOEL: Hello, your Honor. Can you hear me?

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

7 MS. NOEL: Thank you, your Honor. I say this in
8 honor of: I am Rekia Boyd. I watched it. The criminals, the
9 froth, and the cowards. Men who have no right to be police
10 officers and women unnecessarily wielding military weapons. We
11 have pictures of cops with no masks during the COVID pandemic
12 that has been devastating the community from which they work.
13 And they have had massive COVID infection rates at CPD and at
14 least three confirmed deaths.

15 I saw women who weren't protesting. Mia Wright,
16 Tnika Tate, Kim Woods, snatched out of their car, and a cop put
17 his knee on Mia's neck, which can only be described as a pure
18 act of terrorism and a hate crime after the George Floyd
19 incident. They totaled Tnika's car with their baton. And to
20 add insult to injury and further harm, they charged Mia
21 criminally, an innocent young woman.

22 I absolutely do believe Mayor Lightfoot sacrificed
23 the south and west sides, and I expect full economic recovery
24 by next election, or you, your Honor, should hold her solely
25 responsible for all of the consent decree violations.

1 Additionally, I am disappointed in both Kim Fox and
2 the mayor in their handling of violent police action versus
3 looting and other rebellious violence. Therefore, Womens' All
4 Points Bulletin, WAPB, as a Campbell plaintiff and coalition
5 member with the power to enforce the consent decree orally
6 moves this court to:

7 One: Use your inherent power to launch federal
8 investigations under DOJ law against the officers who violated
9 both the consent decree and the constitutional rights of our
10 constituents, citizens and protect them federally -- I'm sorry,
11 and prosecute them federally.

12 Two: Order a line-item budget of the police and fire
13 department budgets, under the CD's transparency paragraphs to
14 uncover waste and inefficiency.

15 Three: To recognize the community working groups and
16 order a one-on-one meeting with the MOU stakeholders in regards
17 to the inclusion of community working groups and policy
18 creation, improvements, monitoring and guiding principles of
19 enforcement.

20 Four: To order CPD to provide the data necessary to
21 assist each working group in writing policy that can be
22 statistically measured for improvement.

23 We have recommendations. We have specifically
24 recommended to the Chicago Police Department the enactment of
25 two successful programs that include Crisis Assessment Cars and

1 Oregon's CAHOOTS Program. We would like to submit these
2 programs' successes for your approval to include in the consent
3 decree. Please let us know if we need to move the court in
4 writing, or our oral motions will suffice.

5 And I have one question for you, your Honor. Can you
6 have two police safety unions in one city?

7 THE COURT: That question I'll have to take under
8 advisement because I don't have the answer off the top of my
9 head.

10 I thank you for your comments, and I think it would
11 be helpful, actually, if there is specific things you want to
12 put them in writing. I mean, obviously there will be a
13 transcript of this proceeding, but there may need to be some
14 background and some context for your request that would be more
15 than you could possibly do in three minutes. So it would be
16 helpful if you wanted to put anything in writing that would be
17 in the nature of a specific request for relief. Okay?

18 MS. NOEL: Yes, sir. Thank you, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much for your
20 comments.

21 I do not see Speaker 24 in the queue specifically,
22 but that doesn't mean Speaker 24 is not available. So if
23 Speaker 24 is available, this will be your time.

24 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, I do not believe Speaker
25 No. 24 is available, or online, so if we could move to 25.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Speaker No. 25, then, please.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. HIYAMA: Hello, can you hear me?

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

5 MS. HIYAMA: Hi, my name is Clare Hiyama. I use
6 she/her pronouns. I'm 26, and I'm a health educator living in
7 Ravinswood Chicago. And when schools are in person and in
8 session, I teach all over the city.

9 As a Chicago resident, it has pained me greatly to
10 see the gulf between what we would expect as public servants
11 and what we are actually experiencing at the hands of the
12 Chicago Police Department. I have been and continue to be
13 appalled at the actions of CPD over the last three months.
14 They have terrorized many people in the city for decades. And
15 in recent months, they have shown no willingness to change or
16 to take responsibility for their actions. Even in the face of
17 overwhelming video evidence of their violence, they have not
18 been able to admit that their actions have been excessive.

19 I was at the protest in Grant Park on July 17th,
20 where I saw CPD's brutality firsthand. Like many others have
21 said, I saw them hit a protester in the head, and I saw the
22 blood running down his face from his temple. I saw them
23 spraying protesters without warning with an unknown substance
24 from hoses, and immediately after, everyone in the vicinity was
25 coughing and crying and throwing up. And this is all during an

1 airborne respiratory pandemic. I saw them push down individual
2 protesters and rip their bikes out of their hands. I saw them
3 beat people who were trying to run away from them. Even when
4 they were looking right at people in clear need of medical
5 assistance, CPD offered none. Only later did I see a video of
6 them beating the friend I attended with. We had gotten
7 separated in the chaos that night. And that was really hard to
8 watch.

9 One of the things that showed me the most that night
10 was the way that the officers on the scene laughed at us. When
11 we begged them to leave people alone, they laughed. When we
12 were walking away from the scene, they were mocking us. It
13 felt like they view Chicagoans who are fighting for justice as
14 enemies, and they treat us that way.

15 I was there that night because I believe the city
16 needs to invest in marginalized communities through healthcare,
17 housing, mental health services, help fund schools, and to diet
18 us from punitive carceral systems of control.

19 What I saw that night reaffirmed my belief that CPD
20 cannot create or uphold public safety and that we must defund
21 them.

22 As a culture, we think that it's really important to
23 have police to protect us, but I, as a young white-passing
24 woman would be so reluctant to call upon them because of the
25 risks that that would entail. Not only of how they might treat

1 me, but also of how they might treat people in my neighborhood
2 if they came in response to a call.

3 As a health educator, I often get questions from my
4 students about what they should do if they experience sexual
5 violence. And it's one of the most emotionally difficult parts
6 of my job. I wish I could tell them there are people that you
7 could call who would come quickly, who would treat you with
8 respect, who would keep you physically and emotionally safe and
9 who would help you get long-term support, but I feel it would
10 be completely irresponsible as an educator to tell them that
11 CPD are those people. The possible costs are too great.

12 Thank you for your time.

13 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments.

14 I don't see Speaker 26 in the queue, but if
15 Speaker 26 is available, please go ahead.

16 MS. HICKEY: I believe you can move on, your Honor,
17 to No. 27.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Speaker 27, then, please.

19 MR. JOYNT: Hello, can you hear me?

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

21 MR. JOYNT: Great. Hello, my name is Matthew Joynt,
22 and I am a 36-year-old film composer, artist, small business
23 owner and resident of Chicago. I'm white, and I use he/him
24 pronouns.

25 For the last six years, I've regularly engaged in

1 public protest against policing. During that time, I've
2 witnessed and experienced a dramatic increase in police
3 brutality, including extensive retaliatory use of lethal force
4 against BLM and the movement to defund CPD. This summer has
5 been no exception.

6 At the protest on May 31st, I witnessed an officer
7 deliberately hit a teenage girl in the face with his baton,
8 visibly shattering the bridge of her nose.

9 On June 2nd, I witnessed a young protester ask CPD
10 Officer Andrew Gorlewski, Badge No. 7804: "Don't you care about
11 my black life? Won't you even think about why we're here?" He
12 responded: "I don't care about black lives, and I will not
13 think about it."

14 On July 17th, I witnessed CPD pepper spray an adult
15 educator continuously until she began to go into shock.
16 Moments later, officers laughed as they pepper sprayed me at
17 one-foot range, stole my bike, beat me to the ground and hit me
18 repeatedly in the face and body.

19 Since the approval of the consent decree, the 2019
20 federal mandate allegedly designed to bring reform,
21 de-escalation training and accountability to the hellish
22 policing practices witnessed by the DOJ in Chicago, we've been
23 met with nothing but the opposite. This is because this is not
24 an issue of police reform or a few bad apples. The entire
25 institution of policing from the time of its inception in this

1 country as slave patrol to the present is a racist project
2 designed to protect the power, property and capital of white
3 people. But we fail to address our shameful legacies of
4 community disinvestment, segregation, planned impoverishment
5 and the ongoing criminalization of our Black and Brown
6 neighbors, whose ancestors were kidnaped into slavery and
7 exploited to build this country on stolen, Indigenous land.

8 If we want to talk about looting, let's start with
9 white people. If we want to talk about public safety, let's
10 establish a civilian police accountability counsel and defund
11 the police by 75 percent, investing instead in non-carceral
12 social services, education and mental health.

