

6/25/2015

Page 1

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

PAGES 1 TO 54

Taken at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters
1301 Third Avenue
Detroit, Michigan,
Commencing at 3:00 p.m.,
Thursday, June 25, 2015,
Before Wendy A. Boer, CSR 3505.

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COMMISSIONERS:

- MR. WILLIE BELL, CHAIRPERSON
- MS. LISA CARTER, COMMISSIONER
- MS. JESSICA TAYLOR, COMMISSIONER
- MR. REGINALD CRAWFORD, COMMISSIONER
- MR. WILLIE BURTON, COMMISSIONER
- BISHOP EDGAR VANN, COMMISSIONER
- MR. DONNELL R. WHITE, COMMISSIONER
- MS. EVA GARZA DEWAELSCHE, COMMISSIONER
- MR. CONRAD MALLETT, JR., COMMISSIONER

REPRESENTING THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

ASSISTANT CHIEF STEVE DOLUNT

6/25/2015

Page 3

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Detroit, Michigan
Thursday, June 25, 2015
About 3:00 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON BELL: Good afternoon. Welcome to the weekly meeting of the Board of Police Commission here at Public Safety Building. I'm Willie Bell, your chair, your outgoing chair. And to my immediate left is our former chair, Jessica Taylor. So, I'm going to ask if Commissioner Donnell White would render a prayer. We would appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER WHITE: Dear Heavenly Father, we ask that you bless this occasion, bless those who are serving, bless those in the city who are grieving at this moment through the senseless violence that continues to permeate throughout this city.

Place this body on like mindedness, that we may come together to bring forth sound solutions to better serve your people. Bless the men and women who serve this community daringly day to day and please be a hedge of protection around them.

Watch over those who are en route to this place and over us as we leave this place. We ask all these things in your mighty name, Amen.

CHAIRPERSON BELL: Thank you, Commissioner

1 White. Right on time in terms of the need to be
2 prayerful under the circumstance. I'm going to ask our
3 Board secretary, George Anthony, to conduct the role
4 call.

5 SECRETARY ANTHONY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
6 the record, George Anthony, secretary to the Board.
7 Commissioner Lisa Carter? Commissioner Willie E.
8 Burton?

9 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Present.

10 SECRETARY ANTHONY: Commissioner Reginald
11 Crawford?

12 COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD: Present.

13 SECRETARY ANTHONY: Commissioner Eva Garza
14 Dewaelsche?

15 COMMISSIONER DEWAELSCHÉ: Present.

16 SECRETARY ANTHONY: Commissioner Conrad L.
17 Mallett?

18 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Present.

19 SECRETARY ANTHONY: Commissioner Ricardo R.
20 Moore has asked to be excused. Commissioner Richard
21 Shelby has asked to be excused. Commissioner Jessica
22 Taylor?

23 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

24 SECRETARY ANTHONY: Commissioner and Bishop
25 Edgar Vann?

1 COMMISSIONER VANN: Present.

2 SECRETARY ANTHONY: Commissioner Donnell R.
3 White?

4 COMMISSIONER WHITE: Present.

5 SECRETARY ANTHONY: Mr. Chair, you have a
6 quorum of eight.

7 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Thank you, sir. Before I
8 introduce the assistant chief, I'm going to ask
9 Commissioner Willie Burton asked to be excused. But he
10 wanted to speak why he's leaving at this particular
11 time.

12 COMMISSIONER BURTON: For the record, there is
13 an event taking place in my district. And it's taking
14 place over at the Butzel Center. I believe the chief
15 and council -- District 5 council person is putting on
16 an event over at Butzel. So, I was going to go attend
17 that. But I haven't really had the opportunity to
18 attend anything over at Butzel. So, there's something
19 that's going on at Butzel. So, I was going to attend
20 that because it's happening in my district.

21 This is the first I think summit on gun
22 violence; so, I understand it's like a summit. So, I
23 think it's important to be there. I was informed that
24 this is a light agenda today. And it's nothing that we
25 be voting on. So, I spoke with our chair and vice

1 chair, and they said it was -- you know, it was okay.

2 So, okay, Mr. Chair?

3 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

4 To my far left sitting in for the chief is Assistant

5 Chief Steve Dolunt. Good afternoon, sir.

6 ASSISTANT CHIEF DOLUNT: Good afternoon. What

7 is that noise? Could you turn that down, please?

8 CHAIRPERSON BELL: He's trying to work with

9 it. Mr. Anthony, would you introduce -- and our vice

10 chair and up and coming chair has arrived, Lisa Carter.

11 Good to see you.

12 MS. CARTER: Good to be here.

13 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Mr. Anthony, would you

14 introduce the staff, please?

15 SECRETARY ANTHONY: Thank you, sir. We have

16 seated in the front row Miss Pamela Davis-Drake who is

17 our chief investigator; Miss Linda Bernard who is our

18 attorney to the board. And in the back is Mr. Robert

19 Brown, our administrative assistant. We also have the

20 pleasure of Miss Wendy Boer from Hanson Court Reporting

21 Service. That completes the introductions.

22 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Thank you, sir. At this

23 time, the chair would entertain a motion to approve the

24 agenda for this afternoon's meeting.

25 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: So moved.

1 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Support.

2 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Properly moved and
3 supported. Ready for the question? All those in favor?

4 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Those opposed? Motion
6 carries. Thank you. The next item of business would be
7 approval of the minutes from Thursday, June 18th. The
8 chair would entertain a motion to that effect.

9 COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER VANN: Supported.

11 CHAIRPERSON BELL: It's been properly moved
12 and supported. Ready for the question? Those in favor?

13 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Those opposed? Motion
15 carries. The next item would be my report. I just want
16 to -- was there supposed to be -- that was an error?

17 I just want to say that it's been a difficult
18 24 hours in the City of Detroit. On the east side of
19 Detroit, I had the opportunity to visit the scene this
20 morning and talk to some of the grandparents and the
21 parents and people in that neighborhood.

22 As we well know, we don't have all the facts.
23 And hopefully we will wait until those facts come out.
24 Sad commentary when we lose a six-year-old and a
25 three-year-old and other individuals suffered some

1 tremendous injuries. I think one of them was going to
2 be lifted to Ann Arbor for further treatment.

3 But we just continue, as Commissioner White
4 prayed for peace and tranquility, for healing in our
5 community. And it just amazed me from the party on the
6 west side that several people were shot at, one
7 fatality, that we are in a time where so many young
8 people do not have the awareness of the impact of their
9 behavior and activities of that nature in terms of
10 driving or shooting. It seems just like it's ongoing.

11 And I know that the police is coming under
12 scrutiny already. But we have a charge and duty,
13 responsibility in terms of dealing with instances of
14 police chase. Most of us have that experience, you'd
15 understand those instance where people should be patient
16 in terms of not rushing to judgment in terms of what
17 transpired.

18 My understanding, even though the party was
19 given by questionable individuals, that people engaged
20 in certain types of behavior, where it sort of backfired
21 in terms of warning folks to not participating or not
22 snitching or whatever. I hope that is not true. But it
23 seems to be a climate that we have to put the blame on
24 individuals.

25 I don't think it's no excuse. We understand

1 the issue of jobs and education. But until we address
2 the issue in our community, there's so many families are
3 broken in so many areas. And from there, you know, the
4 dropouts in terms of not participating in high school,
5 not getting the high school diploma or GED. And the
6 prison system is already overcrowded now as we well
7 know.

8 Macomb County is releasing people back to the
9 community. I think that's misdemeanor. But we have
10 some serious issues that I would hope all of us step up
11 to the plate in terms of not pointing fingers but
12 responding to the concerns to address the issues that we
13 face as we cope with the confederate flag, but we all
14 have our flags here in terms of violence.

15 And so, hopefully we can do more and give more
16 to the problem and not just talk about a quick fix.
17 There's no quick fix in terms of what's happening 'cause
18 in my neighborhood, like most neighborhoods, whether it
19 be a police chase or people just drive recklessly now in
20 terms of that would be consent of that particular --
21 Nottingham, that area, that folks come through. They
22 fly through the area to the freeway.

23 So, we just have to be more engaging. I just
24 hope that all of us be aware and do not point fingers in
25 terms of the whole issue that we're going to weigh in

1 on. So, I'm pretty sure we're going to hear more in
2 terms of -- from the assistant chief in terms of some
3 facts because I know the investigation still pending.
4 So, all the facts are not in.

5 So, as we move forward, I just want to also
6 indicate that our meeting next week is going to be on
7 Tuesday at 3:00. We changed the time from going into
8 the holiday which is July 4th. And we have two
9 outstanding commissioners that's going to be leaving us,
10 Commissioner Donnell White who is also a past chair and
11 a five-year member of this Board and Commissioner
12 Jessica Taylor who is a five-year member of this Board.

13 We will miss their input, their dedication.
14 So, we would encourage others to come out next week
15 after our meeting, afternoon, we are going to have a
16 little light refreshment and some fellowship. We really
17 want to recognize and appreciate their service because
18 this is a non-salaried job. And I know they put in so
19 many hours in so many areas in terms of yet they are
20 still working people who have a day job.

21 So, I just want to commend them for supporting
22 us in terms of coming on board in 2014. It's been
23 really -- their leadership and commitment to this
24 community is beyond the scope of volunteering.

25 Public safety is critical as you know. We on

1 the front page all the time you know. And I think we
2 have -- I know we have some dedicated officers. As
3 Commissioner Burton leave to travel over to Butzel in
4 terms of Van Dyke and Kercheval. Our board secretary,
5 George Anthony, was there and attorney to the Board Lynn
6 was there and I was there earlier. Tremendous turnout.

7 I guess they opened up at 1:00. But people
8 had been there before 12:00, and they were still coming.
9 So, I just -- I missed the program. But we got to go in
10 terms of that type of support from the community. We
11 just need more of that. I know the mayor and the chief
12 doing everything they can possibly to in terms of
13 reaching out. But a whole lot of other people need to
14 reach out from our church community, from our other
15 community-based organizations really need to step up.

16 But I just commend that type of effort that we
17 have to spend that much energy in reference. So, we
18 just come off of four days of Riverwalk and also with
19 the fireworks, with all the issues, the curfew -- my
20 understanding, things went extremely well.

21 Before I hear the report of AC, I want to say
22 thank you on behalf of the board for outstanding job and
23 also thank the citizens of this community that respond
24 to those concerns. So, I just want to thank you in
25 advance of your report. So far we have received raves

1 in terms of that type of peaceful setting. And I think
2 that's what we need to do more. We need to engage next
3 year that we need to plan now to have more community
4 involvement.

5 Speaking to Commissioner Vann, in reference to
6 the Baptist conference here, one of the largest. Maybe
7 he might want to speak to that briefly too, one of the
8 largest that come in the City of Detroit. And I saw
9 some people who was driving here. And I know they are
10 going to be enjoying the city, they're going to be
11 spending money in the city. I want them to be safe.
12 And we appreciate that type of conference making a
13 commitment to Detroit.

14 So, as we move forward, we just have to do due
15 diligence in terms of stepping up to the plate. So, I'm
16 pleased with all the activities of the board. And
17 what's going on on the east side of Detroit as well as
18 what's going on throughout the city, that we trying to
19 serve this community to the best of our ability, even
20 though we understaffed, underpaid and sometimes
21 unappreciated. But we raised our hand, and we committed
22 to those objectives of public safety in terms of the
23 Detroit Police Department. So, that's my report for
24 today. Thank you for allowing me to speak. AC Dolunt?

25 ASSISTANT CHIEF DOLUNT: Good afternoon. It's

1 been a rough week. Between the citizens and police, I
2 thought we did a good job of River Days, good turnout.
3 One minor incident on Friday night, 10 to 12 kids acting
4 a fool. Rather than lock them up, gave them a ride to
5 the transit center. That's the kind of stuff that
6 didn't make the paper. We didn't lock up 10, 12 kids.
7 We sent them on their way because they were kids.

8 What happened in Greektown stinks. I think
9 we've identified the shooter, and I think we are looking
10 for him. There's no excuse for that. I was --
11 fireworks. I think I'm the only person on the police
12 department who was disappointed. And I'm disappointed
13 for a different reason.

14 I was standing at the Joe Lewis Arena. And
15 this guy rode up on a bike and said aren't there
16 fireworks tonight? And I thought he was being a jerk.
17 But unfortunately I think everyone is a jerk to me
18 because I'm a jerk. So, he said, are the fireworks
19 tonight? I said, yeah. He goes, I'm not from around
20 here. Can I ask you a question? I said yeah. Why
21 aren't you utilizing the riverfront?

22 It dawned on me then that we stigmatized
23 ourselves with what happened ten years ago when we had
24 six people shot, and we got to get past that. So, I
25 went up in the chopper, and I went along the riverfront.

1 And there's no one on the riverfront. And I think the
2 city lost out on a great opportunity. I told city
3 council, you have the Atwater Flats, you have that
4 concert venue on the west riverfront. You could have
5 parked cars there, charged five bucks a car, whatever.

6 If you're worried about security, you could
7 have hired security or secondary employment. We could
8 have filled that riverfront. As it was, in 30 years, in
9 my opinion, it was the lowest turnout for fireworks.
10 And I think that's sad, sad commentary. And it could
11 have been the weather. Could have been the fact that we
12 moved it up an hour.

13 But unfortunately, it was the perception
14 because of what happened downtown, what happened at
15 Dexter and Webb. And it's unfortunate. So, while
16 everyone is, you know, saying what a great job we did,
17 yes, there were no incidents. There was I think four
18 juveniles. I was disappointed because of the perception
19 of ourselves, our own perception of the City of Detroit
20 sometimes lacks. And that bothered me.

21 Fireworks, it was beautiful. It was a great
22 thing. And actually my daughter got a text. One video
23 was sent to her. It said thank you, thank your father
24 and the department for helping us feel safe. And it was
25 a picture of fireworks going off on the riverfront and

1 everyone looking up and the police officers walking
2 looking at the crowd as opposed to the fireworks.

