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DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, September 3, 2020

3:00 p.m.

BOPC Virtual Meeting Technology

1 COMMISSIONERS:

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3 WILLIE E. BELL, Chairperson (Dist. 4)

4 ANNIE HOLT, Commissioner At-Large, Vice Chairperson

5 WILLIAM M. DAVIS, Commissioner (Dist. 7)

6 WILLIE E. BURTON, Commissioner (Dist. 5)

7 JIM HOLLEY, Commissioner At-Large

8 DARRYL D. BROWN, Commissioner (Dist. 1)

9 SHIRLEY A. BURCH, Commissioner (Dist. 3)

10 JESUS HERNANDEZ, Commissioner At-Large

11 MARTIN JONES, Commissioner At-Large

12

13 MELANIE WHITE, Interim Secretary to the Board

14 TERESA BLOSSOM, Community Relations Coordinator

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16 REPRESENTING OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

17 DEPUTY CHIEF TODD BETTISON

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1 September 3, 2020

2 Virtual Meeting

3 3:00 p.m.

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5 COMMISSIONER BELL: Good afternoon,  
6 commissioners, panelists, and all viewing audience  
7 throughout the city of Detroit and, I think, throughout  
8 the nation, and also to our DPD family. It's good to  
9 have folks on another weekly meeting of the board of  
10 police commission. These are serious times, and we are  
11 trying our best to respond to all those concerns that  
12 we are facing in this nation.

13 At this time I would like to have a moment  
14 of silence for Bryant Searcy, a veteran of the Wayne  
15 County Sheriff patrol assigned to the jail. That was  
16 the incident where he lost his life. There was a press  
17 conference by the sheriff, Benny Napoleon, and also the  
18 (indiscernible) everyone this afternoon. We send our  
19 prayers and condolences to his family. Naturally, we  
20 will work on a resolution to that effect. Actually, I  
21 think we just really have to pray for all our law  
22 enforcement at this time, and please bear with me in  
23 terms of a moment of silence.

24 (Moment of silence at 3:03 p.m. followed by  
25 the invocation.)

1 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you. That was  
2 Chaplain Inez Gordon. We thank you for your prayer  
3 and thank you for your support and interaction with  
4 the board. Also, I received a text on this  
5 (indiscernible). As you all know, part of the Citizen  
6 Police Academy, she wanted to announce the passing of  
7 Kelly Loston (phonetic) a longtime member and a  
8 longtime supporter of the Detroit Police, and she  
9 passed away, so we (indiscernible) the loss and family  
10 and all of the families in the Citizen Police Academy  
11 that interact with her. As you can see, (audio  
12 dropped) that we should be thankful for the  
13 opportunity, and we should lift those up who are  
14 making the transition to (inaudible).

15 At this time we're going to move on to the  
16 commissioners. I'm going to ask Vice Chair Holt to be  
17 last. I want her to make an announcement.

18 But District 1?

19 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Darryl Brown,  
20 District 1, present.

21 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you. District 2,  
22 Evette Griffie, asked to be excused.

23 District 3?

24 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Good afternoon.  
25 Shirley Burch, District 3.

1 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

2 Commissioner Bell is District 4,  
3 representing District 4 and also the chair.

4 District 5?

5 Thank you.

6 District 6, Commissioner Lisa Carter, asked  
7 to be -- she will be attending later on in the  
8 meeting.

9 So District 7?

10 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Good afternoon.

11 Police Commissioner William Davis.

12 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

13 I think that covered all the commissioners.  
14 We'll start off with at-large.

15 COMMISSIONER JONES: Good afternoon,  
16 commissioners. Martin Jones.

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: Good afternoon. Jim  
19 Holley.

20 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ: Good afternoon.  
22 Jesus Hernandez, at-large.

23 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

24 And, finally, our vice chair, Commissioner  
25 Holt.

1           COMMISSIONER HOLT: Good afternoon, and  
2     thank you, Chair Bell. Yes, I'm Annie Holt, at-large.  
3     I would like to share a few facts again about the 2020  
4     Census and the response of our citizens who live in  
5     the city of Detroit. Unfortunately, our numbers are  
6     still down, and it's almost any public office that you  
7     go into, for example, like the K-Mac. There are  
8     kiosks that you can use to submit your census. We  
9     need to understand that those federal dollars help the  
10    educational system in the city of Detroit, improves  
11    senior programs in the city of Detroit, improves the  
12    Medicare access in the city of Detroit, and you know  
13    that Medicare is, obviously, a federal program, but  
14    those funds -- for Medicaid -- excuse me --  
15    Medicaid -- would support folks who live in the city  
16    of Detroit.