13 As one protest sign recently read: The safest
14 communities don't have the most police, they have the most
15 resources, which is why we will continue to be in the streets
16 even in the face of the police intimidating us, lying about us,
17 doxing us online, beating us, arresting us, kettling us,
18 stealing from us, mocking us and smearing us in the press until
19 we see the resourcing of Black and Brown communities and the
20 defunding of the violent, ineffectual and racist system called
21 the police. Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. Our next speaker is
23 No. 28, please.

24 MR. DRAKE: Hello. Can everybody hear me?

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

1 MR. DRAKE: Thank you. Good afternoon. I want to
2 begin by saying that, if the city was half as committed to the
3 consent decree as the attorney represented to this court
4 yesterday, then in the words of the late Senator Abe Bernicoff,
5 we wouldn't have gestapo tactics in the streets of Chicago.

6 My name is Michael Drake. I'm a 2020 graduate of the
7 UIC JM Law School, where I graduated in the top ten percent of
8 my class. I'm also a veteran. I deployed to Afghanistan as an
9 infantryman with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment from 2010, 2011. I
10 bring up my service to fully contextualize what I say next:

11 CPD's use of force against peaceful protesters has
12 horrified me.

13 On May 30th I attended protests as a legal observer
14 with the NLG. On that day, I witnessed CPD officers attack
15 protesters with a viciousness and a disregard for human life
16 that I have not seen since witnessing Afghan police officers
17 attack suspected Taliban members. I was at Trump Tower when
18 CPD attempted to push protesters off of the Wabash bridge. I
19 was in the very front of the protesters, wearing a legal
20 observer hat. Officers are pushing us back with batons and
21 protesters behind us were pushing us forward. To my left, CPD
22 dragged a young woman to the ground and began kicking her and
23 beating her with a baton. Another protester attempted to
24 shield her and got the same treatment.

25 I attempted to get their names to send to the Mass

1 Defense Committee, which provides free legal representation to
2 arrested protesters. While trying to get the names of the
3 people being assaulted by the CPD, an officer hit me in the
4 throat with his baton. As he attempted to do so again, I put
5 my arm up to block it. After that, a number of officers began
6 hitting me in the head with a baton. Other officers grabbed me
7 from behind, ripped me over a concrete barrier, where they
8 continued to beat me. Two other protesters attempted to stop
9 the CPD from beating me and was beaten as well. I'm unsure of
10 how long I was kicked, punched and hit with batons. After the
11 beating, I was unable to sit or move for a week without extreme
12 pain.

13 I was arrested and taken to the 18th Precinct where I
14 was held without charge in a urine-soaked cell for over
15 12 hours. Multiple attorneys and recent law grads were unable
16 to ascertain my location for hours. No one in jail was given
17 any informational or allowed any phone call until after NLG
18 attorneys managed to find me, figure out where I was and send
19 me legal representation.

20 All that pales in comparison to what I saw last
21 Saturday, August 15th. In the most heinous act of
22 (unintelligible) violence that I've witnessed in 29 years of
23 life, I watched CPD officers clear out media before attacking
24 injured people being treated by medics on the sidewalk. The
25 CPD kicked people and medics, hit them with batons and

1 destroyed medical supplies. CPD officers hit me, shoved me and
2 called me a pussy for pointing out the people who they were
3 assaulting were injured. I was wearing a NLG legal observer
4 hat that day as well.

5 CPD's behavior last Saturday was barbaric. If our
6 country followed any international human rights allegation,
7 that act alone would have violated multiple human rights
8 treatment. If that act occurred during international conflict,
9 it would have violated the Geneva Convention. But none of
10 that, nor the consent decree, stopped CPD.

11 After that act, the CPD only became more aggressive.
12 They kettled protesters (unintelligible) exit. They ran into
13 kettled crowds while screaming and banging the sides of their
14 batons. It was textbook psychological warfare.

15 CPD removed all legal observers from the area and
16 prevented medical aid while they did God knows what to two
17 unlucky protesters who did not manage to escape who were
18 primarily young Black and Brown people.

19 The CPD is the (unintelligible) of the junta, and the
20 city thanks them for it. I imagine some officers already
21 (unintelligible) their awards of valor due to rogue acts of
22 beating teenagers senseless. The city blames agitators and
23 umbrellas for the August 16th violence. However, those that
24 were there know what happened, and no enhanced suspected edited
25 video submitted by the CPD can (unintelligible) what they did

1 that day.

2 As I address this honorable court, CPD has not been
3 made to answer to the crimes. I doubt they will and never have
4 been. Regardless, I urge the honorable court to require the
5 CPD to follow the consent decree which requires, amongst other
6 things, proportional use of force. Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments.

8 I do not see 29, 30, or 31 in the attendee's queue.

9 Maggie, do you see any of the next three?

10 MS. HICKEY: No, your Honor. I believe you've now
11 called them, and No. 32 is ready.

12 THE COURT: Okay. So we can go ahead and move to 32
13 then, please.

14 MS. MULLEN: Hi. Can you hear me?

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

16 MS. MULLEN: All right. One second. Good afternoon
17 and thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is
18 Margaret Mullen, and I am a 24-year-old DePaul graduate,
19 Chicago native and daughter of two Chicago police officers. My
20 mother retired as a Sergeant from the First District, and my
21 father was shot in the line of duty when I was six months old,
22 catastrophically injuring him and initiating me into the
23 Chicago Police Memorial Foundation and Gold Star family
24 communities.

25 As a person who has grown up within the police

1 community, I have an intimate understanding of how the police
2 think, what they talk about, how they spend their time, and I
3 detest the fact that the police venerate the people in their
4 circle and demonize the people outside of it. While
5 protesting, I rarely identify myself as a Gold Star family
6 member. But when I did, I watched officers soften their glares
7 and listen to me. It is unacceptable that the subjugation of
8 the Black body is so normalized that, until I identified myself
9 as a Gold Star member, the police would not consider what I had
10 to say. The police should treat every community member with
11 the same respect that they treat those in their circle.

12 On May 31st and July 17th, I bore witness to the way
13 the people I was taught would keep me safe attacked my peers,
14 brutalized young people and blatantly lied to the public about
15 their actions afterwards.

16 On May 31st, we openly denounced looting in every
17 intersection where we rallied while we watched people break
18 into stores and run across intersections with cash registers
19 and other goods. There was a clear distinction between those
20 participating in the protest and those who were looting. And
21 it is important to note that, until we reached downtown Hyde
22 Park, there was not a single officer to be seen.

23 When the protest disbanded around 7:00 PM at 53rd and
24 Lake Park, there was a rush of approximately 15 squad cars that
25 arrived in riot gear and started a police line blocking people

1 from heading west to make it back home before curfew.

2 On July 17th, I participated in the decolonized
3 Zhigaagoong march from Buckingham Fountain to Grant Park. I
4 witnessed police officers get trapped inside the area taken
5 over by protesters. I saw the look of terror on their face
6 when they realized they were circled, and they were allowed to
7 walk out without a scratch. Ten minutes later, they beat young
8 people silly. I witnessed people screaming and crying with
9 swollen appendages, cracked skulls, blood streaming down their
10 faces and accumulating all their clothes. There was coughing
11 and vomiting from the chemicals released in the area, and I was
12 dumbfounded by the level of force exhibited against the people
13 the police claim to serve and protect.

14 With all of these experiences being hurtful and
15 traumatic, the absolute worse part of the July 17th experience
16 was Superintendent Brown's press conference the following day.
17 I watched as Super Brown blatantly lied to the public regarding
18 what prompted the violence on July 17th. He presented a video
19 claiming to be evidence of protesters taking apart a banner
20 with pre-sharpened PVC to jab and throw at the police. What I
21 saw was the police pull the banner apart in order to hit the
22 people behind the banner with their batons. The moment I saw
23 Superintendent Brown lie to the public, any remainder of good
24 faith in our leaders was destroyed.

25 There is a bridge that must be built between the

1 police and the community they serve. With public servants like
2 Super Brown and Mayor Lightfoot, publicly demonizing protesters
3 to maintain a good public image, the people of Chicago are
4 going to continue to suffer. How are we serving and protecting
5 the community when we lie to the public?

6 Judge Dow and Monitor Hickey, the people of Chicago
7 need you to step in. CPD is not upholding the standards set by
8 the consent decree, and it is actively hurting people. I am
9 hurting. My life was fundamentally altered because of the
10 violence against the police, and for far too long we have
11 accepted excuses from our leaders and scapegoated the actions
12 of individuals like Jason Van Dyke, rather than acknowledge the
13 role that police have played in protecting property and the
14 suppression of Black and Brown people.