3 And it's a little thing but it shows that we
4 care about -- we're looking at the people, not the
5 fireworks. What happened at Dexter and Webb, yes, it
6 was -- I was upset, extremely. Unfortunately, that clip
7 went nationwide. I have been criticized for it, but I
8 don't really care. It amazes me that there's videos of
9 everything. There was videos of that terrible accident
10 last night. Four hundred people, not one person had a
11 video of what happened at Dexter and Webb, not one
12 person?

13 And I know there's cell phones because the
14 part that really bothered me, I just -- when I went to
15 that scene, the barbecue was still going. And it looks
16 like there's a woman barbecuing, has her cell phone -- I
17 presume it was hers. It was pink, laying on the ground.
18 And next was a little pink chair tipped over. And I
19 thought, but for the grace of God, how none of these
20 kids were shot is beyond me. How no one seen anything
21 is beyond me. How you can be that reckless and fire
22 into a crowd of kids is beyond me.

23 And I don't care if you're in South Carolina,
24 Colorado, Detroit, when you do that, you're reckless.
25 To me, you're not just an individual, you don't care

1 about life. And in this instance, the person that did
2 those things is depraved. I don't know what the answer
3 is. But I was upset, extremely upset about that. And
4 then last night. We got out there, and again it's
5 tragic. I don't know what to say.

6 There was a guy with a gun. And I'm told he
7 went in excess of 90-some miles an hour and struck those
8 kids. It's tragic. There was two kids, really two
9 little kids knocked off the sidewalk and thrown. And
10 the officers, rather than wait for EMS, conveyed the
11 kids. And talking to one of the officers, he broke
12 down.

13 He said, I swear I was in the backseat, and he
14 was like, I really tried. And the officer is messed up.
15 The neighborhood is messed up. And naturally, the kid
16 that did the driving ain't talking, which is a shame.
17 And the passenger is not talking. No one knows anybody,
18 their names. I just remember a time when we all knew
19 each other's name. My parents had an idea where we were
20 when it was turning dark. And now no one takes
21 responsibility.

22 So, we are working through it. We are going
23 to try to get chaplains out there. We had counselors
24 out there. And we are under investigation. We are
25 hoping to get a warrant signed by tomorrow, once we

1 positively identify this individual. And we'll go from
2 there.

3 I don't really care about the stats because
4 this past week was horrendous. Philadelphia had the
5 same thing at a birthday party. The chief is not here
6 because he's going to Cincinnati because one of his
7 former officers was killed on a suicide by cop. There
8 was another officer killed in New Orleans. So, it's
9 been a rough week. That being said, that's all I got.
10 Any questions?

11 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Any questions or comments
12 for the assistant chief?

13 COMMISSIONER VANN: Mr. Chairman?

14 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Yes, sir?

15 COMMISSIONER VANN: First of all, I'm grateful
16 for your passion. When you come to us, you're very
17 impassioned about the things that are going on. And I
18 know that they effect you personally and the department,
19 other officers as well. Just a couple of questions.

20 One is, as it relates to the block party, the
21 understanding is that, you know, there's some sort of
22 Bumpy Johnson type people in the community who sponsored
23 this party. What is, first of all, the ordinance or law
24 with regard to having such a party with 500 people in
25 terms of permitting, that kind of thing?

1 And then, what is our standard policy now with
2 regard to police chases?

3 ASSISTANT CHIEF DOLUNT: Okay. As of the
4 first thing, whether it's a block party or a party at
5 any type of venue, you're supposed to get a permit. And
6 we were at city council on Tuesday. I told them, I
7 wasn't trying to be offensive. I just -- city council
8 knows I jump through hoops. It takes a while. By the
9 time the permit is approved, the party was a week ago.

10 So, the officers had gone. So, they did not
11 have a permit. It was the fifth year of the party. It
12 was called the Dexter Games is my understanding. The
13 officer did go by. There was a basketball tournament.
14 There was keeping score, the barbecue, music. The
15 officer went by and said you can't double park any more.
16 You're going to have to clean up a little bit. And they
17 said the people were very nice, very friendly.

18 The officers or the citizens weren't
19 disrespectful, rather than -- and I will give the
20 sergeant credit. Rather than saying, you don't have a
21 permit, shut this sucker down, they went, you know what,
22 you're having a good time. It's the neighborhood. Why
23 not? But you're going to have to, you know, clean up a
24 little bit. They were good.

25 In fact, there was a stack of chairs. They

1 were getting ready to shut it down I think when this
2 happened. So, I will take the responsibility for him
3 for not shutting it down. I would have been criticized
4 if I had shut it down because how dare I go into the
5 community and shut this party down. We were just having
6 a good time. And I'm damned if I do and damned if I
7 don't because when I try to work with the community, in
8 this instance, it wasn't the community.

9 It was two clowns with a gun that wanted to
10 kill another guy who they -- who refused to talk to us
11 after he was shot. May 27 is the quote, unquote, "I got
12 this." Do you? Okay. Now you got this, now you're
13 dead. Your gun is missing, don't know what happened to
14 it. We tried to work with the community, and we try to
15 build police community relations. I'd like to say --
16 well, I'm going say it's my fault. By the book, shut it
17 gone.

18 But you know what? It shouldn't be a crime to
19 have a party and have a good time and have the
20 neighborhood getting together. And I heard the legend
21 or whatever that maybe it was a drug dealer that put it
22 on. Don't know, can't confirm. If it's true, the mafia
23 has been doing it for years, taking care of the
24 neighborhood, right? Go to the Don or whatever. And do
25 I agree with it? No.

1 But at the time, I thought the sergeant and
2 the officers made the right decision in not shutting
3 down the party but telling them, you know, come on,
4 let's tone it down a little bit. Everyone is cool with
5 it. And these two guys just had no respect for life and
6 just started shooting.

7 As far as the chase policy, I don't have it in
8 front of me. As a rule, we look at the amount of
9 traffic, amount of -- time of day, if it's near a
10 school, how many kids are out, how many people are out,
11 circumstances. And if it's some guy speeding, whatever.
12 If it's a gun -- not dope but if it's a gun, someone
13 committed an aggravated assault or something, try to
14 weigh it. I don't have all the particulars from the --
15 I guess you'd call it -- it lasted 75 seconds because
16 I've been tied up with all this other stuff.

17 But that is our policy. The sergeant did try
18 to get on the air. But there's so much traffic. In a
19 matter of 75 seconds -- I haven't heard the tape yet. I
20 was told he was trying to get on the air to find out
21 just exactly what they had. And we did have a witness
22 who said they seen the guys with the gun, tossed the
23 gun. And that gun is missing too because the crowd
24 understandably ran to the scene to try to offer
25 assistance. And someone I guess took the gun. So,

1 that's where I'm at.

2 AC White has the policy in front of him now.
3 We can have that for next Thursday's meeting.

4 SECRETARY ANTHONY: Mr. Chair, I pulled the
5 policies earlier, and I'll send them out to you
6 electronically, to all the commissioners electronically.

7 COMMISSIONER VANN: Just one more observation,
8 Mr. Chair, with regard to the fireworks. I too was at
9 the fireworks. It was a very special night for my
10 family. And I noticed the severely diminished crowd at
11 the fireworks. And with everything that I had been
12 hearing in the community, people didn't want to go
13 because of the confusion with the curfew and the whole
14 beast that we raised up last week. That's the reason
15 why people didn't come.

16 The people -- the Detroiters from the
17 neighborhoods did not come to the fireworks because they
18 felt there are very deep-seated perceptions that we have
19 talked about at this table that are there, that were
20 reinforced by the confusion with the curfew. People
21 didn't know, we didn't know. We left last weeks meeting
22 not knowing, having a full understanding of the curfew
23 ourselves, with everybody in the room, all of the
24 wonderful people that come to our meetings. We didn't
25 have an understanding ourselves of the curfew.

1 CHAIRPERSON BELL: The deputy chief didn't
2 know.

3 COMMISSIONER VANN: The deputy chief did not
4 know. So, we didn't have good information; so, the
5 community did not have good information, and they did
6 not come. And as the assistant chief has said, had they
7 come, you know, there were restrictions at Belle Isle.
8 There was nobody to be on the riverfront. Nobody could
9 stand on the Riverwalk and watch it. I mean, there were
10 such restrictions in so many different areas that it
11 became quite a diminished event.

12 And it was not because of the rain. We have
13 had rain before. It was not because of the change of
14 the time. People used to take almost a day off and
15 start in the morning and try to get their spot. Nobody
16 was getting their spot.

17 Again, it was a special time for my family.
18 We had a special thing going on with the -- at the
19 rooftop. And I was talking with people in the media,
20 Steve Garagiola and others, who said they were doing
21 reports and no one was there. He was at Hart Plaza. No
22 one was down there. He was at, you know, all of the
23 points where he normally does reports. And he said
24 there was no one there. And it's so unfortunate that we
25 had such confusion wrapped around the fireworks that it

1 diminished it. And we can say, oh, everything was safe.
2 That's fine. And I'm glad that it was safe.

3 But it wasn't an open, inviting invitation for
4 Detroiters to be included in and participate. They
5 didn't feel that way. I know that may not be anyone's
6 intent. I'm just saying that people did not feel that
7 way at all. And we had confusion in this meeting with a
8 deputy chief present. We had confusion last week. And
9 I don't know if I ever got anything from our staff in
10 terms of an explanation.

11 CHAIRPERSON BELL: We didn't get anything.

12 COMMISSIONER VANN: Nothing?

13 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Nothing. So, I understand
14 your frustration, your concern. You're right.
15 Hopefully we can rectify it in the future. We have do.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Microphone.

17 CHAIRPERSON BELL: I'm sorry. Okay.
18 Commissioner Crawford?

19 COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD: Yes, sir. On the
20 fireworks -- and obviously I agree with the assistant
21 chief and Bishop Vann in terms of the size. I noticed
22 in recent years and I noticed -- I used to work aviation
23 some seven years ago, eight years ago. And we were
24 responsible for the count using the grid method. And
25 there were people all along the river, not only Hart

1 Plaza. And it was an estimate sometimes, you know,
2 500,000, 700,000, et cetera.

3 In recent years, it has somewhat downsized.
4 However, I just certainly hope next year perhaps maybe
5 we start in April and open up the entire riverfront so
6 as the assistant chief said, there's certain areas along
7 the river. There's even a big bunch of acres in the
8 park or something that recently opened behind the post
9 office. And if all those areas are open for the
10 riverfront, I think our count would be -- would increase
11 a great deal.

12 Then also too, if we don't have this confusion
13 as to a curfew or what's closed and what's open. So,
14 perhaps -- and I do realize too with Belle Isle, because
15 I think they weren't going to let traffic on to the
16 island until 5:00 in the evening.

17 SECRETARY ANTHONY: 2:00.

18 COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD: My mistake, 2:00 or
19 something. And in prior years it was 6:00 in the
20 morning, something like that. But, again, that's the
21 state. So, the state park in essence.

22 Also, too, in reference to the vehicle chase
23 or pursuit which resulted in two fatalities of children,
24 my condolences goes out to the family and friends and
25 everyone effected by that and everyone in the city and

1 even the officers.

2 Assistant Chief, you answered a couple
3 questions I had in terms of, there was supposed to be a
4 gun involved, but there was no gun recovered at this
5 time, has not been one. I personally and I would think
6 George Anthony because we will be reviewing the policy
7 on chase or vehicle pursuit, the entire policy.

8 And also, too, I will be looking at the policy
9 or looking for a policy on cell phones in terms of the
10 seizure or taking of cell phones from citizens. There
11 was something recently in the media.

12 ASSISTANT CHIEF DOLUNT: I'm being sued for
13 that. It is what it is.

14 COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD: I just -- you know,
15 because it's not only that particular incident with you
16 being a part of the litigation, sir; but there was
17 another one a year prior in 2013, involving a Free Press
18 photographer. And I mentioned that last year at the
19 table too. I think that just about covers it all. Like
20 I said, I will be reviewing those two policies.

21 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Any other comments from any
22 other commissioner? Assistant Chief, perhaps you can
23 clear this up. My understanding, the community
24 indicated that the chase was initiated by the state
25 police.

1 ASSISTANT CHIEF DOLUNT: I don't believe so.

2 CHAIRPERSON BELL: I just wanted to clear that
3 up.

4 ASSISTANT CHIEF DOLUNT: The state police were
5 there to assist.

6 CHAIRPERSON BELL: I just wanted to clear that
7 up, you know, how that goes.

8 ASSISTANT CHIEF DOLUNT: I don't believe so.
9 Again, I don't believe that's the case.

10 CHAIRPERSON BELL: As you well know, we have
11 some of the strictest chase policy in the country.
12 That's been in place quite some time. So, if you're
13 working -- you know, so if you review it, I know we have
14 some of the strictest policy that's been in place quite
15 some time.

16 COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD: Through the chair,
17 that confusion maybe about the state police, there was
18 another chase yesterday involving the state police. I'm
19 just saying there was another chase involving the
20 Fugitive Apprehension Task Force or something to that
21 effect.

22 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Okay. Thank you for all
23 your comments. And, Assistant Chief, could you identify
24 -- I mean acknowledge your staff?

25 ASSISTANT CHIEF DOLUNT: Do I have to? Okay,

1 I'm sorry. Okay. It's been a rough week. Gail
2 Oxendine, personnel. I've got Celia Washington to tell
3 them to be quiet. She's the legal advisor. I've got
4 Commander Sims, Captain Solano who is over at major
5 violators; Lieutenant Flanagan in forfeiture. Without
6 my glasses -- I've got someone way in the back. I got
7 Nielsen back there. I think that's it. Right. And
8 we're good. And me.

9 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Thank you, sir. We
10 appreciate your candid remarks in reference to -- I know
11 it's been a tough, tough several days with respect of
12 all the activities and officers dealing with that.