17           Businesses use the numbers from the census  
18    count to decide whether or not to locate in the city  
19    of Detroit. Road repair in the city of Detroit for  
20    each person who submits -- for each resident of the  
21    city of Detroit, the City will receive \$5,000 for the  
22    completion of that census program. Now,  
23    unfortunately, but fortunately, there are attractions  
24    that are being held throughout the city tomorrow, in  
25    fact, whereby folks can go. They're at the food

1 distribution locations, and at some locations they're  
2 also offering gift cards. There's a food distribution  
3 opportunity at Triumph Church. That's the East Campus  
4 up on the boulevard, and those activities are from  
5 9:00 to 2:00. Again, that's Friday.

6           There is a memorial picnic out at old Chene  
7 Park tomorrow, Friday, from 11:00 to 6:00. There's  
8 also a food distribution location at Zion Church --  
9 Zion Hope Church -- at 4800 Van Dyke, and that's an  
10 opportunity to receive groceries and to submit your  
11 census form. It's from 8:30 until 10:00 a.m. So,  
12 again, understanding that if the dollar- -- the  
13 dollars will come to Detroit -- I mean to Michigan.  
14 Those federal dollars, they'll come to the state of  
15 Michigan, but if we don't complete those census forms,  
16 the City of Detroit will not get them.

17           So thank you, Chair Bell, for that  
18 opportunity.

19           COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you, Commissioner  
20 Holt, and thank you for your work on -- in terms of  
21 the census charters. That's an awesome  
22 responsibility, and I just hope that people comply.

23           The next item would be the agenda for this  
24 afternoon meeting, September the 3rd --

25           MS. WHITE: Mr. Chair, I did want to

1 indicate that you do have a quorum as well.

2 COMMISSIONER BELL: Okay. Thank you,  
3 Ms. White. Thank you. Approval --

4 COMMISSIONER HOLT: I make a motion that we  
5 approve the agenda, especially the one that we have --  
6 that we received online.

7 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: I second.

8 COMMISSIONER BELL: It's been properly  
9 moved and seconded. Those are -- I mean those --  
10 approval of the agenda, say yes.

11 THE BOARD: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER BELL: Those opposed? The  
13 motion carried. The next item would be approval of  
14 the minutes for August 27, 2020.

15 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: So moved.

16 COMMISSIONER BELL: It's been properly  
17 moved.

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Second.

19 COMMISSIONER BELL: Second. Discussion?  
20 Any necessary corrections? Those in favor, yes.

21 THE BOARD: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER BELL: Those opposed? Motion  
23 carried. Thank you, commissioners.

24 We are moving right on to the introduction  
25 of the staff.



1 Ms. White?

2 MS. WHITE: Yes. Thank you, Chairperson  
3 Bell. The Department of Innovation and Technology is  
4 monitoring and recording the board's meeting today.  
5 Also, our court reporter today is Ms. Susanne Gorman,  
6 and the following board staff are in attendance today:  
7 Ms. Teresa Blossom, community relations coordinator;  
8 Investigator Tiffany Stuart; Ms. Jonya Underwood,  
9 administrative assistant, and Lieutenant James Coles  
10 representing the Department of Human Resources for the  
11 Detroit Police Department; also, Interim Chief  
12 Investigator, Lawrence Akbar; Supervising Investigator  
13 Ainsley Cromwell; Supervising Investigator Lasonya  
14 Sloan; and Senior Investigator Rosalia Madrigal are  
15 all present today, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you. Would you  
17 introduce Deputy Chief Bettison on behalf of Chief  
18 Craig and any of the staff of the DPD?

19 MS. WHITE: Yes. Deputy Chief Bettison is  
20 representing the department and Chief of Police Craig  
21 this afternoon, and regarding DPD attendees and  
22 executives. . .

23 DC BETTISON: I can do it, Melanie.

24 Real quick, I've got Commander Tiffany  
25 Stuart, 10th Precinct; Director Christopher Graveline

1 is on the call as well, professional standards; Second  
2 Deputy Chief Ha, chief legal advisor; Captain Holt,  
3 chief neighborhood liaison; Commander McGinnis is  
4 joining us, professional standards. You have Captain  
5 Tosqui from our real crime time -- real time -- real  
6 crime -- I'm messing up -- real-time crime section.  
7 We have Sergeant Hewitt from the chief's office,  
8 Lieutenant Cole from recruiting. Executive Manager  
9 Branch (phonetic) Wilson is with us also. From our  
10 policy division, Trisha Stein is here. I see Sergeant  
11 Zberkot, and we also have Lieutenant Treals  
12 (phonetic), if I got his name right, and, of course,  
13 we got our VIP from the union on the call as well.