15 I believe that meeting 100 percent of the milestones
16 set by the consent decree is a start, but only by defunding CPD
17 by a minimum of 75 percent will we be able to treat the root
18 causes of crime instead of relying on a reactionary system that
19 hurts people every day. Thank you.

20 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments.

21 I think Speaker No. 33, I believe, is -- I think I
22 saw. Well, I'm not sure. Is Speaker No. 33 in the queue,
23 please?

24 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, I don't believe Speaker 33
25 is. I, like yourself, mistakenly thought they were. But if

1 you want to call 33 and 34, I do not believe they have signed
2 on. But No. 35 is ready.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Well, let's do one more call for
4 33 and 34.

5 Okay. Let's try No. 35, then, please.

6 THE COURT: I think you may be on mute. I think
7 we're getting there. I think you still may be -- there we go.

8 MR. JAWORSKI: Can you hear me?

9 THE COURT: We can hear you now. Thank you.

10 MR. JAWORSKI: Okay. Thank you so much, your Honor.

11 My name is David Jaworski. My pronouns are he/him. I'm 29,
12 and I live on the north side of Chicago.

13 On July 17th, I attended the Black Indigenous
14 Solidarity Rally at Buckingham Fountain. Afterwards, we
15 started marching and ended up at the Columbus statue.
16 Immediately I heard screaming and calls for help as police in
17 riot gear with batons surged towards the statue. I walked my
18 bike to a line of bike marshals standing, unmoving, not given
19 official calls to disperse. We were trying to slow a group of
20 police about to beat protesters. I was targeted by a
21 white-shirt officer about twice my size. He was un-gloved,
22 unmasked, and he picked me up by the throat, lifted me off the
23 ground and threw me. I was choke-slammed by a police officer
24 acting look a professional wrestler fighting to the audience.
25 I got back on my feet and got ahold on my bike as he tried to

1 steal it from me. During the scuffle, I was being trampled and
2 lost my left shoe. I was shoved again and fell onto a bike.
3 My foot caught between the spokes. I was shoved and trampled
4 again while on the ground and my pinky toe snapped between
5 those spokes. Panicked and injured, I had to pull myself and
6 my bike from the officers and hobbled away. Had I not been
7 wearing my helmet, I would have likely been concussed from
8 being thrown so many times. I was separated from my two
9 friends that I went with and began calling them so we could
10 leave. However, police had everyone surrounded so it would
11 have been impossible anyway.

12 After ten minutes, I found one of my friends and told
13 them about my foot. Concerned, they offered to take me to the
14 paramedics. The ambulances were parked on Columbus near the
15 Roosevelt entry section, next to all the cop cars, beyond the
16 line of armed police, brutalizing protesters, making it
17 impossible to get proper medical care, even if one could trust
18 those that were standing with the very people beating them.

19 I finally got through to my second friend who had got
20 swept up and was standing with protesters on the south side of
21 the statue, beyond the police that had just beaten me. My
22 friend had sounded scared and did not want to be there but also
23 was not about to leave the people by their side opened and more
24 harm. I lost contact with that friend and saw a red-orange
25 cloud in the area. Everyone around me started coughing, and I

1 heard calls for medic every ten seconds. They were coughing,
2 and they had to take off their mask because they had been
3 pepper sprayed. I found out my friend was hit on their arms
4 with a baton until they could no longer hold their bike. Their
5 bike was stolen from them, and they were pepper sprayed, their
6 whole body burned, and that it soaked into their genitals for
7 hours afterwards. My bike was broken, my friend's stolen, and
8 had we not been able to get a ride from another friend, I would
9 have had to walk the five miles home on a swollen injured foot.

10 I am testifying today because I believe my story
11 should be heard. I am a peaceful person that was attacked by a
12 violent, uncaring organization. I lost already scarce work
13 because of my injury and possible exposure to COVID.

14 My story and identity are now known to the police and
15 their supporters who released the name and addresses of people
16 who already have suffered trauma at the hands of the CPD. We
17 saw this on their Twitter account on the 15th of August. My
18 friend, who is an organizer had to -- I had to move them
19 because they were doxxed and people had showed up to their
20 home, faces covered, trying to attack them and terrorize them.
21 We feel scared and vulnerable from the very people designated
22 to serve and protect us, but they don't care.

23 Thank you, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Thank you.

25 If I'm right, No. 36 was already a cancellation at

1 the beginning; is that right?

2 MS. HICKEY: I believe so, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Okay. So we're on to Speaker No. 37,
4 please.

5 MR. MERCADO: Hello, your Honor. Hello, everyone.
6 My name is Juan Mercado. I use he/him pronouns, and I am a
7 Latino person of color. I am currently employed by Howe
8 Corporation as an inside sales coordinator. I do not represent
9 them with these statements.

10 I was at the decolonized rally and march on
11 July 17th, along with my partner, which began at Buckingham
12 Fountain and made its way to the Columbus statue. We were
13 there in solidarity with the Black and Indigenous organizers,
14 demanding to defund CPD, get police out of CPS, and amongst
15 other demands.

16 I will focus my testimony on what I witnessed at the
17 Columbus statue. And I also want to point out that there is a
18 video of, you know, things being thrown at officers. I heard
19 rumors that there was rocks and frozen water bottles. I can
20 confirm that I personally did not see anything of the sort.
21 And, even so, police dispersed from the statue and were safe
22 and then returned. And, here, as protesters were finally
23 surrounding the statue, police were on our perimeter at this
24 point, and they were up on the street, they were in the
25 walkway. For a while, everyone was just standing around,

1 including police. And then at some point CPD made multiple
2 attempts to try and get through the crowd and get to the
3 statute. They used the batons and their Mace to beat and spray
4 anyone in their path, and, you know, against unarmed protesters
5 who were of no physical threat to them. In one specific
6 instance, I recall two officers laying on top of a gentleman
7 who was lying on the ground. They were on top of him. And
8 knowing that people have suffocated when police have been on
9 top of them and died, I yelled at them to get off of him. At
10 that time, one police officer stood up, walked toward me and
11 yelled something at me. I believe he said: What you're doing
12 is wrong, as he proceeded to hit me with his baton on my left
13 arm. And then I backed up, and I got caught up with someone's
14 bike. And as I'm frantically trying to get uncaught, you know,
15 we're afraid that we're going to get hit again, that we're
16 going to get sprayed, I see two more officers get on top of the
17 man lying now in a fetal position on the ground and all of them
18 started to beat him with the batons.

19 Finally, once I got relief, I began tending to people
20 who were maced, or sprayed, giving them eye flushes. Many of
21 them were screaming in agony, gagging, coughing. And a couple
22 of them mentioned that the police sprayed them directly into
23 their eyes, targeting their eyes.

24 You know, at this point it felt like a battle zone.
25 It felt -- it was scary to see. I couldn't believe what I was

1 seeing with my own eyes. It wasn't on a phone screen.

2 Anyway, eventually the police rallied back onto the
3 street and later, once more police arrived, and I believe
4 National Guard, or people in olive fatigues, they finally
5 rushed the crowd one last time, breaking through, using their
6 Mace again and using their batons.

7 And I just want to say that was not a display of the
8 police protecting people, this was a display of police
9 protecting inanimate objects. And it's clear to me now that we
10 do need to defund CPD and reinvest in communities. There were
11 so many cops there from different districts that those
12 resources can be better used to serve our communities. And
13 that's all I have to say. Thank you for your time.

14 THE COURT: Thank you for your time.

15 I don't see No. 38 in the queue, but I do see Speaker
16 No. 39. So if we could move on to Speaker No. 39, please.

17 MR. HOLDAHL: Hi. Can everyone hear me okay?

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

19 MR. HOLDAHL: Hi, my name is Val Holdahl. I'm white,
20 I use they/them pronouns, and I am 28 years old. I have
21 participated in community organizing for the last four years,
22 one of my primary roles being in direct action setting serving
23 as a street medic. I was trained in 2017 as a street medic by
24 a collective called Chicago Action Medical. I'm speaking on
25 behalf of myself as a voluntary street medic and protester and

1 someone who has personally experienced and witnessed harm by
2 CPD. My statements do not represent Chicago Action Medical the
3 Street Med Org, or any organization. Although I do voice my
4 support on behalf of the 2018 Black Lives Matter Chicago
5 consent decree and any Black Indigenous people of color,
6 community members who reinforce their complaints regarding the
7 violent, physical and emotional harm caused by Chicago Police
8 Officers and their department.