13 But I want to say one thing about Butzel. It
14 looked like the officers were enjoying themselves. So,
15 it's a good time in terms of that type of honor or
16 something positive. They went all out for that
17 activity. I was waiting to see if DC Washington would
18 do a little break dance or her assistant chief. I
19 didn't get a chance to stick around for that. And
20 George, schooled with Fast Fred, he know a couple steps.
21 But I didn't get a chance to see that. But it's good to
22 see all of you.

23 The next item of business would be the
24 forfeiture. So, that would be the next item on the
25 agenda at this time. So, it's good to see Lieutenant

1 Flanagan. We used to work together.

2 LIEUTENANT FLANAGAN: Nice to see you again.
3 Good afternoon, Commissioners. I'm Lieutenant Flanagan.
4 Part of my responsibilities is the forfeiture section,
5 which is a sub unit of organized crime. This is the
6 commanding officer of forfeiture specifically, Sergeant
7 Nielsen. We have a short presentation concerning just
8 what in fact our responsibilities are and some of the
9 issues that you may have some questions as well. We
10 have a little Power Point.

11 SERGEANT NIELSEN: Good afternoon. A little
12 history. The Detroit Police Department's forfeiture
13 unit was established in 1986 to assist narcotics in
14 reducing drug trafficking by seizing assets. The unit
15 size at its inception in May of 1986 was one lieutenant,
16 four sergeants and 11 police officers. By January of
17 1996, it increased in its manpower to one inspector, one
18 lieutenant, three sergeants and 14 police officers.

19 January of 2006, it had shrunk to two
20 sergeants, seven police officers. And in 2015, as we
21 speak, I now staff or I am the commanding officer there
22 of two police officers and two police assistants. Keep
23 in mind that we are dealing with property from
24 narcotics. There's four narcotics raid crews. There's
25 two vice crews, plus all the precincts and their 30

1 series or plain clothes officers.

2 And what does that mean by comparison? In
3 2011, forfeiture processed 544 vehicles; 2012, 545
4 vehicles; 2013, 370 vehicles; 2014, 714 vehicles. And
5 as of June 21st this year, we had processed 746
6 vehicles.

7 So, what does that mean? That means the space
8 is a problem with us. We have spaces slotted at our
9 location for 208 vehicles, and we presently house 409.
10 The forfeiture unit is located at 2121 Fort Street. Our
11 hours of operation are Monday through Friday, eight to
12 four. Telephone number is 596-2630.

13 Forfeiture actions are not criminal in nature.
14 Forfeiture actions are civil. Forfeiture is not
15 connected to criminal courts. And many times police
16 officers erroneously tell people to wait for their
17 criminal trial to see what's occurring.

18 Bear in mind, they have 20 days to file a
19 claim. And that will be -- I'll touch on that more in a
20 moment. What are assets? Any property that the
21 defendant or claimant can gain from the sale and
22 purchase of transportation of illegal narcotics are
23 subject to forfeiture. We have no contact with guns
24 however though. If the claimant wants that information,
25 they are instructed to call 224-DOPE.

1 Another asset that is aggressively being
2 pursued is that of going after houses that are seized
3 via search warrants. The prosecutor's office --

4 LIEUTENANT FLANAGAN: Not to interrupt, but we
5 also have other operations that result in seizures of
6 assets, and those are nuisance abatement cases. Those
7 involve the Johns that are picking up our decoys or
8 trying to pick up our decoy prostitutes. Their cars are
9 subject to civil forfeiture. We have drug PUSHOFFS
10 where persons in their vehicles, which is a nuisance --
11 it's all under the nuisance abatement statutes will come
12 and attempt to purchase drugs from a reverse purchase.

13 And that car would be seized and subject to a
14 redemption fee. All those cases get -- and the same
15 with drag racing. That's the other nuisance abatement.
16 So, those are increasing significantly over the last
17 several months due to a concerted effort by the
18 precincts to start taking a more proactive role in the
19 drugs and the prostitution because often our time is
20 spent in the precinct.

21 I spent most of my career on patrol and
22 special ops. We ended up spending lots of time on
23 scenes where these people come in from the suburbs and
24 they got carjacked because they are buying dope and, you
25 know, they are not -- the dope man wants the car too or

1 the next thing you know, they are trying to pick up a
2 prostitute, and they are shot and carjacked, et cetera.

3 So, we spend a lot of resources combatting
4 this transient crime. So, by putting some effort in and
5 addressing some of these things and taking the cars,
6 costing them at least \$900 to redeem the car and more if
7 it's a second time, that's having hopefully a positive
8 impact on reducing that type of transient crime that
9 ties up the resources of the patrol section who could be
10 answering runs. Go ahead.

11 SERGEANT NIELSEN: Matter of fact, it's \$900
12 the first time, \$1,800 the second time and \$2,700 the
13 third time that your vehicle is seized or that you're
14 caught. And we -- believe it or not, we do have people
15 that have been caught twice. I have not seen a third
16 case but at least twice.

17 I should have mentioned -- Lieutenant was
18 talking about the nuisance abatement. Of the 746
19 vehicles that we have seized so far this year, 547 of
20 them are from, offer to engage in prostitution, the
21 PUSHOFF, which stands for purchasers use of our streets
22 and highways opt for forfeiture and the drag racing.
23 So, 547 of those 746 are from nuisance abatement.

24 As I was saying, there's two types of
25 forfeiture; there's administrative and judicial. You

1 can look at it this way. We are -- the police
2 department, we are the administrative end of it. We
3 deal with anything under \$50,000. Anything over \$50,000
4 is considered judicial and is handled by the Wayne
5 County Prosecutor's Office.

6 The process starts with the car being seized.
7 And here again, we seize vehicles. We don't forfeit
8 vehicles, we seize them. Anything that's forfeited is
9 done by the courts, the prosecutor's office. We seize
10 the vehicle. And a Letter of Intent is served to each
11 defendant and claimant. They have 20 days within which
12 to come to our unit and say that they would like to get
13 their car back, which includes posting a bond. And then
14 we send the case to the prosecutor's office. If the
15 claimant does not post a bond within 20 days, the
16 personal property or money is automatically by law
17 forfeited to the police department, and there is
18 generally no appeal.

19 The money is a little bit different in that
20 there's 60 days before we get to, you know, claim the
21 money or keep the money. This next slide kind of just
22 talked about what I said. 50,000 over is the
23 prosecutor's office, under is -- yes.

24 The second point is if there's not enough
25 evidence to support the forfeiture or seizure and a

1 settlement cannot be made with the claimant, a trial
2 date is set, which will --

3 LIEUTENANT FLANAGAN: By the way, the trial is
4 under the Public Health Code. It's a civil process.
5 The level of burden of proof is just preponderance of
6 evidence, not guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. So, many
7 of these defendants or offenders -- let me say they're
8 offenders -- they don't bother to post the bond because
9 they know that it's not very difficult for us to reach a
10 threshold of proof that the car was used as a nuisance
11 and we abated the nuisance via seizure.

12 Now, if it's worth 15, \$20,000, certainly they
13 will. And those go to the prosecutor. And they have
14 consent judgments where they'll often negotiate the
15 settlements. Go ahead.

16 SERGEANT NIELSEN: We've done a great job I
17 think over there. We've so far this year had 980
18 forfeiture cases. And the numbers of vehicles seized
19 was 927. And that's different from the 746 because not
20 all those vehicles came to us. They were taken to other
21 lots, et cetera.

22 The monies seized so far this year from
23 January 1st to today's -- actually last week's date was
24 \$2,107,000. And the fiscal year from July 1 of last
25 year to date was \$2,978,000. So, we are on pace to

1 break that record for year to date. Any questions?

2 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Questions, comments for the
3 lieutenant?

4 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Do you know how the
5 forfeiture money is spent or where the money is spent?
6 Is it put back into the department or does it go into
7 the general fund?

8 SERGEANT NIELSEN: I believe in years past it
9 went to the chief of police, and it was up to his
10 discretion how to --

11 LIEUTENANT FLANAGAN: The forfeiture money in
12 the past went to forfeiture actions generated to the
13 narcotics unit who generated the forfeitures. They
14 could use that money to buy vehicles, vests, rams,
15 calihoops (phonetic), training. However, they since
16 expanded -- the state has since expanded that. Although
17 there's also some legislation to address and raise the
18 level of proof from preponderance of evidence to a
19 little bit higher.

20 SECRETARY ANTHONY: Clear and convincing.

21 LIEUTENANT FLANAGAN: Clear and convincing but
22 not to the point of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.
23 So, as far as I know, the money can be used by the
24 police department for whatever it deems necessary. And
25 maybe the assistant chief can clarify.

1 ASSISTANT CHIEF DOLUNT: Very nice
2 presentation. Sit down.

3 LIEUTENANT FLANAGAN: That's all I know about
4 what they do with the money.

5 CHAIRPERSON BELL: We really need to respond
6 properly to your question. We haven't gotten the
7 answer, where that money all went in the general budget,
8 et cetera, et cetera.

9 ASSISTANT CHIEF DOLUNT: You know, we can
10 bring Tina Toliver in next week to answer that question.
11 She's in charge of all the money.

12 CHAIRPERSON BELL: We want to look at the
13 money.

14 COMMISISONER WHITE: Thank you. Thank you for
15 the presentation. As we have this conversation, AC,
16 about the forfeiture funds, it would be my hope that
17 some of these funds are being used for counseling and/or
18 community initiatives that are supporting the front end
19 instead of the back end.

20 Additionally, I was a part of another
21 conversation at the FBI office today. I believe we only
22 have about \$50,000 that are budgeted for witness
23 protection efforts. So, AC, as we talk about incidents
24 that occur and unable to get people to speak up, there
25 is justice in our neighborhoods, street level justice.

1 And it's often swift and imminent. And I do believe
2 some of these efforts that are generating funds can be
3 used appropriately to allow people to enter into witness
4 protection efforts and other activities to help
5 witnesses come forth to solve some of our initiatives
6 and support the community.

7 Clearly \$50,000 budgeted for witness
8 protection efforts is woefully underfunded. And as we
9 have that conversation, I hope those two items can be
10 part of that conversation.

11 ASSISTANT CHIEF DOLUNT: I will have Tina
12 Toliver in next week to explain it, okay?

13 CHAIRPERSON BELL: No problem.

14 COMMISSIONER VANN: Mr. Chair, sir, I'm sure
15 this is totally unrelated to forfeiture. But what
16 peaked my interest, you used the word, "seized," rather
17 than forfeiture. And this is -- and I know I'm going
18 down a street here, the towing street. But I have had a
19 lot of complaints from people in my district, one
20 gentleman in particular who is somewhat of a public
21 figure, who has been robbed several times in his
22 driveway.

23 His car was taken by the police for
24 fingerprints, kept for three weeks; and then he was
25 charged \$800 to get his car. I'm trying to get to the

1 bottom of that. I know that sounds like the towing
2 debacle we've had in this city for many many years. And
3 I know the nexus of that because I have been involved
4 and a victim of it myself. My car was actually pulled
5 during a police commission meeting by one said such
6 towing company. But --

7 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: That magic card didn't
8 do anything for you, Bishop?

9 COMMISSIONER VANN: No, it didn't work that
10 time. But I'm just concerned about seizing. What is
11 the legal -- you know, you know where I'm going. What
12 is the legal piece with that, I mean in terms of what
13 you have the opportunity to seize rather than something
14 being in a forfeiture? That to me changes the
15 nomenclature.

16 MS. WASHINGTON: Celia Washington.
17 Commissioner Vann, we're talking two separate animals or
18 apples and oranges. If I think that I know the incident
19 that you're talking about. I was able to get ahold of
20 the right people and got that gentleman his car back.
21 So, that is not a seizure in that instance as I
22 understand it that they did pick up because there was a
23 gun involved. There were two persons involved, shots
24 were fired.

25 COMMISSIONER VANN: Right.

1 MS. WASHINGTON: And the police did take the
2 vehicle to have it fingerprinted. We do not victimize
3 carjacked individuals twice. There should never have
4 been a charge. For whatever reason, we know the same
5 problem with the same tow company. And I've had those
6 conversations. But no, we do not charge a carjacked
7 victim to get their car back. So, we can have some
8 separate conversations about that.

9 COMMISSIONER VANN: Sure.

10 MS. WASHINGTON: That was certainly -- that
11 was certainly a mishap. But we will talk more.

12 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Any other comments?

13 COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD: Yes. Through the
14 chair. Lieutenant, I don't believe everything I read in
15 the paper. But there was an article in today's paper
16 about the homes that -- well, there hasn't been any
17 homes that have been seized for narcotics. And I know
18 the mayor -- well, when he was a prosecutor, he seized a
19 number of homes, that initiative coming out of the
20 prosecutor's office in terms of seizing homes that were
21 involved in narcotic activity.

22 And I believe it was last year he stated that
23 they were going to, you know, I guess step up that
24 process again. And there was an article in today's
25 paper that they haven't seized. And that may be on the

1 prosecutor's -- coming out of the prosecutor's office.

2 If you care to elaborate?

3 LIEUTENANT FLANAGAN: I read that article.

4 And there is an initiative to add to the land bank those
5 homes that have been raided twice. But again, those are
6 going to be seized under the nuisance abatement.

7 However, the first step that the mayor's office and the
8 police department to the mayor's office does is they
9 send a letter to the owner of the property since often
10 they are rented under subterfuge by the dope dealer's
11 girlfriend or whatever.

12 And the landlords are advised, hey, your
13 property was raided. If we hit it again, then it's
14 subject to forfeiture under nuisance abatement. We will
15 abate the nuisance that way. However, they have -- the
16 narcotics section has conducted some 300 and some raids
17 on these houses. And those letters have not really
18 seemed to have abated the nuisance as the chief
19 indicated in the article. We are not finding --
20 although we might have 4,054 dope complaints, we might
21 have thousands of crack houses, many of them are vacant.
22 There are not owners to send these things to.