14 But, Melanie, I'll let you introduce Mark  
15 Young.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MS. WHITE: Chairperson Bell, honorable  
18 board, if it is your pleasure, at this time regarding  
19 the special VIP guests, Mr. Brian Tennille,  
20 representing council member Roy McCalister, and  
21 Lieutenant Mark Young, representing the -- he is  
22 president of the Lieutenants and Sergeants  
23 Association.

24 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

25 So that's the extent of our VIPs, and I

1 definitely want to welcome these two representing the  
2 council, Roy McCalister, Mr. Tennille, and LSA  
3 president. We always appreciate you joining us.

4 So we can move on?

5 MS. WHITE: Yes, sir.

6 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you for all your  
7 attendance.

8 And, Deputy Chief Bettison, good to see  
9 you. You're always prepared.

10 DC BETTISON: Yes, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER BELL: The next item would be  
12 my report. Good afternoon. Again, I am Commissioner  
13 Willie Bell from the great District 4 on the east side  
14 of Detroit and chair of the board of police  
15 commissioners. I know all the commissioners say  
16 (indiscernible), and I agree with you a hundred  
17 percent. The Detroit Free Press on August 18, 2020 --  
18 a guest columnist by the name of James Rosen  
19 (indiscernible) and this headline was "Should Unions  
20 Defend Violent Cops?" Mr. Rosen said that he is  
21 troubled by police union leaders who continue to  
22 defend both cops accused of abuse and the collective  
23 bargaining (indiscernible) and make it hard to punish  
24 much less remove bad cops.

25 The president of the (indiscernible) called

1 the four officers (indiscernible), who he said had  
2 been fired without due process. And if you can visit  
3 their website, it's interesting comments that he has  
4 made in reference to White Lives Matter and et cetera,  
5 et cetera. The national charter of the police is the  
6 country's biggest union for cops, with over 330,000  
7 members and 2,200 police chaplains throughout the  
8 country, followed by the International Union of Police  
9 Associations with 100,000 members, and it's been a  
10 great deal of debate by some of the (indiscernible)  
11 union to welcome a police union.

12 But, nevertheless, their federation is  
13 among the few large lady groups that endorse President  
14 Trump. The shortest (indiscernible) number of large  
15 cities where police have formed independent unions.  
16 As you well know, the (indiscernible) represent over  
17 1,700 police officers, and the LSA is representing  
18 sergeant and lieutenant. I don't have those numbers  
19 before me, but as you well know, I always enjoy Mark  
20 Young participation with us.

21 I spent over 30 years in the ranks of the  
22 union with the LSA -- there's no secret on that -- and  
23 also a former member of the union deputy, so I  
24 appreciate unions, and we all do. The Michigan  
25 (indiscernible) is a state union for the police in

1 Michigan. I think that LSA got some affiliation. The  
2 DP- -- we got some affiliation. We hope to have them  
3 on in the future to have them talk about the issue. I  
4 think we are (indiscernible) that nobody likes bad  
5 cops. The (indiscernible) called for fair duty  
6 representation. As you know, they are obligated by  
7 their bylaws and by their constitution. If they  
8 collect dues, they must represent their membership.

9 In close, the police union need to take a  
10 stand on this issue of bad cops and accountability.  
11 That is the issue. It's now -- those issue is before  
12 this nation throughout these very cities -- is talked  
13 about collective bargaining union. We all have  
14 followed that. That's why I wanted to point that out  
15 to you that I think we must gather information and  
16 have a clearer understanding in reference to police  
17 unions in America and how they have transformed. And  
18 this is a different issue in this day and age, and  
19 we're all familiar with what is happening with the UAW  
20 leadership, but there are some great unions, from  
21 teachers to you name it. This is an organized state;  
22 it's an organized city. So we appreciate that, and  
23 even we respect the union process as we do in terms of  
24 collective bargaining process.

25 We can move on to -- I think Commissioner

1 William Davis was prepared to give a goodwill welfare  
2 this afternoon.

3 Is that correct?

4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Absolutely. Anytime.

5 Well, I would like to start out by saying  
6 that District 7 is one of the most dynamic, diverse  
7 districts in the city of Detroit. I know you're all  
8 jealous. But District 7, we actually have three  
9 police precincts, you know. We got the 6th on the far  
10 west side that goes all the way down to West Parkway  
11 and Warren, and we got the 2nd, which is in the  
12 central part of the district, and we got the 10th,  
13 which is on the far east side, the far east end of the  
14 district.