9 Although there are several incidences I could speak
10 on, I will be focusing on July 17, 2020, the Black and
11 Indigenous People's Rally held at Buckingham Fountain.

12 When we began marching, there were already dozens of
13 fully armored officers waiting for our arrival with batons,
14 multiple types of guns harnessed on their bodies and chemical
15 devices that released toxic sprays. Crowds began to gather
16 around the statue. Police lined up surrounding everyone with
17 their bikes and blocking off most paths to exit. You may
18 recognize this tactic as kettling. Protesters were
19 non-violently attempting to protect the most vulnerable people,
20 and they were met with brutal force by the police for doing so.

21 This led to the dozens of people getting pushed down
22 or off their bikes, having their bikes taken, destroyed or
23 stolen and used as weapons by the police to knock down more
24 bystanders. I watched multiple individuals get beat with
25 batons directly to their head, face, chest, arms, nearly

1 everywhere on their body for nearly standing in the middle of
2 the commotion. I watched people I love get that, happen to
3 them too. None of the protesters I saw were fighting the
4 officers, even while they were being beaten and provoked. I
5 could not count the number of protesters affected by the
6 chemical weapon sprayed that evening. I also was affected by
7 the sprays they were using. It felt like sharp and stinging
8 objects were stuck in my throat, and I coughed so hard I almost
9 vomited. This happened to me multiple times that night. I saw
10 protesters having asthma and panic attacks from the spray, in
11 addition to the debilitating injuries from being beaten with
12 batons, bikes, and even PVC pipes. Along with the other
13 medics, I spent most of the time rinsing protesters' red and
14 inflamed eyes out with water to delete the effects of the
15 chemical weapons. I continued to see bloody head injuries,
16 contusions, raw abrasions to skin and numerous other injury.

17 Later in the evening, there was jail support
18 organized at 51st and Wentworth and Division and Laramie
19 precincts. The detained individuals were not provided medical
20 care and were held for hours with chemical spray burning on
21 their skin and their eyes. My partner was one of those
22 detained. It destroyed her glasses, and she couldn't see for
23 hours on top of the damage to her eyes.

24 One protester even had a seizure while under arrest
25 and being detained and was transported to a hospital, only for

1 the care of that seizure, not to address the intense bodily
2 harm caused that evening by the police officers. The police
3 department demanded this protester's return to the precinct
4 after becoming stabilized from the seizure.

5 I hope that by sharing what I have witnessed due to a
6 very small insight to only a few of the times I have seen
7 police brutality against protesters, this is not even including
8 the ongoing police brutality against Black and Brown lives,
9 people experiencing homelessness and people with disabilities
10 that I've seen as a bystander. I have seen the use -- police
11 use protests and demonstrations as an excuse to bully,
12 intimidate and abuse people exercising their First Amendment
13 rights because protesters are seen as quote-unquote
14 "resisting."

15 Since I don't have the time to go over other events
16 where I have seen lethal force against protesters by police, I
17 will just say the dates: May 30, June 1st, August 9th and
18 15th, all within 2020. And none of these officers were wearing
19 masks or even practicing COVID-19 precautions.

20 Police should be prohibited from harassing and
21 trolling the families and communities of people murdered by the
22 police. The police need to be held accountable for their
23 actions. They need to be removed from protests, and the police
24 department budget needs to be reallocated because their
25 presence promotes the opposite of feeling protected. They want

1 to instill scare, and they know that. Even you all know that,
2 and so do the political leaders of Chicago. Yes, that includes
3 Lori Lightfoot. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments.

5 We have Speaker No. 40, then, please.

6 MS. BETZEL: Can everyone hear me?

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

8 MS. BETZEL: Thank you. My name is Alex Betzel. My
9 pronouns are she/her/hers. I'm white, I'm 30 years old, and
10 I'm a fundraiser at WTTW Channel 11 and classical WFMT 98.7.

11 On May 30th, at about 2:00 PM, I rode my bike down to
12 Daley Plaza to join the protests there against the pattern of
13 police brutality by the Chicago Police Department, as well as
14 the brutal death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

15 I got off my bike and started to March with the other
16 protesters, and at about 4:00 o'clock, we started to approach
17 the Trump Tower. That is when police began to push into the
18 crowd. I turned, and I started to walk away from the police,
19 and at that time one officer ripped my bike out of my hand and
20 another threw me on the ground. They trailed back into the
21 crowd of protesters, and over about the next hours they
22 continued to push into the protesters.

23 I was on the front line of protesters, and at that
24 time Officer Angelo Gallegos pressed his baton horizontally
25 against my chest and also my neck. I turned my head so the

1 baton wouldn't be directly against my windpipe, and he
2 continued to push. He pinned me up against the protesters
3 behind me until I couldn't talk. And then at that point I
4 couldn't breath anymore, and I couldn't keep my feet underneath
5 me, the crowd was moving so much, and my knees gave out. So he
6 was pressing the baton against my neck so hard that I couldn't
7 fall to my knees. I was hanging by his baton.

8 When I started to go completely limp, another
9 protester called him off, said, she is choking, she can't
10 breathe, she can't breathe, take off your baton. I think that
11 protester saved my life that day.

12 Later that day, I also watched the police swing their
13 batons and hit protesters in the head, the neck, the shoulders
14 the face. Mainly protesters of color. I watched groups of six
15 or seven officers target individual, unarmed protesters and
16 chase them down, tackle them, beat them with their batons and
17 arrest them.

18 For the next couple of days, my throat hurt so bad.
19 It hurt to talk and cough. I had pain in my neck for almost
20 two months following that protest, and I still have trouble
21 focusing at work because of the intrusive memories and the
22 rising sense of panic. I am seeking additional therapy for the
23 emotional trauma, and it haunts me to this day.

24 Thank you for your time.

25 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments. We can move

1 on to Speaker No. 41, then, please. I think you're on mute.

2 MR. HANNIGAN: Okay. How about now?

3 THE COURT: Much better. Thank you.

4 MR. HANNIGAN: All right. Thank you. Sorry about
5 that.

6 THE COURT: That's okay.

7 MR. HANNIGAN: Hello, my name is Matt Hannigan. I'm
8 a resident of Chicago, Illinois. Thank you for this
9 opportunity to speak. I attended a demonstration which began
10 at Millennium Park on Saturday, August 15th and would like to
11 relay my observations.

12 Once the group of demonstrators convened at Michigan
13 and Wacker, the police quickly surrounded us on the east, west
14 and south, while the north side of the intersection was blocked
15 by a raised drawbridge and a large truck, essentially trapping
16 us. It was immediately apparent that the police, who
17 outnumbered the protesters by a factor of at least 2-to-1,
18 would not be treating us as the peaceful protesters that we
19 were. The officers arrived clad in helmets, visors, batons and
20 armed with pepper spray. Despite the ongoing pandemic, very
21 few officers wore face masks.

22 Not long after the police surrounded the protesters,
23 I witnessed a ranking officer in his 50s or 60s in white
24 short-sleeve shirt and black vest walk from the west side of
25 the intersection to the east. Instead of simply walking around

1 the perimeter, he chose to walk through the group, clearly as
2 an act of intimidation. I saw him violently shove a young
3 woman out of his way for no reason other than to assert his
4 dominance over the crowd. The officer could have easily walked
5 behind the large truck parked at the base of the bridge, a path
6 that would have been clear of my protesters. I would like to
7 stress the importance of this. His use of unwarranted violence
8 was extreme and completely unnecessary and ultimately
9 avoidable.

10 A few minutes later, I saw protesters take out
11 umbrellas. The police violently ripped their umbrellas out of
12 many of the protesters' hands and then began hitting them with
13 their batons. I would like to make clear that the umbrellas
14 were not used in any sort of menacing, threatening manner. I
15 witnessed unarmed protesters wearing nothing but regular
16 clothing get beat on the head and arms by Chicago police
17 officers in full protective gear. How can it be a crime to
18 carry an umbrella?

19 Soon after I witnessed pepper spray deployed within
20 inches of protesters' faces. It's difficult to describe the
21 feeling of seeing protesters being pepper sprayed by CPD, but I
22 became extremely fearful for my safety. Not at the hands of
23 the protesters, but at the hands of the Chicago Police
24 Department. I witnessed young people stumble into the middle
25 of the interaction, blinded by pepper spray, writhing in pain,

1 panic and confusion, ripping their masks off to breathe and
2 screaming in agony. The use of pepper spray in the midst of a
3 respiratory pandemic seems like an extremely cruel and callous
4 response to a group of young people just trying to make their
5 voices heard. With the smell of pepper spray fresh in my
6 nostrils, I left the area.