23 But as far as seizing them for the land bank,
24 I think just the process being in place is causing these
25 landlords to remove these persons from those houses;

1 thereby, we are not able to seize them until we hit them
2 again. Now, if we hit them again, then that starts the
3 forfeiture process. And that would be a judicial
4 determination or a consent agreement,
5 et cetera.

6 COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD: Okay. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Any questions? Attorney
8 Bernard?

9 ATTORNEY BERNARD: Just quickly, Linda
10 Bernard, attorney to the board. On the issue of
11 seizure, the bigger issue for the community as the
12 lieutenant knows, of course, is that if your son is
13 driving your car and he has some weed on him or your
14 daughter and they are arrested, then the car can be
15 seized, your new car. The new car, let's say it's a
16 Charger and it's worth, say, \$25,000. As I understand
17 it, in order for you as the parent to get your car back,
18 you have to pay 10 percent of the value of that car.
19 And if it's a new car, it's a 2015 Charger, you have to
20 come up with \$2,500, which is what is required.

21 LIEUTENANT FLANAGAN: That's not exactly true.

22 ATTORNEY BERNARD: It's 10 percent.

23 LIEUTENANT FLANAGAN: The bond you have to put
24 up toward the value is \$250 or 10 percent of the
25 property you're claiming.

1 ATTORNEY BERNARD: Correct.

2 LIEUTENANT FLANAGAN: But if it's a nuisance
3 abatement car, the fine is \$900 the first time. Now, if
4 it's picked up a second time, it's \$1,800. And
5 oftentimes on a drug case, there's a difference on a
6 nuisance abatement instead of a forfeiture. You have to
7 put 10 percent of the value of that car up for that.

8 But that's not a nuisance abatement. That
9 would be a narcotic prosecution and a subsequent
10 forfeiture hearing where they may take all the money
11 that was in the car, on the person's person as well as
12 the car, or they may come to what we often get in the
13 mail is a consent judgment from the prosecutor where
14 they have dealt with the defense attorneys. The
15 criminal case is adjudicated, and the car has been in
16 our garage for two, three years while we have waited for
17 the appeal period to become exhausted and now we are
18 going to give back, you know, \$5,000 out of the 10 that
19 we seized and avoid the trial.

20 We are seeing more and more of those. I don't
21 know if that's because of the prosecutor's work load or
22 what. But with the level of proof needed to keep the
23 money, in my opinion, we should be having more trials
24 and keeping the vast majority of the seizure.

25 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Commissioner Crawford?

1 COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD: I just have one
2 question on that note. Lieutenant, is there any
3 discretion -- I know years ago there was some discretion
4 by the prosecutor's office, if the grandson was driving
5 big mama's car and his grandmother's car and was
6 involved in something, that they would seize the car;
7 and due to the fact that it was big mama's car, the
8 grandmother's car, there was a little discretion every
9 so often in some of those cases where they would return
10 the car with a warning or something; and if it gets
11 taken again, there is no discretion?

12 LIEUTENANT FLANAGAN: There is discretion.
13 The prosecutor's office often sends us letters saying
14 that it didn't meet the criteria. They've evaluated the
15 case. The officers have a forfeiture analyst as well.
16 They analyze the entire view of the case. They send the
17 ones that merit a prosecutor's review to the
18 prosecutor's office. And as you indicated, often the
19 car and the money and whatever is seized, if they can
20 show that they obtained that money from some other means
21 and it wasn't proceeds from a narcotic enterprise, it
22 goes back. We cannot control those decisions.

23 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Okay. Any other comments
24 and questions? If not, Lieutenant, we want to thank you
25 for your breakdown on forfeiture.

1 Committee reports? Any standing committee
2 reports at this time? I would hope that -- I met with
3 our vice chair, who is going to be chair as of July
4 the 1st. I would hope that our budget committee would
5 take a look at our budget for the next fiscal period
6 starting on July the 1st so we can have that type of
7 discussion early on in terms of the budget matters. I
8 think Commissioner Mallett was chairing that hopefully
9 if he can.

10 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Be glad to,
11 Mr. Chairman.

12 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Okay. Thank you, sir. Any
13 new business? Any old business?

14 Announcement. Our next meeting, as I
15 mentioned, is going to be next Tuesday, not on Thursday,
16 June the 30th, right here at 3:00. And our next
17 community meeting is going to be on July the 9th. And
18 you have a handout with both of those dates and
19 location.

20 At this time, we'd like to move to oral
21 communication from the audience. Please give your name.
22 And there's a two-minute limit. So, you can come
23 forward now if you care to speak to the board. Come up.
24 Once, twice. If there's no other oral communication
25 from the audience, then the chair would entertain a

1 motion -- we are not compelled -- we are okay. Mother
2 Bernice, you've got the floor.

3 MS. SMITH: DC, good afternoon, good afternoon
4 to the commissioners.

5 CHAIRPERSON BELL: You're speaking to the
6 assistant chief, right?

7 MS. SMITH: Yes. May I continue?

8 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. SMITH: This morning on the air -- to the
10 rest of the commissioners, Bernice Smith. Sorry. It
11 was very exciting. It was very -- anger with most
12 callers coming in. One in particular that I was
13 interested in letting you know about was our
14 representative stated on the east side -- I believe
15 that's your area -- whose area? But anyway --

16 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Myself and Commissioner
17 Burton.

18 MS. SMITH: She stated -- what is her name?

19 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Alberta Tinsley.

20 MS. SMITH: Thank you. Alberta Tinsley was
21 very upset. She sounded like she was about to cry on
22 the air stating that she is tired of the crime that's
23 going on in the city and also that there were babies
24 being killed and we don't have any control over it.

25 Now, I think some of her remarks were out of

1 character because you're there in Lansing. You're not
2 in view all the time about what's going on. You may
3 hear about it, but you're not present at lot of the
4 things that the police are doing.

5 I know the police are not angels, I realize
6 that. But the fact is, if they are doing their job and
7 if it's not possible for them to complete doing the job
8 such as the case of last night. And then our officers
9 was over there on Webb and Dexter. I know because she
10 was quite upset about that.

11 But if there is something that's not under
12 your control, how can you get it taken care of? I
13 understand that it was a dope man that did it and that
14 the people are scared to talk to you in regards to it.
15 But the fact is, you may get somebody that will have the
16 sense enough to tell you what's going on over there.

17 Also, last night was an unavoidable situation.
18 I am very sorry. And I have extended condolences to the
19 parents of the children. It wasn't their fault because
20 they were on their property. But the fact is, can we
21 have the officers have a distance or have rulings in
22 regards to how fast we should go or how often or how
23 long that we have to go behind these cars? Can we have
24 helicopters? That was mentioned also. Can we have the
25 use of helicopters to help in this situation so it won't

1 happen again?

2 I was down at the riverfront Friday.
3 Everything was fine as far as I saw. I was there at the
4 entrance where the people were going in and coming out.
5 I stayed down there for over an hour and a half. I saw
6 what the police were doing. And they were doing a good
7 job. There was one incident where the kids were
8 standing on the corner, which it was after -- it was
9 10:00 or after the curfew time. And the officer did
10 come. But they weren't Detroit officers. They were the
11 other officers from the -- with the white uniform on,
12 whatever, you know.

13 But anyway, they did their job by getting rid
14 of the congregation of the kids who were standing there
15 on the corner because they were -- and then something
16 that I saw I was very upset about. Why do these
17 girls -- if a boy is standing up against a wall, why do
18 these youngsters let them grab and hold them all tight?
19 I mean, that was something I did not like. And I can't
20 understand why these parents --

21 CHAIRPERSON BELL: You're speaking to the
22 Board of Police Commissioners. I would hope you frame
23 your concerns -- you're way beyond your two minutes.

24 MS. SMITH: You don't have nobody else up
25 here, do you?

1 CHAIRPERSON BELL: I know. But issues like
2 that, it's not germane to the Board of Police
3 Commissioners, dress code and all that. So, if you --

4 MS. SMITH: I won't talk about it. If you
5 know any teenagers, advise them not to be having boys
6 hold on them, feel on them out in the public like that.

7 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Your time allowed is really
8 up.

9 MS. SMITH: So I will sit down. But in the
10 meantime, I do wish that we will have more control on
11 the chase, the car chase, and let the officers know.

12 CHAIRPERSON BELL: As I stated to you, we have
13 a very strict chase policy. My understanding is that it
14 was a brief chase.

15 MS. SMITH: I understand it was.

16 CHAIRMAN BELL: The officers responded to take
17 the kids and others to the hospital right away.

18 MS. SMITH: I saw all of that.

19 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Let's wait until --

20 MS. SMITH: It doesn't help to remind them,
21 you know what I mean? That's what I'm speaking about,
22 to remind them.

23 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Let us --

24 MS. SMITH: Sometimes we get over excited when
25 we want to go after the criminal. I've seen that. And

1 I'm going to sit down because the fact is, we need
2 helicopters.

3 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Thank you.

4 MS. SMITH: We need helicopters.

5 CHAIRPERSON BELL: We have a helicopter.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. SMITH: We don't have enough.

8 CHAIRPERSON BELL: Thank you, ma'am. Any
9 other comments? The chair would entertain --

10 MR. SCOTT: Good afternoon. I'm going to make
11 my comments very brief. Ron Scott. I want to raise
12 something in relationship to, Chief, you mentioned a
13 situation in terms of the light turnout.

14 Last year, you remember that part of our
15 organization called Bike Riders United, we went out on
16 Belle Aisle because we had a freedom ride because we
17 were concerned about what the enforcement would be and
18 the perception, the reality that a number of
19 African-Americans had that they were not welcome on
20 Belle Isle, period.

21 I mean, we went to the Belle Isle Conservancy.
22 I mean, it's no joke. I mean, we actually talked to
23 people who said that they were not going to Belle Isle
24 because they did not feel comfortable and therefore they
25 went to the riverfront; now having difficulty going to

1 the riverfront.

2 I think it would be insightful to get people
3 from the Riverfront Conservancy to come here to find out
4 what their perspective is on this. I think it would be
5 important to hear the corporate community, General
6 Motors and Ford, to find out what their perspective is
7 in relationship to these matters.

8 And the fact that the curfew issue came up and
9 was handled the way it was handled did not help that
10 situation in terms of whether it be reality or
11 perception, in terms of the separation of certain
12 individuals from the enjoyment of that evening.

13 I called the Riverfront Conservancy. And I
14 wanted to know why an individual had to be 30 years old
15 to have a child there. I said, what's that about? That
16 harkens up the old pass laws, I got to show you my ID to
17 bring my child in, to let you know that I'm 30 years
18 old? If I'm 29-1/2, I -- you know. And they said young
19 children they can bring in. Well, how young is young,
20 and how old is old?

21 So, those kinds of things, I think the City of
22 Detroit is a city that's very impassioned. I'm old
23 enough to remember the last civil disturbance that we
24 said could not happen here. People in the city better
25 start talking to each other in real ways and not talking

1 around the issues. I don't get upset when you say what
2 you do, Chief. I mean, you say it in an impassioned
3 way. I don't get upset about it because I know you're
4 concerned.

5 But we need to talk to each other like that
6 and be very honest about it and not talk around, you
7 know, the matter and say, oh, well, you know people just
8 didn't show up. No. There's a reason. And until we do
9 that, our city is going to be on edge with one another.

10 We need to talk about the car chases like
11 that. I was out there. Representative Sheldon Neely
12 has a bill in the house. I suggest that a number of you
13 look at it. We have been advocating for one for the
14 past five-and-a-half years in relationship to this that
15 it was called Brett's Law because of a person that lost
16 their son has been advocating for that.

17 And there has been pushback from a number of
18 people in terms of doing that bill. And even though we
19 may have the strongest one, I want to see what the dash
20 cam says. If we can get a dash cam -- I understand I
21 think it's 70 percent of the vehicles in the DPD have
22 dash cams. I heard that border patrol was involved. I
23 heard Harper Woods was involved. I heard state police
24 were involved as backup. We need to find those things
25 out.

1 And I agree with you, Chairman. I want to
2 wait and see what all the things are. But I look
3 forward to actually seeing some evidentiary basis of how
4 that was conducted and to blend that with what
5 Representative Neely is talking about so we can have
6 uniform standards. Thank you for letting me exceed my
7 time.

8 COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD: Mr. Scott, on that
9 issue of Belle Isle, perception, reality, at this point
10 I don't know because on fireworks morning, I tried to go
11 on Belle Isle. Actually, I tried to go to the Riverwalk
12 because we and my wife, we walk in the morning.
13 Sometimes we walk the entire Riverwalk. I understand
14 why that was closed because they had all the equipment
15 on the parking lot that they were moving. I understand
16 that.

17 So, I said let's go to Belle Isle. I do have
18 my park pass on my license plate, et cetera. And there
19 was a line of vehicles. And I got in line with all the
20 other vehicles. And it was the DNR that had the bridge
21 blocked off. Everyone else was allowed to go on. When
22 it got to me, I said we just want to walk around the
23 island, i was told no, it was closed and it wouldn't be
24 open until 2:00.

25 Drove away, pulled to the curb, watched other

1 folks. Now maybe they all work out there. They didn't
2 look like me. But maybe all of them had jobs out there.
3 So, I just want to make a point here. So, the
4 perception, you know -- and I thought about it when I
5 had her pull to the curb and we sat there for about ten
6 minutes and watched everyone else go on. I was the only
7 one -- the two of us were the only two denied access in
8 that whole 15-minute span.

9 So, perception, reality, I don't know.

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRPERSON BELL: I just want to close out on
12 this note, that I'm pretty sure that Councilman Brenda
13 Jones is going to weigh in on this issue with the
14 Riverwalk and a lot of other issues because she brought
15 it to your attention at the forum. And hopefully she
16 and others will be addressing those concerns. And
17 perhaps we can have a forum here to talk about some of
18 those concerns in reference to the Riverwalk and any
19 other activities that impact public safety.

20 So, the chair would entertain a motion for
21 adjournment at this time.

22 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: So moved.