15 We have one of the largest parks, you know,  
16 Rouge Park, of any municipality in the country. We're  
17 a very diverse group. We border Dearborn, Dearborn  
18 Heights, and Redford. We have more than the average  
19 number of people that's active in police-community  
20 relations. We also have more people that normally  
21 come to our board of police commissioner meetings than  
22 any other district. So, all said, District 7 always  
23 leads. We are not the highest census group at the  
24 time, but we're number three, and probably we might  
25 end up being number two.

1 But we continue, you know -- like I say, we  
2 have work to do, and, hopefully, if we all work  
3 together, we can improve things. I also encourage  
4 people to do the census, 'cause I live in one of the  
5 neighborhoods with one of the highest census coming  
6 out, but we need more people to do it. We need more  
7 people to be active, and we need better relationships.  
8 I think we're going to need to do some police reforms,  
9 but I don't see defunding the police at this time.  
10 Have a good day.

11 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you, Commissioner  
12 Davis. You're right on point. You're right on point.  
13 I respect District 7. I didn't realize you had three  
14 precincts in that district. You got a whole lot of  
15 territory to cover.

16 We're gonna move right on to a resolution  
17 for Lieutenant Geraldine Atkinson. That's going to be  
18 read by Commissioner Burch, Shirley Burch.

19 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Thank you, Mr. Bell.

20 The resolution honoring retiring Lieutenant  
21 Geraldine Atkinson.

22 "Whereas Geraldine Atkinson was appointed  
23 to the Detroit Police Department on October the 20th,  
24 1986. Upon graduating from the Detroit Metropolitan  
25 Police Academy, Officer Atkinson began her career at

1 their harbormaster section; and

2 "Whereas Officer Atkinson's assignment with  
3 the Detroit Police Department included the  
4 harbormaster section and the 7th Precinct, and whereas  
5 Officer Atkinson displayed a tremendous knowledge and  
6 leadership skills as a police officer and was promoted  
7 to the rank of sergeant on August the 7th, 1996. She  
8 was reassigned to the harbormaster section. She also  
9 served in the 13th Precinct and the harbormaster unit;  
10 and

11 "Whereas Sergeant Atkinson was promoted to  
12 the rank of lieutenant on February the 6th, 2004.  
13 Lieutenant Atkinson was assigned to the 8th Precinct  
14 and later served at the Northwestern District before  
15 reassignment to the 8th Precinct, where she served  
16 until her retirement; and

17 "Whereas Lieutenant Atkinson was the  
18 deserving recipient of the following awards: Perfect  
19 Attendance, Perfect Driving, Lifesaving Citation and  
20 Medals, Kids Unit Award, Fireworks Award, both consent  
21 judgment awards, two Chief Merits Awards, the Major  
22 League Baseball All-Star Recognition Award, the Rosa  
23 Parks Funeral Recognition Award, and the Super Bowl  
24 Recognition Award, as well as numerous letters of  
25 commendation from citizens and superiors; and



1           "Whereas Lieutenant Atkinson has tirelessly  
2   served the Detroit departments, the citizens of  
3   Detroit, and its neighboring communities for 34-plus  
4   years. She has served the Detroit Police Department  
5   and the citizens of the city of Detroit with loyalty,  
6   professionalism, integrity, and dedication and is  
7   widely respected throughout the law enforcement  
8   community as the (indiscernible) professional.

9           Now, therefore, be it resolved that the  
10   Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on  
11   behalf of the citizens of the great city of Detroit,  
12   we recognize and honor the lifelong contributions and  
13   commitment to excellence in public service of  
14   Lieutenant Geraldine Atkinson. Her display of courage  
15   and unwavering community spirit have improved the  
16   quality of life for the citizens of Detroit. We wish  
17   you all the best in your future endeavors. We thank  
18   and congratulate you, Lieutenant Geraldine Atkinson.

19           Mr. Chair?

20           COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you, Commissioner  
21   Burch. I was -- grant you your privilege to make a  
22   motion to that effect.

23           COMMISSIONER BURCH: I make that motion,  
24   sir. Thank you.

25           COMMISSIONER HOLT: Second.

1 COMMISSIONER BELL: It's been properly  
2 moved and seconded. Those in favor, yes.

3 THE BOARD: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes.

5 Those opposed? The motion carried.

6 Thank you, Commissioner Burch. What's  
7 unique about her career, she served in the  
8 harbormaster unit.

9 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER BELL: I didn't know that she  
11 had that privilege of serving and returning there. I  
12 worked closely with them when I was in the  
13 7th Precinct, and that was a different composition  
14 back in those days; so -- as a woman, a black woman,  
15 serving on a harbormaster, I think that's really  
16 unique.