7 I'd like to make clear that the violent police
8 response to this peaceful protest was completely unwarranted.
9 The protesters were simply exercising their First Amendment
10 right to free speech and assembly. The police violated that
11 right by beating and pepper spraying us. CPD clearly did not
12 have safety of anyone in mind.

13 Thank you very much.

14 THE COURT: Thank you. Let's see, we have about ten
15 minutes until we're going to take the midafternoon break, so
16 let's move on to Speaker 42, then, please.

17 MS. ZELDIN: Hi. Can you hear me?

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

19 MS. ZELDIN: Thank you, your Honor. My name is Wendy
20 Zeldin. My pronouns are she/they. I am 35 years old. I'm a
21 parent of an eight-year-old CPS student, and I manage a
22 farmer's market on the south side.

23 On July 17th I attended the Black and Indigenous
24 Solidarity Rally at Buckingham Fountain. I marched to the
25 southern edge of Grant Park with a handful of my friends. We

1 were hopeful and energetic. I was happy to be out supporting
2 the incredibly youth activists and was inspired by the kindness
3 and generosity that I saw around me. Complete strangers
4 offered me snacks, water, hand sanitizer as we walked. I felt
5 encouraged and optimistic.

6 Where at first police were surrounding the Columbus
7 statue, they quickly retreated to the outskirts of the park.
8 My friends and I were also near the park edge, where we stood
9 chanting and cheers, peacefully exercising our First Amendment
10 rights. The police were blocking the one (unintelligible) exit
11 by us, just sort of Roosevelt. They stood there for about
12 20 minutes, casually chatting and leaning against their bikes.
13 I remember looking at their riot gear and thinking it was so
14 ridiculous that they'd come with batons and helmets dressed for
15 a battle. I had on overalls and a crop top, which I would have
16 never worn, had I known what was coming.

17 After about 20 minutes, suddenly multiple vans pulled
18 up right behind the officers. Dozens more cops in full riot
19 gear came out, including a couple in white shirts. Within a
20 minute of arriving, they began distributing cans of pepper
21 spray. Some of them (unintelligible) all the cannisters and
22 yelled out a warning. We started chanting: Don't do it.
23 Don't do it. Those were the last words out of my mouth before
24 my friends and I were assaulted by CPD. They gave us no
25 warning whatsoever. They didn't ask us to move. They didn't

1 ask us to leave. They didn't tell us that we needed to
2 disperse or else they'd attack. There was no opportunity for
3 compliance. They didn't care about our safety, our health, or
4 our well-being. They didn't want us to disperse, or they
5 wouldn't have been blocking the exit. They wanted to hurt us.
6 They sprayed the chemicals directly toward my face. I ducked
7 and squatted down, immediately blinded and coughing profusely,
8 wanting to get my face away from other people because I am
9 terrified of contracting COVID. The cops sprayed more straight
10 onto the back my head, also the nape of my neck. My skin was
11 on fire, and I couldn't breath. I knew I needed to run away
12 and get fresh air, but as I tried to stand up to leave, they
13 sprayed me again. I had no idea where any of my friends were.
14 I couldn't see. I just heard batons cracking and people
15 screaming on all sides of me.

16 (Audio breaking up) trying to escape, and strangers
17 pulled me away and flushed my eyes out. When I could
18 eventually see, the scene was horrific. Officers were
19 brutalizing protesters with their batons and bikes. A young
20 man walked by me with blood pouring out of his mouth, running
21 down all over his shirt. It took me hours to clean the
22 chemicals off of my clothing, my skin and my hair.

23 I went to sleep crying, my body still searing from
24 the spray. I had to be up for work at 5:00 AM. I ran the
25 farmer's market the next day with my hands, my neck, and my

1 knees still on fire. It took a whole 24 hours for the pain and
2 burning to stop. I was covered in bruises on my ribs and my
3 back. I use a birth control that makes it so that I don't
4 menstruate. But after that night, I was bleeding for days. A
5 nurse friend of mine told me it was potentially triggered by
6 the chemicals, but most likely it was a result of the extreme
7 trauma and stress. I have experienced disassociation, extreme
8 anxiety and nightmares regularly since this event.

9 CPD assaulted me for doing nothing more than standing
10 in a park peacefully chanting with my friends, exercising my
11 right to protest, and I will never forget this. I am fully
12 aware that this experience is nothing compared to what so many
13 Black and Brown people encounter regularly from the CPD. This
14 corrupt institution must be defunded, and those resources must
15 be reallocated to social workers, mental health specialists and
16 non-partial justice practitioners who will truly serve and
17 protect us. Thank you very much.

18 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments.

19 I don't see Speaker 43, but I do see Speaker 44. I
20 don't see 45, but I do see 46. So, let's see, if we can move
21 to Speakers 44 and 46, and then we'll take the break after
22 that.

23 So if Speaker No. 44 is available, that will be
24 great.

25 MS. FLORES: Hello. Can you hear me?

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

2 MS. FLORES: My name is Patricia Flores. My pronouns
3 are she/her, and I'm 26, and I'm white. I have volunteered to
4 speak at this hearing today because I am deeply concerned about
5 how CPD has handled the recent protests. I have attended
6 various protests. The following will focus on my experience on
7 May 30th and July 17th.

8 I have been shoved, hit and had to inhale pepper
9 spray from CPD officers who most often have their badge numbers
10 covered. I have seen protesters with head wounds gushing
11 blood. I have seen them have their bikes stolen, and I have
12 seen them kettled by cops, as well as trampled and beaten with
13 batons.

14 I left most of May 30th and July 17th protests with
15 bruises on my torso and calves from police hands and batons.

16 Although the role of police officers is supposed to
17 be to serve and protect, they have shown at protests that they
18 are only there to serve and protect their fellow officers.

19 They unite to unleash violence on people protesting
20 police violence. They watch out for each other, but they do
21 not care for protesters at all. They treat us not as people
22 but as an inconvenience.

23 The way CPD has responded has only proven they cannot
24 be trusted to keep us safe, as they repeatedly reign violence.

25 The fact that I have seen no officers stand up to

1 their colleagues in order to stop this violence, there is a
2 violent and corrupt nature of CPD as a whole. The violence CPD
3 has unleashed on protesters would be criminally punishable if
4 anyone without their uniform did it, and I do not believe
5 officers deserve to be exempt simply because they're officers.

6 CPD has shown us that they cannot be trusted over and
7 over again. They have harmed our communities immensely in a
8 time of great need, and I find their actions to be grotesque
9 and despicable.

10 I cannot forget the violence I have seen and
11 experienced on May 30th and July 17th. The memories weigh
12 heavily on my mind, as I am sure it does on the other
13 protesters' minds.

14 I do not want to leave today without mentioning that
15 the violence from CPD during these protests will also have very
16 negative mental health impacts on all who attended.

17 CPD has mentally and physically harmed the people
18 they are supposed to protect. They need to be held
19 accountable, and they need to be defunded. Thank you.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 I think our final speaker before the break, then,
22 will be Speaker No. 46.

23 MR. CRAIG: Can you all hear me?

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

25 MR. CRAIG: Thank you for giving me a chance to speak

1 today. My name is Kyle, I'm a resident of Chicago. I'm here
2 today to share my concern for the severe and unwarranted police
3 violence I have witnessed during the Saturday, May 30th protest
4 against systemic racism, police brutality in downtown Chicago.

5 At around 6:30 PM, my wife and I were standing at the
6 intersection of north State Street and west Kinzie Street. We
7 were standing in front of the Public House Restaurant, when a
8 line of Chicago police officers passed us on foot going west on
9 Kinzie. At this point, a protester said something to the group
10 of officers that I was unable to hear. An officer who had
11 already walked past us broke off with a group of officers, then
12 turned around and walked back about 10 to 15 feet east towards
13 the protester and began beating him with his club. Another
14 officer then stepped in and also started hitting the protester.
15 The two officers continued hitting the protester, even when he
16 was on the ground, tucking his head into his chest and covering
17 his head with his arms in an attempt to block their blows.
18 Shocked protesters then began telling the officers to stop this
19 brutality.