23 COMMISSIONER VANN: Supported.

24 CHAIRPERSON BELL: It's been properly moved
25 and supported. Those in favor, aye?

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COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON BELL: Opposed? Motion carried.

Thank you. Have a great afternoon, safe weekend.

(Proceedings concluded at 4:20 p.m.)

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Wendy A. Boer

Wendy A. Boer,

CSR 3505

A

abate 39:15
abated 33:11
 39:18
abatement 30:6
 30:11,15 31:18
 31:23 39:6,14
 41:3,6,8
ability 12:19
able 37:19 40:1
AC 11:21 12:24
 21:2 35:15,23
access 52:7
accident 15:9
acknowledge
 26:24
acres 24:7
acting 13:3
actions 29:13,14
 34:12
activities 8:9
 12:16 27:12
 36:4 52:19
activity 27:17
 38:21
add 39:4
Additionally
 35:20
address 9:1,12
 34:17
addressing 31:5
 52:16
adjournment
 52:21
adjudicated
 41:15
administrative
 6:19 31:25
 32:2
advance 11:25
advise 47:5
advised 39:12
advisor 27:3
advocating 50:13
 50:16
African-American...
 48:19
afternoon 3:5
 6:5,6 10:15
 12:25 28:3,11
 44:3,3 48:10

53:3
afternoon's 6:24
agenda 5:24 6:24
 27:25
aggravated 20:13
aggressively
 30:1
ago 13:23 18:9
 23:23,23 42:3
agree 19:25
 23:20 51:1
agreement 40:4
ahead 31:10
 33:15
ahold 37:19
ain't 16:16
air 20:18,20
 44:9,22
Aisle 48:16
Alberta 44:19,20
allow 36:3
allowed 47:7
 51:21
allowing 12:24
amazed 8:5
amazes 15:8
Amen 3:24
amount 20:8,9
analyst 42:15
analyze 42:16
and/or 35:17
angels 45:5
anger 44:11
animals 37:17
Ann 8:2
Announcement
 43:14
answer 16:2 35:7
 35:10
answered 25:2
answering 31:10
Anthony 4:3,5,6
 4:10,13,16,19
 4:24 5:2,5 6:9
 6:13,15 11:5
 21:4 24:17
 25:6 34:20
anybody 16:17
anyone's 23:5
anyway 44:15
 46:13
appeal 32:18

41:17
apples 37:18
appreciate 3:11
 10:17 12:12
 27:10
Apprehension
 26:20
appropriately
 36:3
approval 7:7
approve 6:23
approved 18:9
April 24:5
Arbor 8:2
area 9:21,22
 44:15,15
areas 9:3 10:19
 22:10 24:6,9
Arena 13:14
arrested 40:14
arrived 6:10
article 38:15,24
 39:3,19
asked 4:20,21
 5:9
assault 20:13
asset 30:1
assets 28:14
 29:20 30:6
assist 26:5
 28:13
assistance 20:25
assistant 2:18
 5:8 6:4,6,19
 10:2 12:25
 17:12 18:3
 22:6 23:20
 24:6 25:2,12
 25:22 26:1,4,8
 26:23,25 27:18
 34:25 35:1,9
 36:11 44:6
assistants 28:22
attempt 30:12
attend 5:16,18
 5:19
attention 52:15
attorney 6:18
 11:5 40:7,9,10
 40:22 41:1
attorneys 41:14
Atwater 14:3

audience 23:16
 43:21,25
automatically
 32:16
Avenue 1:18
aviation 23:22
avoid 41:19
aware 9:24
awareness 8:8
aye 7:4,13 52:25
 53:1

B

babies 44:23
back 6:18 9:8
 27:6,7 32:13
 34:6 35:19
 37:20 38:7
 40:17 41:18
 42:22
backfired 8:20
backseat 16:13
backup 50:24
bank 39:4,23
Baptist 12:6
barbecue 15:15
 18:14
barbecuing 15:16
basis 51:3
basketball 18:13
Bear 29:18
beast 21:14
beautiful 14:21
behalf 11:22
behavior 8:9,20
believe 5:14
 26:1,8,9 31:14
 34:8 35:21
 36:1 38:14,22
 44:14
Bell 2:4 3:5,7
 3:25 5:7 6:3,8
 6:13,22 7:2,5
 7:11,14 17:11
 17:14 22:1
 23:11,13,17
 25:21 26:2,6
 26:10,22 27:9
 34:2 35:5,12
 36:13 38:12
 40:7 41:25
 42:23 43:12

44:5,8,16,19
 46:21 47:1,7
 47:12,16,19,23
 48:3,5,8 52:11
 52:24 53:2
Belle 22:7 24:14
 48:16,20,21,23
 51:9,11,17
Bernard 6:17
 40:8,9,10,22
 41:1
Bernice 44:2,10
best 12:19
better 3:19
 49:24
beyond 10:24
 15:20,21,22
 33:6 34:22
 46:23
big 24:7 42:5,7
bigger 40:11
bike 13:15 48:15
bill 50:12,18
birthday 17:5
Bishop 2:9 4:24
 23:21 37:8
bit 18:16,24
 20:4 32:19
 34:19
blame 8:23
blend 51:4
bles 3:13,13,14
 3:19
block 17:20 18:4
blocked 51:21
board 1:1 3:6
 4:3,6 6:18
 10:11,12,22
 11:4,5,22
 12:16 40:10
 43:23 46:22
 47:2
body 3:17
Boer 1:22 6:20
 54:18
bond 32:13,15
 33:8 40:23
book 19:16
border 50:22
bother 33:8
bothered 14:20
 15:14

bottom 37:1
boy 46:17
boys 47:5
break 27:18 34:1
breakdown 42:25
Brenda 52:12
Brett's 50:15
bridge 51:20
brief 47:14
 48:11
briefly 12:7
bring 3:18 35:10
 49:17,19
broke 16:11
broken 9:3
brought 52:14
Brown 6:19
bucks 14:5
budget 35:7 43:4
 43:5,7
budgeted 35:22
 36:7
build 19:15
Building 3:7
Bumpy 17:22
bunch 24:7
burden 33:5
Burton 2:8 4:8,9
 5:9,12 11:3
 44:17
business 7:6
 27:23 43:13,13
Butzel 5:14,16
 5:18,19 11:3
 27:13
buy 34:14
buying 30:24

C

calihoops 34:15
call 4:4 20:15
 29:25
called 18:12
 48:15 49:13
 50:15
callers 44:12
cam 50:20,20
cams 50:22
candid 27:10
Captain 27:4
car 14:5 30:13
 30:25 31:6

32:6,13 33:10
 36:23,25 37:4
 37:20 38:7
 40:13,14,15,15
 40:17,18,19
 41:3,7,11,12
 41:15 42:5,5,6
 42:7,8,10,19
 47:11 50:10
card 37:7
care 15:4,8,23
 15:25 17:3
 19:23 39:2
 43:23 45:12
career 30:21
carjacked 30:24
 31:2 38:3,6
Carolina 15:23
carried 53:2
carries 7:6,15
cars 14:5 30:8
 31:5 45:23
Carter 2:5 4:7
 6:10,12 7:1
 34:4
case 26:9 31:16
 32:14 41:5,15
 42:15,16 45:8
cases 30:6,14
 33:18 42:9
caught 31:14,15
cause 9:17
causing 39:24
Celia 27:2 37:16
cell 15:13,16
 25:9,10
center 5:14 13:5
certain 8:20
 24:6 49:11
certainly 24:4
 33:12 38:10,11
CERTIFICATE 54:1
CERTIFY 54:8
cetera 24:2 31:2
 33:21 35:8,8
 40:5 51:18
chair 3:8,8,9
 4:5 5:5,25 6:1
 6:2,10,10,23
 7:8 10:10
 15:18 21:4,8
 26:16 36:14

38:14 43:3,3
 43:25 48:9
 52:20
chairing 43:8
Chairman 17:13
 43:11 47:16
 51:1
CHAIRPERSON 2:4
 3:5,25 5:7 6:3
 6:8,13,22 7:2
 7:5,11,14
 17:11,14 22:1
 23:11,13,17
 25:21 26:2,6
 26:10,22 27:9
 34:2 35:5,12
 36:13 38:12
 40:7 41:25
 42:23 43:12
 44:5,8,16,19
 46:21 47:1,7
 47:12,19,23
 48:3,5,8 52:11
 52:24 53:2
chairs 18:25
chance 27:19,21
change 22:13
changed 10:7
changes 37:14
chaplains 16:23
character 45:1
character 8:12
 35:11 38:4,6
charged 14:5
 36:25
Charger 40:16,19
chase 8:14 9:19
 20:7 24:22
 25:7,24 26:11
 26:18,19 47:11
 47:11,13,14
chases 18:2
 50:10
chief 2:16,18
 5:8,14 6:4,5,6
 6:17 10:2
 11:11 12:25
 17:5,12 18:3
 22:1,3,6 23:8
 23:21 24:6
 25:2,12,22
 26:1,4,8,23,25

27:18 34:9,25
 35:1,9 36:11
 39:18 44:6
 48:12 50:2
child 49:15,17
children 24:23
 45:19 49:19
chopper 13:25
church 11:14
Cincinnati 17:6
circumstance 4:2
circumstances
 20:11
citizens 11:23
 13:1 18:18
 25:10
city 3:14,16
 7:18 12:8,10
 12:11,18 14:2
 14:2,19 18:6,7
 24:25 37:2
 44:23 49:21,22
 49:24 50:9
civil 29:14 30:9
 33:4 49:23
claim 29:19
 32:20
claimant 29:21
 29:24 32:11,15
 33:1
claiming 40:25
clarify 34:25
clean 18:16,23
clear 25:23 26:2
 26:6 34:20,21
Clearly 36:7
climate 8:23
clip 15:6
close 52:11
closed 24:13
 51:14,23
clothes 29:1
clowns 19:9
code 33:4 47:3
Colorado 15:24
combatting 31:3
come 3:18 7:23
 9:21 10:14
 11:18 12:8
 17:16 20:3
 21:15,17,24
 22:6,7 30:11

30:23 32:12
 36:5 40:20
 41:12 43:22,23
 46:10 49:3
comfortable
 48:24
coming 6:10 8:11
 10:22 11:8
 38:19 39:1
 44:12 46:4
Commander 27:4
commanding 28:6
 28:21
Commencing 1:20
commend 10:21
 11:16
commentary 7:24
 14:10
comments 17:11
 25:21 26:23
 34:2 38:12
 42:23 48:9,11
COMMISIONER
 35:14
commission 3:6
 37:5
commissioner 2:5
 2:6,7,8,9,10
 2:11,12 3:10
 3:12,25 4:7,7
 4:9,10,12,13
 4:15,16,18,19
 4:20,21,23,24
 5:1,2,4,9,12
 6:25 7:1,9,10
 8:3 10:10,11
 11:3 12:5
 17:13,15 21:7
 22:3 23:12,18
 23:19 24:18
 25:14,22 26:16
 34:4 36:14
 37:7,9,17,25
 38:9,13 40:6
 41:25 42:1
 43:8,10 44:16
 51:8 52:22,23
commissioners
 1:1 2:1 7:4,13
 10:9 21:6 28:3
 44:4,10 46:22
 47:3 53:1

commitment 10:23
 12:13
committed 12:21
 20:13
committee 43:1,1
 43:4
communication
 43:21,24
community 3:20
 8:5 9:2,9
 10:24 11:10,14
 11:23 12:3,19
 17:22 19:5,7,8
 19:14,15 21:12
 22:5 25:23
 35:18 36:6
 40:11 43:17
 49:5
community-based
 11:15
company 37:6
 38:5
comparison 29:2
compelled 44:1
complaints 36:19
 39:20
complete 45:7
 54:13
completes 6:21
computer 54:11
concern 23:14
concerned 37:10
 48:17 50:4
concerning 28:7
concerns 9:12
 11:24 46:23
 52:16,18
concert 14:4
concerted 30:17
concluded 53:4
condolences
 24:24 45:18
conduct 4:3
conducted 39:16
 51:4
confederate 9:13
conference 12:6
 12:12
confirm 19:22
confusion 21:13
 21:20 22:25
 23:7,8 24:12

26:17
congregation
 46:14
connected 29:15
Conrad 2:12 4:16
consent 9:20
 33:14 40:4
 41:13
Conservancy
 48:21 49:3,13
considered 32:4
contact 29:23
continue 8:3
 44:7
continues 3:16
control 42:22
 44:24 45:12
 47:10
conversation
 35:15,21 36:9
 36:10
conversations
 38:6,8
conveyed 16:10
convincing 34:20
 34:21
cool 20:4
cop 17:7
cope 9:13
corner 46:8,15
corporate 49:5
correct 41:1
 54:13
costing 31:6
council 5:15,15
 14:3 18:6,7
Councilman 52:12
counseling 35:17
counselors 16:23
count 23:24
 24:10
country 26:11
County 9:8 32:5
 54:6
couple 17:19
 25:2 27:20
course 40:12
Court 6:20
courts 29:15
 32:9
covers 25:19
crack 39:21

Crawford 2:7
 4:11,12 7:9
 23:18,19 24:18
 25:14 26:16
 38:13 40:6
 41:25 42:1
 51:8
credit 18:20
crews 28:24,25
crime 19:18 28:5
 31:4,8 44:22
criminal 29:13
 29:15,17 41:15
 47:25
criteria 42:14
critical 10:25
criticized 15:7
 19:3
crowd 15:2,22
 20:23 21:10
cry 44:21
CSR 1:22 54:19
curb 51:25 52:5
curfew 11:19
 21:13,20,22,25
 24:13 46:9
 49:8