17 COMMISSIONER BURCH: (Inaudible.)

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN: She served in  
19 District 1.

20 COMMISSIONER BELL: Oh, okay.

21 (Laughter.)

22 COMMISSIONER BURCH: (Inaudible.)

23 COMMISSIONER BROWN: District 1.

24 COMMISSIONER BELL: Okay. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Mr. Bell?

1 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am.

2 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Mr. Bell, I just  
3 wanted to share that that's my reason, because of her  
4 being an African and a black woman that served in a  
5 harbormaster position. That was awesome.

6 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am.

7 COMMISSIONER BURCH: I thank you for  
8 allowing me to read it.

9 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am. That was  
10 appropriate (audio distortion).

11 Okay. We're going to move on to Craig and  
12 DPD.

13 DC BETTISON: Thank you, Commissioner Bell.

14 I'm going to start out with COVID stats,  
15 you know, and before I get into the stats, I had the  
16 opportunity over the weekend to go out to Belle Isle  
17 and -- with the COVID memorial that the city put on to  
18 take a look at all the pictures of individuals in the  
19 city of Detroit who lost their life due to COVID, and  
20 you see numbers of folks who have lost their life to  
21 the battle, and often we can forget that we're -- or  
22 lose -- lose sight of the fact, you know, that those  
23 are individuals with real lives, you know. When you  
24 see the pictures, it brings it home, and it was quite  
25 moving. So I think Detroiters may still have an

1 opportunity to go out there and take a look, but I  
2 would encourage everybody to get out there as fast as  
3 you can and just take a look because it's really  
4 moving.

5 As of right now, the department is still in  
6 a good position. The things that we put in place  
7 appear to be working, considering the fact that, of  
8 course, as officers we're out there having close  
9 contact with individuals. With the masks and washing  
10 the hands, it's definitely working. Currently, the  
11 Detroit Police Department has nine members who last  
12 tested positive for COVID. In total we've had 356  
13 individuals who tested positive, but right now we are  
14 at 9, which is -- considering a 2,500-plus-member  
15 department, that's pretty good. We're not letting our  
16 guards down, and we have to stay vigilant because  
17 we're going into the fall season, which will be the  
18 flu season as well. So I did have my flu shot, and I  
19 encourage others to get their flu shot as well.

20 Going into our crime stats, as of right  
21 now, homicides, we're up 24 percent. Sexual assaults,  
22 we're down 31 percent. Fatal assaults -- I'm sorry --  
23 aggravated assaults, 20 percent up. Nonfatal  
24 shootings, which is a category of aggravated assaults,  
25 we're seeing an uptick of 55 percent. Robbery is down

1 17 percent. Carjacking is down 10 percent. Total  
2 Part 1 violent crime is up 10 percent. In regards to  
3 property crime, 32 percent down in burglaries,  
4 larcenies down 22 percent. Motor vehicle theft down  
5 12 percent, and overall property crime down in every  
6 category, 22 percent total.

7 So when you put the average of the property  
8 crime reductions with the violent crime uptick,  
9 average it out, we're still down in Part 1 crime  
10 12 percent. Not comfortable with that because we know  
11 that we put life over property, and violent crime is  
12 definitely an issue. It's been an issue across the  
13 country, which leads into, you know, why we so much  
14 welcome federal assistance.

15 And with Operation Legend -- I know that  
16 you all may have seen in the paper where it was posted  
17 on September 3rd -- as of October 31st, 41 defendants  
18 have been charged in Detroit through Operation Legend,  
19 and with that, 17 defendants have been charged with  
20 narcotic-related defenses, 21 defendants have been  
21 charged with firearm-related offenses, and 3 have been  
22 charged with other violent crime.

23 Just to reemphasize the fact that with  
24 Operation Legend and with our federal partners who  
25 we've always worked with, we are not utilizing them

1 for any protest-related things, but we are  
2 definitely -- have incorporated them in the planning  
3 process in the operational plan when it comes to  
4 addressing violence in our city.