20 At this point, police officers began charging us from
21 all sides, shoving us with their batons. A young woman fell to
22 the ground and was getting trampled by the group. I stopped to
23 help her before I was able to pull her -- and before I was able
24 to pull her up, I felt a push from a police officer. This
25 officer repeatedly shoved me extremely forcefully with his

1 baton, which he was holding horizontally with both his hands,
2 hitting me in the face and chest. He pushed me about 20 feet
3 down State Street until he caused me to fall to the ground,
4 knocking my glasses off and breaking my camera, which I was
5 holding in my hand. This interaction left a large, dark purple
6 bruise on my right arm that lasted for weeks after the protest.

7 After getting helped up by other protesters, I
8 couldn't see where my wife was. Distraught, I went to try and
9 find her. I was confronted by the same officer that slammed me
10 to the ground and said to him: Please, my wife is over there,
11 pointing to the corner of State and Kinzie. This officer then
12 shoved me again, striking me in the face three times with his
13 baton and said: I don't care, you shouldn't have come here,
14 you "F-er," but said the word.

15 A few seconds later, I reunited with my wife who had
16 been struck repeatedly on her back by police. By this time,
17 huge crowds of officers were now coming towards protesters from
18 all streets in all directions and tear gas was being deployed.
19 At this point, we left downtown, running through alleyways to
20 escape from the officers' barricades. I'd also like to note
21 that neither my wife nor I ever heard any warning from police
22 that we needed to disperse. One second we were standing there
23 and the next second getting hit with batons.

24 Thank you for your time, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments.

1 And I want to thank everybody, this first session,
2 for comments. We're going to take a break until 3:15 to allow
3 the court reporters to switch out, and then, when we pick up,
4 it will be Speaker No. 47 is where we'll pick up for the second
5 session today. So, again, thank you all for your attention,
6 and we'll resume at 3:15.

7 (Recess from 3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.)
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1 THE COURT: Good afternoon, everybody. Thank you for
2 your patience. I've tried to go through with the Monitor
3 during the break to make sure that we do not miss anybody. So
4 we'll pick up with Nos. 47 through 60, and then we'll go back
5 and make another pass through those who were skipped over
6 previously to see if anyone has gotten back on the line here.
7 So with that, I think -- I don't see 47, 48 or 49 in the queue,
8 but if any of those folks is in the queue if they could please
9 speak up now. If not, I think we'll move to No. 50, please.

10 MS. HICKEY: I believe, your Honor, No. 50 was a phone
11 number which seems to have dropped off. So maybe they'll call
12 back in and we'll recall the numbers at the end. Maybe they
13 dropped off at the break and they will be calling back in.

14 THE COURT: Okay. That will be fine. And as I said,
15 we'll make another sweep here after we get to 60. So I don't
16 see No. 51 but I do see No. 52, so if No. 52 could be admitted
17 into the participant space, and then we will hear from No. 52.

18 I think you're still on mute.

19 MR. SAKER KUNKEL: Good afternoon, your Honor, members
20 of the court. My name is Samuel Saker Kunkel. I use he/him
21 and they/them pronouns and I work as a maker and repair person
22 of orchestral stringed instruments. Thank you for the
23 opportunity to address you directly.

24 I would like to use my time to describe my personal
25 experience with the excessively brutal and zealously applied

1 crowd control tactics by the Chicago Police Department on
2 July 17th, 2020. The purpose of today's action was to rally
3 for solidarity with the Black and Indigenous citizens of our
4 city, who are among the most marginalized ethnic groups in
5 America both historically and critically. Today's chronology
6 already being a well-established part of the public record, I
7 will deal only with the actions taken directly on my own
8 person. The exact order of events is cloudy somewhat, so
9 please bear with me.

10 With the largest part of the group dispersing, I found
11 myself unsure of what to do until I observed a women in
12 indigenous dress resolutely standing her ground with her arms
13 raised. In the spirit of solidarity, I chose to take a
14 position beside her. Having already witnessed the making and
15 the pawning of other protesters, I felt obliged to offer what
16 protection my presence could possibly offer.

17 It was then that the small group of protesters,
18 perhaps 15, I found myself among was approached by officers.
19 After a single, half-mumbled order to move back went
20 unacknowledged, we were rushed by a phalanx of police using
21 batons to shove and grapple.

22 In the midst of this clash, I was dealt a burst of
23 mace by an officer. The effects were rapid. I tasted a harsh,
24 metallic bitterness and my eyes began to burn fiercely,
25 reflexively clamping shut. The effects were disorienting and

1 debilitating per design. Off balance and unaware of my
2 surroundings, I was shoved to the ground, and upon landing
3 dealt two blows of the baton by an officer. I was unable to
4 see, much less menace.

5 Collecting myself as best as I was able, I pulled the
6 closest person to me from the melee and began to retreat,
7 feeling a sense of shame and cowardice at being so easily
8 rebuffed, matched only by gratitude for my co-dissident
9 flushing my eyes of chemicals outlawed for use in war by the
10 Geneva Convention.

11 It was not until after I had reached the half mile to
12 the safety of the medical tent at Buckingham Fountain that I
13 was able to assess my injuries. A few scrapes from falling. A
14 growing bruise on my right kneecap from the second club strike,
15 and a nasty, deep cut on my left shin from the first, bleeding
16 profusely. My wounds were not as bad as some, but we're not
17 here to compare scars, we're here to assess the behavior of
18 people who so callously applied such brutality. At no point
19 did I provoke or provide pretext for such force to be applied
20 against myself beyond the thin pretense of disobeyed order.
21 (inaudible).

22 Any one of the methods applied against me could have
23 been effective alone. Having sprayed chemicals -- illegal on a
24 battlefield -- into my eyes, I very reasonably could have
25 already been considered neutralized. Hurling me to the ground

1 was, shall we say, redundant, and the batoning spiteful. My
2 interaction illustrates the eagerness on the part of police to
3 use force not only as a method of detaining those suspected of
4 committing a crime, but as a punitive measure alone.

5 This Court does not need me to outline how these
6 practices subvert due process and cheat the Court and the
7 citizenry, or how presumption of innocence becomes moot when
8 the police add to their already overladen list of
9 responsibilities, the role of the judge, jury, and all too
10 often executioner.

11 I want to end by saying that police are the only group
12 in America who possess a legal pretense to use violence against
13 those who they identify as their political adversaries. A
14 privilege actively defended by politicians, a powerful union,
15 and popular mythology. Thank you for your time.

16 THE COURT: Thank you for yours. I do not see speaker
17 53. I saw speaker 54 before the break, but I don't think that
18 person has returned yet. So I think we're on to speaker
19 No. 56, please.

20 MR. BAIRE: Hello, can you hear me?

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

22 MR. BAIRE: Hi. Thank you, your Honor. Thank you,
23 everyone. My name is Max Baire, and I'm a
24 Puerto Rican-Lebanese resident of Chicago's north side. On
25 July 17, 2020, I attended the solidarity rally in Grant Park in

1 Chicago. When I first arrived at the park to stand in
2 solidarity with Chicagoland defenders, it was a peaceful scene.
3 It was hot out and I was tired from a long week of work, but my
4 spirits were lifted because of the immense outpouring of love
5 and energy coming from the Black and Indigenous demonstrators.
6 We were angry, yes, and we were protesting. But we were also
7 singing and dancing and using this moment to celebrate just
8 what it is what we're fighting for.

9 But, you know, as we heard already, what began as a
10 peaceful protest eventually turned into a violent one.
11 Violence that was initiated, agitated, and exacerbated by the
12 Chicago Police Department. We started at Buckingham Fountain
13 and eventually made our way to the Christopher Columbus statue
14 near the intersection of Columbus and Roosevelt. I walked
15 myself and my bicycle along with the group and decided to
16 integrate my bike with the marshals who were keeping us safe.

17 I positioned myself in a row of other cyclists around
18 the Columbus monument, and we interlocked the axles of our
19 bikes together to form a barrier protecting less-shielded
20 demonstrators. At one point, we were knocked over by the
21 police, and I became pinned between my bike and another.
22 Eventually I had gotten up and we formed another barrier.

23 When one officer had enough of us, he had briefly
24 asked us to make a hole. A difficult order to follow taking
25 into account the sheer volume of people. When the officer

1 didn't immediately get his way, he attempted to rip my bike
2 from my hands. I didn't let go and he began to club my wrists
3 with his baton. An action he appeared to take pleasure in
4 judging from the smile on his face. Two strikes on my left
5 wrist and a third on my right. On the third blow I was
6 reminded of a formerly broken wrist bone and I let go for fear
7 of re-breaking it. So he had ripped the bike from my hands,
8 and once it was in his possession, I witnessed him toss it
9 behind him and that was the last I ever saw my bike.