D

damned 19:6,6
dance 27:18
dare 19:4
daringly 3:20
dark 16:20
dash 50:19,20,22
date 33:2,23,25
 34:1
dates 43:18
daughter 14:22
 40:14
Davis-Drake 6:16
dawned 13:22
day 3:20,20
 10:20 20:9
 22:14
days 11:18 13:2
 27:11 29:18
 32:11,15,20
DC 27:17 44:3
dead 19:13
deal 24:11 32:3
dealer 19:21

dealer's 39:10
dealing 8:13
 27:12 28:23
dealt 41:14
Dear 3:12
debacle 37:2
decision 20:2
decisions 42:22
decoy 30:8
decoys 30:7
dedicated 11:2
dedication 10:13
deems 34:24
deep-seated
 21:18
defendant 29:21
 32:11
defendants 33:7
defense 41:14
denied 52:7
department 12:23
 13:12 14:24
 17:18 32:2,17
 34:6,24 39:8
Department's
 28:12
depraved 16:2
deputy 22:1,3
 23:8
determination
 40:4
Detroit 1:1,17
 1:19 3:1 7:18
 7:19 12:8,13
 12:17,23 14:19
 15:24 28:12
 46:10 49:22
Detroiters 21:16
 23:4
Dewaelsche 2:11
 4:14,15
Dexter 14:15
 15:5,11 18:12
 45:9
difference 41:5
different 13:13
 22:10 32:19
 33:19
difficult 7:17
 33:9
difficulty 48:25
diligence 12:15

diminished 21:10
 22:11 23:1
diploma 9:5
disappointed
 13:12,12 14:18
discretion 34:10
 42:3,3,8,11,12
discussion 43:7
disrespectful
 18:19
distance 45:21
district 5:13,15
 5:20 36:19
disturbance
 49:23
DNR 51:20
doing 11:12
 19:23 22:20
 45:4,6,7 46:6
 46:6 50:18
Dolunt 2:18 6:5
 6:6 12:24,25
 18:3 25:12
 26:1,4,8,25
 35:1,9 36:11
Don 19:24
Donnell 2:10
 3:10 5:2 10:10
dope 20:12 30:24
 30:25 39:10,20
 45:13
double 18:15
doubt 33:6 34:22
downsized 24:3
downtown 14:14
DPD 50:21
drag 30:15 31:22
dress 47:3
drive 9:19
driveway 36:22
driving 8:10
 12:9 16:16
 40:13 42:4
dropouts 9:4
Drove 51:25
drug 19:21 28:14
 30:9 41:5
drugs 30:12,19
due 12:14 30:17
 42:7
duty 8:12
Dyke 11:4

E

E 4:7
earlier 11:6
 21:5
early 43:7
east 7:18 12:17
 44:14
Edgar 2:9 4:25
edge 50:9
education 9:1
effect 7:8 17:18
 26:21
effected 24:25
effort 11:16
 30:17 31:4
efforts 35:23
 36:2,4,8
eight 5:6 23:23
 29:11
elaborate 39:2
electronically
 21:6,6
employment 14:7
EMS 16:10
en 3:22
encourage 10:14
ended 30:22
energy 11:17
enforcement
 48:17
engage 12:2
 31:20
engaged 8:19
engaging 9:23
enjoying 12:10
 27:14
enjoyment 49:12
enter 36:3
enterprise 42:21
entertain 6:23
 7:8 43:25 48:9
 52:20
entire 24:5 25:7
 42:16 51:13
entrance 46:4
equipment 51:14
erroneously
 29:16
error 7:16
essence 24:21
established

28:13
estimate 24:1
et 24:2 31:2
 33:21 35:8,8
 40:5 51:18
Eva 2:11 4:13
evaluated 42:14
evening 24:16
 49:12
event 5:13,16
 22:11
everybody 21:23
evidence 32:25
 33:6 34:18
evidentiary 51:3
exactly 20:21
 40:21
exceed 51:6
excess 16:7
excited 47:24
exciting 44:11
excuse 8:25
 13:10
excused 4:20,21
 5:9
exhausted 41:17
expanded 34:16
 34:16
experience 8:14
explain 36:12
explanation
 23:10
extended 45:18
extremely 11:20
 15:6 16:3

F

face 9:13
fact 14:11 18:25
 28:8 31:11
 42:7 45:6,15
 45:20 48:1
 49:8
facts 7:22,23
 10:3,4
families 9:2
family 21:10
 22:17 24:24
far 6:4 11:25
 20:7 31:19
 33:17,22 34:23
 39:23 46:3

fast 27:20 45:22
fatalities 24:23
fatality 8:7
father 3:12
 14:23
fault 19:16
 45:19
favor 7:3,12
 52:25
FBI 35:21
fee 30:14
feel 14:24 23:5
 23:6 47:6
 48:24
fellowship 10:16
felt 21:18
fifth 18:11
figure 36:21
file 29:18
filled 14:8
find 20:20 49:3
 49:6 50:24
finding 39:19
fine 23:2 41:3
 46:3
fingerprinted
 38:2
fingerprints
 36:24
fingers 9:11,24
fire 15:21
fired 37:24
fireworks 11:19
 13:11,16,18
 14:9,21,25
 15:2,5 21:8,9
 21:11,17 22:25
 23:20 51:10
first 5:21 17:15
 17:23 18:4
 31:12 39:7
 41:3
fiscal 33:24
 43:5
five 14:5
five-and-a-half
 50:14
five-year 10:11
 10:12
fix 9:16,17
flag 9:13
flags 9:14

Flanagan 27:5
 28:1,2,3 30:4
 33:3 34:11,21
 35:3 39:3
 40:21,23 41:2
 42:12
Flats 14:3
floor 44:2
fly 9:22
folks 8:21 9:21
 52:1
fool 13:4
Force 26:20
Ford 49:6
foregoing 54:9
forfeit 32:7
forfeited 32:8
 32:17
forfeiture 27:5
 27:24 28:4,6
 28:12 29:3,10
 29:13,14,14,23
 30:9 31:22,25
 32:25 33:18
 34:5,11,12
 35:16 36:15,17
 37:14 39:14
 40:3 41:6,10
 42:15,25
forfeitures
 34:13
former 3:9 17:7
Fort 29:10
forth 3:18 36:5
 54:10
forum 52:15,17
forward 10:5
 12:14 43:23
 51:3
four 11:18 14:17
 15:10 28:16,24
 29:12
frame 46:22
Fred 27:20
Free 25:17
freedom 48:16
freeway 9:22
Friday 13:3
 29:11 46:2
friendly 18:17
friends 24:24
front 6:16 11:1

20:8 21:2
 35:18
frustration
 23:14
Fugitive 26:20
full 21:22 54:13
fund 34:7
funds 35:16,17
 36:2
further 8:2
future 23:15

G

Gail 27:1
gain 29:21
Games 18:12
garage 41:16
Garagiola 22:20
Garza 2:11 4:13
GED 9:5
general 34:7
 35:7 49:5
generally 32:18
generated 34:12
 34:13
generating 36:2
gentleman 36:20
 37:20
George 4:3,6
 11:5 25:6
 27:20
germane 47:2
getting 9:5 19:1
 19:20 22:16
 46:13
girlfriend 39:11
girls 46:17
give 9:15 18:19
 41:18 43:21
given 8:19
glad 23:2 43:10
glasses 27:6
go 5:16 11:9
 17:1 18:13
 19:4,24 21:12
 31:10 33:13,15
 34:6 45:22,23
 47:25 51:10,11
 51:17,21 52:6
God 15:19
goes 13:19 24:24
 26:7 42:22

going 3:9 4:2
5:8, 16, 19, 19
8:1 9:25 10:1
10:6, 7, 9, 15
12:10, 10, 17, 18
14:25 15:15
16:22 17:6, 17
18:16, 23 19:16
22:18 24:15
30:2 36:17
37:11 38:23
39:6 41:18
43:3, 15, 17
44:23 45:2, 16
46:4 48:1, 10
48:23, 25 50:9
52:13
good 3:5 6:5, 6
6:11, 12 12:25
13:2, 2 18:22
18:24 19:6, 19
22:4, 5 27:8, 15
27:21, 25 28:3
28:11 44:3, 3
46:6 48:10
gotten 35:6
grab 46:18
grace 15:19
grandmother's
42:5, 8
grandparents
7:20
grandson 42:4
grateful 17:15
great 14:2, 16, 21
24:11 33:16
53:3
Greektown 13:8
grid 23:24
grieving 3:14
ground 15:17
guess 11:7 20:15
20:25 38:23
guilt 33:6 34:22
gun 5:21 16:6
19:9, 13 20:12
20:12, 22, 23, 23
20:25 25:4, 4
37:23
guns 29:23
guy 13:15 16:6
19:10 20:11

guys 20:5, 22

H

half 46:5
hand 12:21
handled 32:4
49:9, 9
handout 43:18
Hanson 6:20
happen 46:1
49:24
happened 13:8, 23
14:14, 14 15:5
15:11 19:2, 13
happening 5:20
9:17
harkens 49:16
Harper 50:23
Hart 22:21 23:25
Headquarters
1:17
healing 8:4
Health 33:4
hear 10:1 11:21
45:3 49:5
heard 19:20
20:19 50:22, 23
50:23
hearing 21:12
41:10
Heavenly 3:12
hedge 3:21
helicopter 48:5
helicopters
45:24, 25 48:2
48:4
help 36:4 45:25
47:20 49:9
helping 14:24
hereinbefore
54:10
hey 39:12
high 9:4, 5
higher 34:19
highways 31:22
hired 14:7
history 28:12
hit 39:13 40:1, 2
hold 46:18 47:6
holiday 10:8
homes 38:16, 17
38:19, 20 39:5

honest 50:6
honor 27:15
hoops 18:8
hope 8:22 9:10
9:24 24:4
35:16 36:9
43:2, 4 46:22
hopefully 7:23
9:15 23:15
31:7 43:8
52:15
hoping 16:25
horrendous 17:4
hospital 47:17
hour 14:12 16:7
46:5
hours 7:18 10:19
29:11
house 29:9 50:12
houses 30:2
39:17, 21, 25
hundred 15:10

I

ID 49:16
idea 16:19
identified 13:9
identify 17:1
26:23
illegal 29:22
immediate 3:8
imminent 36:1
impact 8:8 31:8
52:19
impassioned
17:17 49:22
50:2
important 5:23
49:5
inception 28:15
incident 13:3
25:15 37:18
46:7
incidents 14:17
35:23
included 23:4
includes 32:13
increase 24:10
increased 28:17
increasing 30:16
indicate 10:6
indicated 25:24

39:19 42:18
individual 15:25
17:1 49:14
individuals 7:25
8:19, 24 38:3
49:12
information 22:4
22:5 29:24
informed 5:23
initiated 25:24
initiative 38:19
39:4
initiatives
35:18 36:5
injuries 8:1
input 10:13
insightful 49:2
inspector 28:17
instance 8:15
16:1 19:8
37:21
instances 8:13
instructed 29:25
intent 23:6
32:10
interest 36:16
interested 44:13
interrupt 30:4
introduce 5:8
6:9, 14
introductions
6:21
investigation
10:3 16:24
investigator
6:17
invitation 23:3
inviting 23:3
involve 30:7
involved 25:4
37:3, 23, 23
38:21 42:6
50:22, 23, 24
involvement 12:4
involving 25:17
26:18, 19
island 24:16
51:23
Isle 22:7 24:14
48:20, 21, 23
51:9, 11, 17
issue 9:1, 2, 25

40:10,11 49:8
51:9 52:13
issues 9:10,12
11:19 28:9
47:1 50:1
52:14
item 7:6,15
27:23,24
items 36:9

J

January 28:16,19
33:23
jerk 13:16,17,18
Jessica 2:6 3:9
4:21 10:12
job 10:18,20
11:22 13:2
14:16 33:16
45:6,7 46:7,13
jobs 9:1 52:2
Joe 13:14
Johns 30:7
Johnson 17:22
joke 48:22
Jones 52:13
JR 2:12
judgment 8:16
41:13
judgments 33:14
judicial 31:25
32:4 40:3
July 10:8 33:24
43:3,6,17
jump 18:8
June 1:21 3:2
7:7 29:5 43:16
justice 35:25,25
juveniles 14:18

K

keep 28:22 32:21
41:22
keeping 18:14
41:24
kept 36:24
Kercheval 11:4
kid 16:15
kids 13:3,6,7
15:20,22 16:8
16:8,9,11
20:10 46:7,14

47:17
kill 19:10
killed 17:7,8
44:24
kind 13:5 17:25
32:21
kinds 49:21
knew 16:18
knocked 16:9
know 6:1 7:22
8:11 9:3,7
10:3,18,25
11:1,2,11 12:9
14:16 15:13
16:2,5 17:18
17:21 18:21,23
19:13,18,22
20:3 21:21,21
22:2,4,7,22
23:5,9 24:1
25:14 26:7,10
26:13,13 27:10
27:20 30:25
31:1 32:20
33:9 34:4,23
35:3,9 36:17
37:1,3,11,11
37:18 38:4,17
38:23 41:18,21
42:3 44:13
45:5,9 46:12
47:1,5,11,21
49:14,17,18
50:3,7,7 51:10
52:4,9
knowing 21:22
knows 16:17 18:8
40:12

L

L 4:16
lacks 14:20
land 39:4,23
landlords 39:12
39:25
Lansing 45:1
largest 12:6,8
lasted 20:15
law 17:23 32:16
50:15
laws 49:16
laying 15:17

leadership 10:23
leave 3:23 11:3
leaving 5:10
10:9
left 3:8 6:4
21:21
legal 27:3 37:11
37:12
legend 19:20
legislation
34:17
letter 32:10
39:9
letters 39:17
42:13
letting 44:13
51:6
let's 20:4 40:15
47:19 51:17
level 33:5 34:18
35:25 41:22
Lewis 13:14
license 51:18
lieutenant 27:5
27:25 28:2,3
28:15,18 30:4
31:17 33:3
34:3,11,21
35:3 38:14
39:3 40:12,21
40:23 41:2
42:2,12,24
life 16:1 20:5
lifted 8:2
light 5:24 10:16
48:13
limit 43:22
Linda 6:17 40:9
line 51:19,19
Lisa 2:5 4:7
6:10
litigation 25:16
little 10:16
15:3,18 16:9
18:16,24 20:4
27:18 28:10,11
32:19 34:19
42:8
load 41:21
located 29:10
location 29:9
43:19

lock 13:4,6
long 45:23
look 20:8 32:1
35:12 43:5
50:13 51:2
52:2
looked 27:14
looking 13:9
15:1,2,4 25:8
25:9
looks 15:15
lose 7:24
lost 14:2 50:15
lot 11:13 31:3
36:19 45:3
51:15 52:14
lots 30:22 33:21
lowest 14:9
Lynn 11:5