5 Fatal incidents over last weekend, we had  
6 one that involved a road rage incident. We also had  
7 another fatal shooting that occurred over the past  
8 weekend where a 16-year-old was shot by mishandling a  
9 weapon and still two that are -- the motive is unknown  
10 at this point. In regards to guns, our officers are  
11 out there still actively policing. Thirty-one guns  
12 were seized, handguns, and three long guns were seized  
13 in the past seven-day period and a total of 149 felony  
14 arrests.

15 So our officers are definitely out there  
16 working, getting it done, and one of -- the number one  
17 citizen complaints, of course, is always traffic and  
18 the drifting with the doughnuts, and we're still  
19 heavily enforcing that as well. This past Saturday  
20 and Sunday, our drifting stats, we -- we end up making  
21 12 felony arrests, 3 misdemeanor arrests. We issued  
22 240 tickets. We impounded -- this is what gets folks  
23 excited. We took 23 of their vehicles, impounded  
24 that, and we conducted over 141 traffic stops, and  
25 that was just over a period of Saturday and Sunday.

1 We'll have that detail for you again this weekend to  
2 bring relief to our citizens.

3 And I believe that concludes my report.

4 And with our officers that have been injured,  
5 critically injured in the line of duty, it's really no  
6 one new to add to it. It's the same as the report  
7 from last week. Individuals are still going to  
8 therapy; individuals are still out recovering. But I  
9 don't have any new officers to add, per se.

10 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Mr. Chair.

12 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am.

13 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes, Mr. Chair.

14 Please, may I speak?

15 COMMISSIONER BELL: Commissioner Burch.

16 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Thank you.

17 DC Bettison.

18 DC BETTISON: Yes, ma'am.

19 COMMISSIONER BURCH: As I have shared with  
20 you many, many, times, I do not know what planet you  
21 came from, but I am not stroking you just to give you  
22 kudos. I'm telling you that because, you know, that's  
23 the way I speak, but I don't know how you retain so  
24 much about the whole city that you're over. It's too  
25 bad we can't clone you because now that AC White is

1 gone, now I don't know who will take his place, but it  
2 can't be you because it's a different assignment that  
3 Chief Craig puts on his assistant chiefs.

4           You are an excellent liaison for the  
5 neighborhood, but, as you know, DC Bettison, how many  
6 times have I asked you for us to have an ordinance  
7 meeting, that we share about these ordinances in the  
8 neighborhood? And, sir, listen to me real good, DC.  
9 Just like we have the billboard in District 3 to  
10 promote good neighborhoods -- right? -- then you have  
11 the billboard that's negative and says "Pawnshops --  
12 Buy You a Gun." It should be some regulation that --  
13 I don't know if that's in the mayor's department or  
14 whose it is, but why do they advertise guns that we  
15 don't need that you-all are constantly collecting? Do  
16 you see my point in that?

17           I'm just giving a little testimony here  
18 first, but I wish and pray that we would come together  
19 and stop allowing negatives in our neighborhood. And  
20 when you mention about the doughnuts, the speeding, I  
21 spoke about that, what, three years ago. Now it's  
22 escalated because of everything else, but when you nip  
23 it in the bud, DC Bettison, you get ahold of it.  
24 Don't wait till it get out of control. It's called  
25 preventive. And, like I said, I'm thanking you, but



1 you are only one person.

2 When the commissioners ask you a question,  
3 you can answer it. Many of them cannot follow that.  
4 So you are a gifted young man, but you are still one  
5 man, and you're not perfect. Okay? I just want to  
6 say that to you.

7 Here's my question, Mr. Bell, to  
8 DC Bettison.

9 Have you heard or did you see the news  
10 report about the new -- what do you call that  
11 thing? -- the phone? Yes, the phone that the police  
12 officers wear -- do you know what I'm talking about?

13 DC BETTISON: No, I haven't seen --

14 COMMISSIONER BURCH: No, no. It's a --  
15 it's a camera that Chief Elvin Bryant [sic] showed in  
16 Southfield. You know, he's the chief now.

17 DC BETTISON: Oh -- oh, yeah. So -- so  
18 that's the body-worn camera. So Southfield is trying  
19 to catch up to us. Our officers had body-worn  
20 cameras, so when Chief Barren went to Southfield, he  
21 took all our good best practices from the Detroit  
22 Police out there, and they didn't have body-worn  
23 cameras, but we've been -- had them for years, made a  
24 multimillion investment, making sure there was  
25 transparency because the body-worn cameras not only

1 protect citizens in our community, they protect our  
2 officers as well because guess what? The camera -- it  
3 is what it is.