10 Shortly after, I witnessed a different officer
11 standing with a few cops to the right of my assailant, spraying
12 a red can over and into the crowd I was a part of. I was very
13 suddenly overcome with a burning sensation in my eyes, which
14 quickly spread to my nose, throat, and the rest of my body.

15 Within minutes the pain from getting struck in my
16 wrists was now secondary to the burning sensation consuming my
17 body. The burning in my nose and throat caused me to take off
18 my mask, and being that we are in the midst of a pandemic, this
19 was a tremendous risk for those around me, but the police gave
20 me no choice. I wailed for help for a medic I had no way of
21 getting to. But the only ones in eyeshot were surrounded by
22 police officers that had proven distrustful to me.

23 Fortunately, my fellow demonstrators helped me as best they
24 could. I couldn't see through the chemical in my eyes, so a
25 kind stranger in the crowd had to guide me back to the fountain

1 where I would eventually regroup with my friends.

2 That was the longest half-mile I ever walked, and the
3 pain only intensified all over my body. It was impossible not
4 to notice that the police did nothing to help the people who
5 were in pain, myself included, they were protecting property.
6 When I eventually regrouped with my friends, we were able to
7 recruit another to give us a ride from our park to our homes.
8 With my bike stolen and my friend's bike broken by the police,
9 this was our only option of getting home without walking or
10 taking the train. A situation many had to endure after
11 suffering similar or even worse acts of violence.

12 When I eventually made it home, I spent several hours
13 in the shower and an ice bath to get this chemical burning off
14 my body. The following day, after another shower, the burning
15 was manageable. But then the pain in my wrist came into
16 clearer focus. My right index finger was actually bruised as
17 well and appeared infected, and I couldn't bend it without
18 tremendous pain. I also had welts on my wrist from the baton
19 strikes. These marks are still visible all over my body over a
20 month later, but the emotional and mental trauma lingers as
21 well.

22 The Chicago Police Department failed the people of
23 Chicago on July 17th of 2020, as they have done before and
24 continue to do. They failed to keep us safe; rather they
25 actively endangered the lives of people protesting the very

1 injustices that they commit.

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

3 MR. BAIRE: Thank you.

4 I think speaker No. 57 is in the queue, though, so
5 we'll please admit speaker 57.

6 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, if after 57 you want to go
7 back to 56, I believe 56 is in the room. So we'll let 57 go
8 and then go back to 56.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Very good.

10 MS. SUTTLE: Hello. Can you hear me?

11 THE COURT: There we go. Yes, now we can hear you.

12 MS. SUTTLE: So good afternoon, your Honor, and others
13 who have joined us today for day two of this Federal Court
14 Listening Session. My name is La'Rie Suttle. I'm 24 years
15 old. I use she/her/hers pronouns, and I'm working with the
16 City of Chicago and members in the Chicago community on the use
17 of force policy for the Chicago Police Department.

18 I think that it is important to state that the things
19 that I'm about to say are a reflection of my own views and
20 experiences, not the use of force task force as a whole. This
21 task force was created June 15, 2020, and so far this year I've
22 only attended two protests in the Bronzeville community, both
23 of which were peaceful, thank God.

24 But last month in July, I decided to attend a press
25 conference for a young community organizer named Miracle Boyd

1 after watching the video that went viral on the web of an
2 officer knocking her cell phone to the ground and punching her
3 in the face, knocking out some of her teeth and walking away.

4 In the viral video, I saw a lot of things taking place
5 between blue-shirt officers and protesters, but what stood out
6 to me was the white-shirt officers watching and allowing
7 whatever took place to go on. So as a member of the use of
8 force task force, I immediately raised an issue in our group.
9 I asked to review three legal bulletins from the Office of
10 Legal Affairs on police protesters encounters, use of force,
11 and the First Amendment and the modified consent decree.

12 Additionally, I also reviewed eight general orders,
13 which I will physically include in my written statement due
14 August 28th by 4:30 p.m. But if this is not true I will follow
15 up with the appropriate parties following this listening
16 session. But the general orders relate to the duties,
17 responsibilities, procedures, and investigations involving use
18 of force in general, but specifically in terms of the First
19 Amendment.

20 Currently, I don't have the authority to tell you more
21 about that, if there is a violation or not. But I do want to
22 state on the record that I am growing deep concern for how the
23 Chicago Police Department trains officers to handle situations
24 involving use of force in general. But specifically encounters
25 with protesters, as well as internal and external

1 accountability and transparency measures involving situations
2 with use of force in general, but especially with police and
3 protesters.

4 So I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to
5 speak on the record today. And moving forward, I pray that
6 this police department doesn't miss an opportunity to
7 effectively and constitutionally police. With that, I will
8 hold back and thank you for your time.

9 THE COURT: Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

10 I think speaker 56 was the previous person who spoke
11 was Max Baire, that's what I have here. So it looks to me just
12 from the queue that I -- that nobody up through 60 is in the
13 queue, but I think I see some names in the queue that were
14 amongst the original group from the morning. So I'm going to
15 start back at the top of the list here and I see speaker No. 3
16 is now in the cue. So if speaker No. 3 -- it's Delaney Coe is
17 the name I have here. That would be great. Thank you.

18 MS. HICKEY: I believe a person will be speaking on
19 behalf of Delaney Coe. Mike, if you will admit No. 3.

20 THE COURT: That is correct. Thank you.

21 MS. TENDAJI: I was there on May 30th, downtown where
22 I saw protesters being kettled repeatedly by the police, being
23 teargassed. I saw protesters also being beaten with batons.
24 Also on the 1st of June in Hyde Park -- I think it was the 1st
25 of June -- I attended a very peaceful protest, organized by

1 some young people, I am not sure who they actually were.

2 As the protest dispersed, police began pushing people
3 towards the lake, and most folks had their cars west. And
4 people couldn't get back to their cars. There was a very tense
5 stand off when an officer brandished a rifle at the crowd.

6 Eventually we were able to get through and get to
7 where our cars were parked, where some people were coming out
8 looting an Ulta, we stopped to get their name and information,
9 you know, to pass on to their family. And police began pushing
10 me, my friends and my family against the wall with batons. And
11 then hitting us with the batons, which resulted in my friends
12 coming in to stand between me and the officers and my family,
13 particularly, children. They were beaten repeatedly with
14 batons, laid on the ground, just covering themselves being hit
15 by batons repeatedly.

16 At some point an officer put his knee on my friend's
17 neck, the same way that George Floyd was killed. Another
18 friend, she protected him, seeing that, just dove onto his body
19 and took a lot of those baton hits for him.

20 At least five of my friends were badly bruised with
21 baton marks and then thrown in jail for that that day.

22 Since then, I know as well a good friend in Black
23 Lives Matter Chicago was beaten badly at a protest on Belmont.
24 That person is disabled and walks with a cane. I was also
25 there on the 17th, where my son was pepper sprayed badly. My

1 nephew had his tooth broken by cop with a baton. There was no
2 opportunity for folks to disperse. The orders to disperse over
3 these past two protests, I've witnessed officers doing nothing
4 to protect and serve, but to brutalize, and who seemed to, as I
5 heard another person testify today, to smile, seemed to enjoy
6 brutalizing Chicagoans.

7 I -- the hardest was during the protest in Hyde Park.
8 I was thrown to the ground. My ribs were cracked and I stood
9 in front of an officer whose sleeve was covered in my friend's
10 blood. This officer was saying how he wanted to protect me.
11 He wanted to protect us. Who stood there while other officers
12 beat and brutalized folks. I just left town this weekend to
13 return to find out that once again, young people, my nephew
14 included, young folks who have been in my house, 17-year-olds
15 who were pepper sprayed, and kettled, and beaten by police
16 again. This was during the consent decree, so it's clear to me
17 that the Chicago Police Department is not taking anything
18 seriously about mandates to protect or serve or to follow the
19 actual law that they are sworn to uphold. Their intention is
20 clearly brutality and dehumanizing Chicagoans who don't believe
21 that they should be receiving over \$4 million a day.

22 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments.

23 Let's see. I think I see speaker No. 7, I think, is
24 in the queue now, so perhaps we can admit speaker No. 7,
25 please.

1 MS. MACLAUCHLIN: Hello.

2 THE COURT: Hi.

3 MS. MACLAUCHLIN: Hi. Thank you for the time. My
4 name is Claire MacLauchlin. I am a 38-year-old mother of two.
5 I work in publishing and I live in Avondale. On Saturday, May
6 30th, I attended the protest against police brutality at Daley
7 Plaza. This was my first time attending a protest in Chicago,
8 although I attended many protests in my former hometown of New
9 York City.