M

Macomb 9:8 54:6
mafia 19:22
magic 37:7
mail 41:13
major 27:4
majority 41:24
making 12:12
Mallett 2:12
4:17,18 37:7
43:8,10
mama's 42:5,7
man 30:25 45:13
manpower 28:17
matter 20:19
31:11 50:7
matters 43:7
49:7
mayor 11:11
38:18
mayor's 39:7,8
ma'am 44:8 48:8
mean 22:9 26:24
29:2,7 37:12
46:19 47:21
48:21,22,22
50:2
means 29:7 42:20
media 22:19
25:11
meet 42:14
meeting 1:6 3:6

6:24 10:6,15
 21:3,21 23:7
 37:5 43:14,17
meetings 21:24
member 10:11,12
 23:16
men 3:19
mentioned 25:18
 31:17 43:15
 45:24 48:12
merit 42:17
messed 16:14,15
met 43:2
method 23:24
Michigan 1:19
 3:1 54:4
Microphone 23:16
mighty 3:24
miles 16:7
mind 28:23 29:18
mindedness 3:17
minor 13:3
minutes 7:7
 46:23 52:6
misdemeanor 9:9
mishap 38:11
missed 11:9
missing 19:13
 20:23
mistake 24:18
moment 3:15
 29:20
Monday 29:11
money 12:11
 32:16,19,21,21
 34:5,5,11,14
 34:23 35:4,7
 35:11,13 41:10
 41:23 42:19,20
monies 33:22
months 30:17
Moore 4:20
morning 7:20
 22:15 24:20
 44:9 51:10,12
Mother 44:1
motion 6:23 7:5
 7:8,14 44:1
 52:20 53:2
Motors 49:6
move 10:5 12:14
 43:20

moved 6:25 7:2,9
 7:11 14:12
 52:22,24
moving 51:15
music 18:14

N

name 3:24 16:19
 43:21 44:18
names 16:18
narcotic 38:21
 41:9 42:21
narcotics 28:13
 28:24,24 29:22
 34:13 38:17
 39:16
nationwide 15:7
naturally 16:15
nature 8:9 29:13
near 20:9
necessary 34:24
need 4:1 11:11
 11:13,15 12:2
 12:2,3 35:5
 48:1,4 50:5,10
 50:24
needed 41:22
Neely 50:11 51:5
negotiate 33:14
neighborhood
 7:21 9:18
 16:15 18:22
 19:20,24
neighborhoods
 9:18 21:17
 35:25
never 38:3
new 17:8 40:15
 40:15,19 43:13
nexus 37:3
nice 18:17 28:2
 35:1
Nielsen 27:7
 28:7,11 31:11
 33:16 34:8
night 13:3 15:10
 16:4 21:9 45:8
 45:17
noise 6:7
nomenclature
 37:15
non-salaried

10:18
normally 22:23
note 42:2 52:12
noticed 21:10
 23:21,22
Nottingham 9:21
nuisance 30:6,10
 30:11,15 31:18
 31:23 33:10,11
 39:6,14,15,18
 41:2,6,8
number 29:12
 38:19 48:18
 50:12,17
numbers 33:18

O

oath 54:10
objectives 12:22
observation 21:7
obtained 42:20
obviously 23:20
occasion 3:13
occur 35:24
occurring 29:17
offenders 33:7,8
offensive 18:7
offer 20:24
 31:20
office 2:16 24:9
 30:3 32:5,9,14
 32:23 35:21
 38:20 39:1,7,8
 42:4,13,18
officer 16:14
 17:8 18:13,15
 28:6,21 46:9
officers 11:2
 15:1 16:10,11
 17:7,19 18:10
 18:18 20:2
 25:1 27:12,14
 28:16,18,20,22
 29:1,16 42:15
 45:8,21 46:10
 46:11 47:11,16
oftentimes 41:5
oh 23:1 50:7
okay 6:1,2 18:3
 19:12 23:17
 26:22,25 27:1
 36:12 40:6
 42:23 43:12
 44:1
old 43:13 49:14
 49:16,18,20,20
 49:22
once 16:25 43:24
ones 42:17
ongoing 8:10
open 23:3 24:5,9
 24:13 51:24
opened 11:7 24:8
operation 29:11
operations 30:5
opinion 14:9
 41:23
opportunity 5:17
 7:19 14:2
 37:13
opposed 7:5,14
 15:2 53:2
ops 30:22
opt 31:22
oral 43:20,24
oranges 37:18
order 40:17
ordinance 17:23
organization
 48:15
organizations
 11:15
organized 28:5
Orleans 17:8
other's 16:19
outgoing 3:8
outstanding 10:9
 11:22
overcrowded 9:6
owner 39:9
owners 39:22
Oxendine 27:2

P

pace 33:25
page 11:1
PAGES 1:15
Pamela 6:16
paper 13:6 38:15
 38:15,25
parent 40:17
parents 7:21
 16:19 45:19
 46:20

park 18:15 24:8
 24:21 51:18
parked 14:5
parking 51:15
part 15:14 25:16
 28:4 35:20
 36:10 48:14
participate 23:4
participating
 8:21 9:4
particular 5:10
 9:20 25:15
 36:20 44:12
particulars
 20:14
party 8:5,18
 17:5,20,23,24
 18:4,4,9,11
 19:5,19 20:3
pass 49:16 51:18
passenger 16:17
passion 17:16
patient 8:15
patrol 30:21
 31:9 50:22
pay 40:18
peace 8:4
peaceful 12:1
peaked 36:16
pending 10:3
people 3:19 7:21
 8:6,8,15,19
 9:8,19 10:20
 11:7,13 12:9
 13:24 15:4,10
 17:22,24 18:17
 20:10 21:12,15
 21:16,20,24
 22:14,19 23:6
 23:25 29:16
 30:23 31:14
 35:24 36:3,19
 37:20 45:14
 46:4 48:23
 49:2,24 50:7
 50:18
percent 40:18,22
 40:24 41:7
 50:21
perception 14:13
 14:18,19 48:18
 49:11 51:9

52:4,9
perceptions
 21:18
period 41:17
 43:5 48:20
permeate 3:16
permit 18:5,9,11
 18:21
permitting 17:25
person 5:15
 13:11 15:10,12
 16:1 41:11
 50:15
personal 32:16
personally 17:18
 25:5
personnel 27:2
persons 30:10
 37:23 39:25
person's 41:11
perspective 49:4
 49:6
Philadelphia
 17:4
phone 15:16
phones 15:13
 25:9,10
phonetic 34:15
photographer
 25:18
pick 30:8 31:1
 37:22
picked 41:4
picking 30:7
picture 14:25
piece 37:12
pink 15:17,18
place 3:17,23,23
 5:13,14 26:12
 26:14 39:24
 54:10
plain 29:1
plan 12:3
plate 9:11 12:15
 51:18
Plaza 22:21 24:1
please 3:20 6:7
 6:14 43:21
pleased 12:16
pleasure 6:20
plus 28:25
point 9:24 28:10

32:24 34:22
 51:9 52:3
pointing 9:11
points 22:23
police 1:1 2:16
 3:6 8:11,14
 9:19 12:23
 13:1,11 15:1
 18:2 19:15
 25:25 26:4,17
 26:18 28:12,16
 28:18,20,22,22
 29:15 32:1,17
 34:9,24 36:23
 37:5 38:1 39:8
 45:4,5 46:6,22
 47:2 50:23
policies 21:5
 25:20
policy 18:1 20:7
 20:17 21:2
 25:6,7,8,9
 26:11,14 47:13
positive 27:16
 31:7
positively 17:1
possible 45:7
possibly 11:12
post 24:8 32:15
 33:8
posting 32:13
Power 28:10
prayed 8:4
prayer 3:10
prayerful 4:2
precinct 30:20
precincts 28:25
 30:18
preponderance
 33:5 34:18
present 4:9,12
 4:15,18,23 5:1
 5:4 23:8 45:3
presentation
 28:7 35:2,15
presently 29:9
Press 25:17
presume 15:17
pretty 10:1
 52:12
prior 24:19
 25:17

prison 9:6
proactive 30:18
problem 9:16
 29:8 36:13
 38:5
proceedings 53:4
 54:9,14
proceeds 42:21
process 32:6
 33:4 38:24
 39:24 40:3
processed 29:3,5
program 11:9
proof 33:5,10
 34:18 41:22
properly 7:2,11
 35:6 52:24
property 28:23
 29:20 32:16
 39:9,13 40:25
 45:20
prosecution 41:9
prosecutor 33:13
 38:18 41:13
prosecutor's
 30:3 32:5,9,14
 32:23 38:20
 39:1,1 41:21
 42:4,13,17,18
prostitute 31:2
prostitutes 30:8
prostitution
 30:19 31:20
protection 3:21
 35:23 36:4,8
public 1:17 3:7
 10:25 12:22
 33:4 36:20
 47:6 52:19
pull 52:5
pulled 21:4 37:4
 51:25
purchase 29:22
 30:12,12
purchasers 31:21
pursued 30:2
pursuit 24:23
 25:7
pushback 50:17
PUSHOFF 31:21
PUSHOFFS 30:9
put 8:23 10:18

19:21 34:6
40:23 41:7
putting 5:15
31:4
p.m 1:20 3:3
53:4

Q

question 7:3, 12
13:20 35:6, 10
42:2
questionable
8:19
questions 17:10
17:11, 19 25:3
28:9 34:1, 2
40:7 42:24
quick 9:16, 17
quickly 40:9
quiet 27:3
quite 22:11
26:12, 14 45:10
quorum 5:6
quote 19:11

R

R 2:10 4:19 5:2
racing 30:15
31:22
raid 28:24
raided 39:5, 13
raids 39:16
rain 22:12, 13
raise 34:17
48:11
raised 12:21
21:14
rams 34:14
ran 20:24
raves 11:25
reach 11:14 33:9
reaching 11:13
read 38:14 39:3
ready 7:3, 12
19:1
real 49:25
reality 48:18
49:10 51:9
52:9
realize 24:14
45:5
really 5:17

10:16, 23 11:15
15:8, 14 16:8
16:14 17:3
35:5 39:17
47:7
reason 13:13
21:14 38:4
50:8
reasonable 33:6
34:22
received 11:25
reckless 15:21
15:24
recklessly 9:19
recognize 10:17
record 4:6 5:12
34:1
recovered 25:4
rectify 23:15
redeem 31:6
redemption 30:14
reduced 54:11
reducing 28:14
31:8
reference 11:17
12:5 24:22
27:10 52:18
refreshment
10:16
refused 19:10
regard 17:24
18:2 21:8
regards 45:14, 22
Reginald 2:7
4:10
REGULAR 1:6
reinforced 21:20
relates 17:20
relations 19:15
relationship
48:12 49:7
50:14
releasing 9:8
remarks 27:10
44:25
remember 16:18
48:14 49:23
remind 47:20, 22
remove 39:25
render 3:10
rented 39:10
report 7:15

11:21, 25 12:23
reported 54:8
REPORTER 54:1
Reporting 6:20
reports 22:21, 23
43:1, 2
representative
44:14 50:11
51:5
REPRESENTING
2:16
required 40:20
resources 31:3, 9
respect 20:5
27:11
respond 11:23
35:5
responded 47:16
responding 9:12
responsibilities
28:4, 8
responsibility
8:13 16:21
19:2
responsible
23:24
rest 44:10
restrictions
22:7, 10
result 30:5
resulted 24:23
return 42:9
reverse 30:12
review 26:13
42:17
reviewing 25:6
25:20
Ricardo 4:19
Richard 4:20
rid 46:13
ride 13:4 48:16
Riders 48:15
right 4:1 19:24
20:2 23:14
27:7 37:20, 25
43:16 44:6
47:17
river 13:2 23:25
24:7
riverfront 13:21
13:25 14:1, 4, 8
14:25 22:8

24:5, 10 46:2
48:25 49:1, 3
49:13
Riverwalk 11:18
22:9 51:11, 13
52:14, 18
robbed 36:21
Robert 6:18
rode 13:15
role 4:3 30:18
Ron 48:11
rooftop 22:19
room 21:23
rough 13:1 17:9
27:1
route 3:22
row 6:16
rule 20:8
rulings 45:21
runs 31:10
rushing 8:16