4 I mean, the camera is going to show -- and  
5 when all of our officers are wearing it, you get the  
6 benefit of seeing it from various angles. Now, our  
7 system is not perfect because, of course, it can have  
8 technology glitches. You know, officers working 13,  
9 14 hours, the batteries can go dead, so we're always  
10 kind of working, making sure that we're assessing and  
11 doing what we can to keep those cameras on. That's  
12 very important for us. But by us being in a federal  
13 consent decree for over 12 years working with the  
14 Department of Justice, they ensure -- they ensure that  
15 we got some of the resources that we needed for our  
16 community and that our policies are really the best in  
17 the nation. So we been had those, Commissioner Burch.

18 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Okay. That's good.  
19 If you been had them, that's a good point. I'll give  
20 that to you. All right. But you're still going to  
21 speak to me off camera or offline about ordinances?

22 DC BETTISON: Yeah, yeah. So -- so -- so  
23 the mayor has appointed Doug Baker -- he's, like, the  
24 blight czar of the -- the czar when it comes to things  
25 like that. I've worked very closely with

1 Mr. Doug Baker. He's the lawyer out of the mayor's  
2 office. So I will set up an appointment for you, I,  
3 and Doug -- Mr. Baker -- to meet so that we can go  
4 over these quality of life, neighborhood nuisance  
5 issues, and we can get some stuff done. He's an  
6 expert.

7 COMMISSIONER BURCH: I appreciate it, and I  
8 thank you, too. I just want to say this, Mr. Bell.

9 I just want to say thank you to Commander  
10 Sims through the support of DC Bettison for her to  
11 receive our "Love where you live (indiscernible)." It  
12 is now at the 12th Precinct. So we're going to get  
13 them all over, regardless of some folks just not  
14 following through. Not mentioning no names, but we  
15 are going to get that (indiscernible). And that sign  
16 and that message means something, Mr. Bell. You got  
17 to love --

18 COMMISSIONER BELL: Commissioner Burch, I  
19 want to move on. We have a heavy agenda. With all  
20 due respect --

21 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Thank you, Mr. Bell.

22 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

23 I wanted to say, commissioners, that  
24 ordinances are the foundation of the council. So you  
25 need to really work with your council person. They

1 are the foundation of the council job. That is their  
2 job responsibility. Any city ordinance, they have an  
3 impact on that, not DPD. Of course, we can interface  
4 with Mr. Baker, whoever, and the mayor worked towards  
5 that goal, but the bottom line is to council. But I  
6 would hope that we can confine ourselves to questions  
7 so we can move on. Any other commissioners?

8 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Through the chair?

9 COMMISSIONER BELL: Commissioner Davis,  
10 then Commissioner Holt.

11 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes, sir. I have a  
12 couple quick questions. One, on Livernois between  
13 Grand River down to Davison, have you-all been writing  
14 any tickets or stopping anything? I was just at the  
15 Russell Woods community meeting last night, and they  
16 was talking about on Wednesday evenings and on  
17 Sundays, they have racing going on up and down  
18 Livernois, you know, going right past the 10th  
19 Precinct.

20 DC BETTISON: Yeah. So, Commissioner  
21 Davis, absolutely, we have, and many of those stats  
22 that I gave out for Sunday, in regards to the tickets  
23 that Sunday and also that Saturday, they came from  
24 right in that area as well. So the heavy spots to  
25 focus and concentrate on is Livernois, Grand River,

1 Oakman. We also focus on the east side at French  
2 Road. So we have a whole list of spots where they  
3 typically like to do that, and the wider they can get  
4 a nice little stretch is where they typically like to  
5 go fast. But those -- those stats that I gave did  
6 come from that area as well.

7 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay. I want to ask  
8 another question. Do you have an update on  
9 investigating as it relates to some of the people that  
10 was harmed, especially some of the legal observers and  
11 media people, during the protest?

12 DC BETTISON: So in regards to the media  
13 folks, I can let Director Graveline report out on that  
14 or answer that question, but the legal observers --  
15 I've reached out to their leadership, and one of the  
16 things that has been an issue is the legal observers'  
17 leadership, it -- or the individuals that allege being  
18 arrested, they will not cooperate with the Detroit  
19 Police Department as providing a name. So they say  
20 the individuals were arrested that were legal  
21 observers, but if you don't give us a name, how can we  
22 investigate it?