10 At first, the protest felt like many others I had
11 attended. There was a sense of joint purpose and community,
12 albeit masked. My fellow protesters and I chanted. We held
13 signs. I saw families with children, and I had, in fact,
14 considered bringing my sons to this protest. I had brought
15 them to others in the past. But my sister had been to a
16 peaceful protest in Oakland, California, the previous day where
17 the crowd was set upon by the police and pepper sprayed, so I
18 left the kids at home and instead brought remedies for pepper
19 spray.

20 So, again, it was largely a peaceful protest, albeit
21 one that was about police brutality and a little bit negative
22 towards the police, some of the chants, et cetera, but, again,
23 that is our right to use our words to express displeasure about
24 the people who are supposed to be serving us and who we pay.

25 When the police appeared on the scene, the mood

1 immediately shifted. They were dressed in riot gear. The
2 majority of them were maskless. They had batons in their hands
3 already, although, again, we were protesting peacefully.

4 I think the worst thing that I had seen up to then was
5 somebody spray painting on the sidewalk. I don't think a baton
6 is the answer. So, yes, batons in hand, zip ties in hand, they
7 began setting up barricades and boundaries that were arbitrary.
8 They sort of created a circle in the middle of one street to
9 reroute us.

10 Being that it's the middle of a pandemic, there really
11 wasn't anybody on the street, other than the protesters. Every
12 car I saw was a car that was part of the protest, honking with
13 signs in solidarity. The protest didn't seem to be stopping
14 anybody going about their day, but the police were not treating
15 us like we were allowed to be there.

16 I saw police knocking signs out of people's hands.
17 One young man was sitting on his car with a phone in his hand.
18 I saw a police officer come and knock that out of his hands.
19 So, yes, they created discord and chaos instead of allowing us
20 to march peacefully.

21 At one point, I'm not sure what happened, there was a
22 loud bang. People were running in panic. I was almost
23 trampled. I was lucky to get behind a column. As the woman
24 before me mentioned, she had a disabled friend with a cane. I
25 saw a disabled woman with a cane who was luckily able to get

1 behind a column as well.

2 And, then, ultimately, I would just like to say that
3 the decision on the part of the mayor to shut down the trains
4 that day -- this was a protest that was set to go from 2:00
5 til 5:00. It trapped a lot people, myself included, in the
6 downtown area. So I saw, as I tried to figure out how I was
7 going to get home, people wandering aimlessly, running into
8 groups of police officers that were also seeming to be looking
9 for protesters. It was a very unsafe feeling as the police
10 were there. Anytime I turned on a street and saw police, I
11 went the other way, because I had a sign. I was obviously part
12 of the protest. The only people I saw were either part of the
13 protest or police.

14 I just -- we pay them to protect and serve us, and
15 that is not what they are doing. And major change is needed.
16 I'm shaking thinking about this experience, but also just sort
17 of the response that there has been to the protest, sort of the
18 tone, the reporting on the protest. People are out here
19 saying, "A change needs to be made," and instead of the police
20 sitting down and talking to the people, they are attacking
21 them. And I just -- it boggles my mind. That's all. Thank
22 you for your time.

23 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments.

24 I think speaker No. 33, I think, is in the queue now.
25 If we could go to speaker No. 33, please.

1 MS. BOYD: Hello?

2 THE COURT: Yes, hi, we can hear you.

3 MS. MIRACLE BOYD: Hi. This is Miracle Boyd. I'm a
4 youth member of Good Kids/Mad City on the south side of
5 Chicago. I'm here to talk about what happened on the night of
6 June 17th. I was attending the decolonizing police and Chicago
7 protesting rally, and I was (inaudible) approached by a police
8 officer for recording a man being arrested.

9 At first I was moving away, because I had heard that
10 they were, like, trying to, like, tear down the statue. So I
11 decided to leave because I had been out there for a long while.
12 But I heard my friend crying, and so I went over to help. And
13 I started a video of what was going on. And as our video was
14 going on, I saw a white woman being beat with batons by two
15 police officers on the two. They had a bike stand on top of
16 her. I see a guy who was beaten at first with a baton had his
17 head busted open and blood was gushing from his head.

18 And so I was recording a guy being arrested by the
19 police, and the police were dragging him away and I was walking
20 towards him, like, trying to get him to say his last name so
21 that he could get legal help, and two police officers walked up
22 to me and one of them punched me. And my phone hit me in the
23 mouth and my tooth was knocked out. I had to get a root canal
24 and still today -- just yesterday, I finally received my final
25 dental work.

1 I have been distraught ever since the event happen. I
2 haven't been able to eat correctly. Every time I see police
3 now, I have some sort of fear that they'll, like, try to harm
4 me again or whatever, something like that.

5 But the events that happened that night were truly
6 traumatizing. I have never experienced something so horrific
7 like that, and just to be assaulted by one member of the
8 biggest union in America, it was like a slap in the face
9 because I am a youth organizer, and this is what we fight for,
10 so...

11 There were a lot of these incidents transpired, and,
12 you know, I'm not really excited about what happened. I wasn't
13 even calling for officers to be arrested, but to have
14 restorative justice circle with me because I focus on
15 restorative justice in my community, and I believe that jail is
16 a place for no one.

17 Also, the fact that this cop who was talking to me, he
18 also assaulted a Muslim woman before in the year of 2012. When
19 I found out who he was, I did my research myself, and also
20 found out that he uses force more than 96 percent of other
21 officers, so I want to highlight what is happening and the type
22 of people who the Chicago Police Department are hiring, you
23 know, to deal with civilians. And all of the protests have not
24 been peaceful at times, but I don't think that protesters
25 should ever be attacked by police. And like I said, it was a

1 slap in the face that I was harassed by police and, you know
2 physically attacked and this is now something I have to deal
3 with.

4 And afterwards I was receiving death threats on social
5 media, and a lot of pain has been coming my way. That is all I
6 wanted to say. Thank you for hearing me, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Thank you for your comments, and I really
8 thank everybody for their comments.

9 I am looking in the queue right now, and Maggie maybe
10 you can help me, but I don't see anybody in the queue right now
11 who has not spoken. But if I am mistaken, if there's anybody
12 who needs to be admitted into the queue, I think this would be
13 the time because I think we have gone through the entire list.
14 Do you see anybody who I've missed Maggie?

15 MS. HICKEY: I have not seen anybody else, your Honor,
16 and I am just checking with my IT team here to see if there's
17 anyone else, but I believe everybody that is in the queue has
18 had an opportunity to speak, and all of the rest that had
19 signed up for various reasons, I'm sure, were unable to join us
20 today.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Very well. I want to again thank
22 everybody and remind everybody of what both the Inspector
23 General and the Monitor said, which is this was not the only
24 way to participate.

25 We have written comments that I will be happy to

1 receive on my docket, and I'm sure both the Inspector General
2 and the Monitor will be happy to receive your comments in all
3 sorts of different ways, whatever is most comfortable for you,
4 I think, is really what the touchstone is for submitting your
5 views. And I know the Monitor is hard at work with her team
6 and there will be a report at the end of this. This is just
7 part of the information gathering, so, again, with gratitude to
8 our clerk's office, and all of the IT folks of the Monitoring
9 team and her law firm for setting this up.

10 I have nothing further to add for today, but I did
11 want to give both the Monitor and the Inspector General an
12 opportunity to say any final words they want to say. So I will
13 turn to you first, Maggie.

14 MS. HICKEY: Thank you very much, your Honor. I would
15 just like to say thank you to everyone who participated today
16 and lent their voice and allowed us to hear what was happening
17 in our city. Again, thank you very much for sharing your
18 story.

19 THE COURT: And Joe, any final words from the
20 Inspector General's Office?

21 INSPECTOR GENERAL FERGUSON: I echo that. I
22 appreciate everyone's willingness to step into the space and
23 step in it in such a public way. If there is more to be said
24 or anyone watching has more that they want to say, again, the
25 Monitor's website or the IG's website. Thank you.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Very well. Thank you, everybody.
2 I also want to make a special thanks to the interpreters who
3 are still going and the court reporters who are still going as
4 well. Those are very hard jobs and it's very intense to do
5 this for this period of time, and you all are magnificent and I
6 thank you for your help. So thank you, everybody. And this
7 session is in recess.

8 MS. HICKEY: Thank you.

9 (Proceedings concluded at 3:48 P.M.)

10 * * * * *

11 C E R T I F I C A T E

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

14
15 /s/ SANDRA M. MULLIN, CSR RMR, FCRR

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

August 25, 2020
Date

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