S

sad 7:24 14:10
14:10
safe 12:11 14:24
23:1, 2 53:3
safety 1:17 3:7
10:25 12:22
52:19
sale 29:21
sat 52:5
saw 12:8 46:3, 5
46:16 47:18
saying 14:16
18:20 23:6
26:19 31:24
42:13
says 50:20
scared 45:14
scene 7:19 15:15
20:24
scenes 30:23
school 9:4, 5
20:10
schooled 27:20
scope 10:24
score 18:14
Scott 48:10, 11
51:8 52:10
scrutiny 8:12
search 30:3

seated 6:16
second 31:7,12
 32:24 41:4
secondary 14:7
seconds 20:15,19
secretary 4:3,5
 4:6,10,13,16
 4:19,24 5:2,5
 6:15 11:4 21:4
 24:17 34:20
section 28:4
 31:9 39:16
security 14:6,7
see 6:11 27:17
 27:21,22,25
 28:2 29:17
 50:19 51:2
seeing 41:20
 51:3
seen 15:20 20:22
 31:15 47:25
seize 32:7,8,9
 37:13 40:1
 42:6
seized 30:2,13
 31:13,19 32:6
 33:18,22 36:16
 38:17,18,25
 39:6 40:15
 41:19 42:19
seizing 28:14
 37:10 38:20
 39:23
seizure 25:10
 32:25 33:11
 37:21 40:11
 41:24
seizures 30:5
send 21:5 32:14
 39:9,22 42:16
sends 42:13
sense 45:16
senseless 3:15
sent 13:7 14:23
separate 37:17
 38:8
separation 49:11
sergeant 18:20
 20:1,17 28:6
 28:11 31:11
 33:16 34:8
sergeants 28:16
 28:18,20
series 29:1
serious 9:10
serve 3:19,20
 12:19
served 32:10
service 6:21
 10:17
serving 3:14
set 33:2 54:10
setting 12:1
settlement 33:1
settlements
 33:15
seven 23:23
 28:20
severely 21:10
shame 16:16
Shelby 4:21
Sheldon 50:11
shooter 13:9
shooting 8:10
 20:6
short 28:7
shot 8:6 13:24
 15:20 19:11
 31:2
shots 37:23
show 42:20 49:16
 50:8
shows 15:3
shrunk 28:19
shut 18:21 19:1
 19:4,5,16
shutting 19:3
 20:2
side 7:18 8:6
 12:17 44:14
sidewalk 16:9
signed 16:25
significantly
 30:16
Sims 27:4
sir 5:7 6:3,3,5
 6:15,22 17:14
 23:19 25:16
 27:9 36:14
 43:12
sit 35:2 47:9
 48:1
sitting 6:4
situation 45:17
 45:25 48:13
 49:10
six 13:24
six-year-old
 7:24
size 23:21 28:15
slide 32:21
slotted 29:8
Smith 44:3,7,9
 44:10,18,20
 46:24 47:4,9
 47:15,18,20,24
 48:4,7
snitching 8:22
Solano 27:4
solutions 3:18
solve 36:5
somebody 45:15
somewhat 24:3
 36:20
son 40:12 50:16
sorry 23:17 27:1
 44:10 45:18
sort 8:20 17:21
sound 3:18
sounded 44:21
sounds 37:1
South 15:23
space 29:7
spaces 29:8
span 52:8
speak 5:10 12:7
 12:24 28:21
 35:24 43:23
speaking 12:5
 44:5 46:21
 47:21
special 21:9
 22:17,18 30:22
specifically
 28:6
speeding 20:11
spend 11:17 31:3
spending 12:11
 30:22
spent 30:20,21
 34:5,5
spoke 5:25
sponsored 17:22
spot 22:15,16
SS 54:5
stack 18:25
staff 6:14 23:9
 26:24 28:21
stand 22:9
standard 18:1
standards 51:6
standing 13:14
 43:1 46:8,14
 46:17
stands 31:21
start 22:15 24:5
 30:18 49:25
started 20:6
starting 43:6
starts 32:6 40:2
state 24:21,21
 25:24 26:4,17
 26:18 34:16
 50:23 54:4
stated 38:22
 44:14,18 47:12
stating 44:22
stats 17:3
statutes 30:11
stayed 46:5
stenographically
 54:9
step 9:10 11:15
 38:23 39:7
stepping 12:15
steps 27:20
Steve 2:18 6:5
 22:20
stick 27:19
stigmatized
 13:22
stinks 13:8
street 29:10
 35:25 36:18,18
streets 31:21
strict 47:13
strictest 26:11
 26:14
strongest 50:19
struck 16:7
stuff 13:5 20:16
sub 28:5
subject 29:23
 30:9,13 39:14
subsequent 41:9
subterfuge 39:10
suburbs 30:23
sucker 18:21

sued 25:12
suffered 7:25
suggest 50:12
suicide 17:7
summit 5:21, 22
supervision
 54:12
support 7:1
 11:10 32:25
 36:6
supported 7:3, 10
 7:12 52:23, 25
supporting 10:21
 35:18
supposed 7:16
 18:5 25:3
sure 10:1 36:14
 38:9 52:12
swear 16:13
swift 36:1
system 9:6

T

table 21:19
 25:19
take 19:2 22:14
 38:1 41:10
 43:5 47:16
taken 1:17 33:20
 36:23 42:11
 45:12
takes 16:20 18:8
talk 7:20 9:16
 19:10 35:23
 38:11 45:14
 47:4 50:5, 6, 10
 52:17
talked 21:19
 32:22 48:22
talking 16:11, 16
 16:17 22:19
 31:18 37:17, 19
 49:25, 25 51:5
tape 20:19
Task 26:20
Taylor 2:6 3:9
 4:22, 23 6:25
 10:12 52:22
teenagers 47:5
Telephone 29:12
tell 27:2 29:16
 45:16

telling 20:3
ten 13:23 52:5
terms 4:1 8:9, 13
 8:16, 16, 21 9:4
 9:11, 14, 17, 20
 9:25 10:2, 2, 19
 10:22 11:4, 10
 11:12 12:1, 15
 12:22 17:25
 23:10, 21 25:3
 25:9 27:15
 37:12 38:20
 43:7 48:13
 49:10, 11 50:18
terrible 15:9
testimony 54:9
text 14:22
thank 3:25 4:5
 5:7 6:3, 15, 22
 7:6 11:22, 23
 11:24 12:24
 14:23, 23 26:22
 27:9 35:14, 14
 40:6 42:24
 43:12 44:20
 48:3, 6, 8 51:6
 52:10 53:3
thing 14:22 15:3
 17:5, 25 18:4
 22:18 27:13
 31:1
things 3:24
 11:20 16:2
 17:17 31:5
 39:22 45:4
 49:21 50:24
 51:2
think 5:21, 23
 8:1, 25 9:9
 11:1 12:1 13:8
 13:9, 11, 17
 14:1, 10, 17
 19:1 24:10, 15
 25:5, 19 27:7
 33:17 37:18
 39:24 43:8
 44:25 49:2, 4
 49:21 50:21
third 1:18 31:13
 31:15
thought 13:2, 16
 15:19 20:1

52:4
thousands 39:21
three 28:18
 36:24 41:16
three-year-old
 7:25
threshold 33:10
thrown 16:9
Thursday 1:21
 3:2 7:7 43:15
Thursday's 21:3
tied 20:16
ties 31:9
tight 46:18
time 4:1 5:11
 6:23 8:7 10:7
 11:1 16:18
 18:9, 22 19:6
 19:19 20:1, 9
 22:14, 17 25:5
 26:12, 15 27:15
 27:25 30:19, 22
 31:7, 12, 12, 13
 37:10 41:3, 4
 43:2, 20 45:2
 46:9 47:7 51:7
 52:21 54:10
times 29:15
 36:21
Tina 35:10 36:11
Tinsley 44:19, 20
tipped 15:18
tired 44:22
today 5:24 12:24
 35:21
today's 33:23
today's 38:15, 24
told 14:2 16:6
 18:6 20:20
 51:23
Toliver 35:10
 36:12
tomorrow 16:25
tone 20:4
tonight 13:16, 19
tossed 20:22
totally 36:15
touch 29:19
tough 27:11, 11
tournament 18:13
tow 38:5
towing 36:18

37:1, 6
traffic 20:9, 18
 24:15
trafficking
 28:14
tragic 16:5, 8
training 34:15
tranquility 8:4
transcription
 54:12, 13
transient 31:4, 8
transit 13:5
transpired 8:17
transportation
 29:22
travel 11:3
treatment 8:2
tremendous 8:1
 11:6
trial 29:17 33:1
 33:3 41:19
trials 41:23
tried 16:14
 19:14 51:10, 11
true 8:22 19:22
 40:21 54:13
try 16:23 19:7
 19:14 20:13, 17
 20:24 22:15
trying 6:8 12:18
 18:7 20:20
 30:8 31:1
 36:25
Tuesday 10:7
 18:6 43:15
turn 6:7
turning 16:20
turnout 11:6
 13:2 14:9
 48:13
twice 31:15, 16
 38:3 39:5
 43:24
two 10:8 16:8, 8
 19:9 20:5
 24:23 25:20
 28:19, 22, 22, 25
 31:24 36:9
 37:17, 23 41:16
 46:23 52:7, 7
two-minute 43:22
type 11:10, 16

12:1,12 17:22
18:5 27:15
31:8 43:6
types 8:20 31:24

U

unable 35:24
unappreciated
12:21
unavoidable
45:17
underfunded 36:8
underpaid 12:20
understaffed
12:20
understand 5:22
8:15,25 23:13
37:22 40:16
45:13 46:20
47:15 50:20
51:13,15
understandably
20:24
understanding
8:18 11:20
17:21 18:12
21:22,25 25:23
47:13
unfortunate
14:15 22:24
unfortunately
13:17 14:13
15:6
uniform 46:11
51:6
unit 28:5,13,14
29:10 32:12
34:13

United 48:15
unquote 19:11
unrelated 36:15
upset 15:6 16:3
16:3 44:21
45:10 46:16
50:1,3
use 31:21 34:14
45:25
utilizing 13:21

V

vacant 39:21
value 40:18,24

41:7
Van 11:4
Vann 2:9 4:25
5:1 7:10 12:5
17:13,15 21:7
22:3 23:12,21
36:14 37:9,17
37:25 38:9
52:23
vast 41:24
vehicle 24:22
25:7 31:13
32:10 38:2
vehicles 29:3,4
29:4,4,6,9
30:10 31:19
32:7,8 33:18
33:20 34:14
50:21 51:19,20
venue 14:4 18:5
vests 34:14
vice 5:25 6:9
28:25 43:3
victim 37:4 38:7
victimize 38:2
video 14:22
15:11
videos 15:8,9
view 42:16 45:2
violators 27:5
violence 3:15
5:22 9:14
visit 7:19
volunteering
10:24
voting 5:25

W

wait 7:23 16:10
29:16 47:19
51:2
waited 41:16
waiting 27:17
walk 51:12,13,22
walking 15:1
wall 46:17
want 7:15,17
10:5,17,21
11:21,24 12:7
12:11 21:12
27:13 35:12
42:24 47:25

48:11 50:19
51:1,22 52:3
52:11
wanted 5:10 19:9
26:2,6 49:14
wants 29:24
30:25
warning 8:21
42:10
warrant 16:25
warrants 30:3
Washington 27:2
27:17 37:16,16
38:1,10
wasn't 18:7 19:8
23:3 42:21
45:19
watch 3:22 22:9
watched 51:25
52:6
way 13:7 23:5,7
27:6 32:1 33:3
39:15 46:23
49:9 50:3
Wayne 32:4
ways 49:25
weather 14:11
Webb 14:15 15:5
15:11 45:9
weed 40:13
week 10:6,14
13:1 17:4,9
18:9 21:14
23:8 27:1
35:10 36:12
weekend 53:3
weekly 3:6
weeks 21:21
33:23 36:24
weigh 9:25 20:14
52:13
welcome 3:5
48:19
Wendy 1:22 6:20
54:18
went 11:20 13:25
13:25 15:7,14
16:7 18:15,21
27:16 34:9,12
35:7 48:15,21
48:25
weren't 18:18

24:15 46:10
west 8:6 14:4
we'll 17:1
we're 9:25 10:1
15:4 27:8
37:17
we've 13:9 33:16
33:17 37:2
white 2:10 3:10
3:12 4:1 5:3,4
8:3 10:10 21:2
35:14 46:11
wife 51:12
Willie 2:4,8 3:7
4:7 5:9
wish 47:10
witness 20:21
35:22 36:3,7
witnesses 36:5
woefully 36:8
woman 15:16
women 3:19
wonderful 21:24
Woods 50:23
word 36:16
work 6:8 19:7,14
23:22 28:1
37:9 41:21
52:1
working 10:20
16:22 26:13
worried 14:6
worth 33:12
40:16
wouldn't 51:23
wrapped 22:25

Y

yeah 13:19,20
year 12:3 18:11
24:4 25:17,18
29:5 31:19
33:17,22,24,25
34:1 38:22
48:14
years 13:23 14:8
19:23 23:22,23
23:23 24:3,19
34:8 37:2
41:16 42:3
49:14,17 50:14
yesterday 26:18

young 8:7 49:18
 49:19,19
youngsters 46:18

\$

\$1,800 31:12
 41:4
\$2,107,000 33:24
\$2,500 40:20
\$2,700 31:12
\$2,978,000 33:25
\$20,000 33:12
\$25,000 40:16
\$250 40:24
\$5,000 41:18
\$50,000 32:3,3
 35:22 36:7
\$800 36:25
\$900 31:6,11
 41:3

1

1 1:15 33:24
1st 33:23 43:4,6
1:00 11:7
10 13:3,6 40:18
 40:22,24 41:7
 41:18
10:00 46:9
11 28:16
12 13:3,6
12:00 11:8
1301 1:18
14 28:18
15 33:12
15-minute 52:8
18th 7:7
1986 28:13,15
1996 28:17

2

2:00 24:17,18
 51:24
20 29:18 32:11
 32:15
2006 28:19
2011 29:3
2012 29:3
2013 25:17 29:4
2014 10:22 29:4
2015 1:21 3:2
 28:20 40:19

208 29:9
21st 29:5
2121 29:10
224-DOPE 29:25
24 7:18
25 1:21 3:2
27 19:11
29-1/2 49:18

3

3:00 1:20 3:3
 10:7 43:16
30 14:8 28:25
 49:14,17
30th 43:16
300 39:16
3505 1:22 54:19
370 29:4

4

4th 10:8
4,054 39:20
4:20 53:4
409 29:9

5

5 5:15
5:00 24:16
50,000 32:22
500 17:24
500,000 24:2
54 1:15
544 29:3
545 29:3
547 31:19,23
596-2630 29:12

6

6:00 24:19
60 32:20

7

70 50:21
700,000 24:2
714 29:4
746 29:5 31:18
 31:23 33:19
75 20:15,19

9

9th 43:17
90-some 16:7

927 33:19
980 33:17