23 So that's been a issue, and I've directed  
24 the legal observers' leadership directly with Director  
25 Graveline, and he can do that as well, but repeatedly

1 they have not given us a name, and we've only read  
2 about allegations in the media when it comes to what  
3 has occurred, but definitely we want to work with  
4 them. And, Commissioner Davis, if you have a  
5 connection at Legal Observers where you can reach out  
6 and give me a name or even if one of you-all can  
7 facilitate, if they didn't feel comfortable  
8 facilitating, coming in and being a part of it, you  
9 know. But we definitely need to interview folks who  
10 are making allegations, or they can even give the name  
11 to the board of police commissioners throughout your  
12 -- office of the chief investigator. That's what we  
13 (inaudible).

14 COMMISSIONER BELL: Director Graveline?

15 DIRECTOR GRAVELINE: Yes. Through the  
16 chair, I would echo many of the same comments Deputy  
17 Chief Bettison just made. We've attempted to reach  
18 out and get names from the legal observers. They have  
19 not been forthcoming as of yet to identify anyone who  
20 was injured. I am not aware of any journalists who  
21 have come forward to make a complaint about being  
22 injured from the incident on August 22nd. We do have  
23 open investigations, and we are working on, I believe,  
24 three currently in regards to that incident, but I'm  
25 not aware of any journalists, and we do not have any

1 identified legal observers who are currently  
2 complaining.

3 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you, sir.  
4 Commissioner Holt?

5 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Thank you, Chair Bell.  
6 Okay. Three quick points I would like to make. On  
7 Friday, Lieutenant Mark Young, Deputy Chief Bettison,  
8 and Assistant Chief White all -- we were all at the  
9 memorial service for Captain Jonathan Parnell, and  
10 Deputy Chief Bettison and Assistant Chief White made a  
11 presentation to the family in celebration of the  
12 Captain Jonathan Parnell's life, and my grandbaby had  
13 an opportunity to meet all the fine officers.

14 Deputy Chief Bettison alluded to the  
15 memorial service out on Belle Isle, and he asked you  
16 to hurry up and take advantage of that opportunity,  
17 and that's a yes because the exhibit will be  
18 dismantled in time for the family members to pick up  
19 their portraits tomorrow between 8:00 and, I think,  
20 noon, so today would be the best time for you to get  
21 out and take advantage of the display, and it is very  
22 moving. Thank you, Deputy Chief Bettison, for all you  
23 do.

24 DC BETTISON: Thank you, ma'am.

25 COMMISSIONER BELL: Any other commissioner?

1 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

2 DC Bettison, I just want to make sure to  
3 thank all the men and women on the department for the  
4 job you guys are doing out there. I know we're  
5 stretched to the limit with everything, but more so  
6 just thank you for the outpouring of condolences of  
7 the memorial service of my friend, (indiscernible)  
8 Johnson.

9 I did have a couple of questions. One, I  
10 asked for information and an update on the  
11 investigation concerning the OCI investigator in the  
12 Garrity issue. I haven't received anything yet. Two,  
13 where are we at with the investigation of the dog  
14 shooting? I've been getting a lot of calls about  
15 that. And I think I'll just leave it right there with  
16 those two.

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

18 DIRECTOR GRAVELINE: Through the chair.

19 Commissioner Brown, first, the  
20 investigation concerning the OCI investigator in  
21 Garrity, that's being handled by the Michigan State  
22 Police. Every time that you've requested information,  
23 I have gone directly and asked for an update in that  
24 case from the Michigan State Police, and that has not  
25 been forthcoming. They have not shared any



1 information with us that -- that we have, and so I  
2 will, once again, renew that request. But they have  
3 not shared any information with us about that  
4 particular investigation.

5 In terms of the dog shooting incident, that  
6 investigation is continuing, and I believe we're in  
7 the process of interviewing all the respective  
8 officers who were out at the scene at that time.

9 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Okay. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

11 Can we --

12 Thank you, Deputy Chief Bettison. I'm just  
13 amazed, with all the contact DPD have, that the COVID  
14 issue is really low. I'm hoping we can maintain that  
15 as we go through the fall season, but the 24-7 and  
16 with all they're engaged in, they are keeping  
17 themselves safe with all the public contact. So we  
18 just continue to pray for their health and safety.

19 We're going to move on to our 21st Century  
20 Policing (indiscernible) featuring our special (audio  
21 distortion) guest (indiscernible) Robinson, a former  
22 officer and attorney with DPD, the author of "You See  
23 a Hero, I See a" -- to all the commissioners quite  
24 some time ago in the last couple months, so I hope  
25 that perhaps you have (indiscernible) share in terms

1 of the interaction.

2 Professor Peter J. Hammer, Wayne State  
3 University professor of law and director of the  
4 Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights activist. He  
5 is no stranger to us also. My remarks, historically  
6 and in particular this year, we have seen difficult  
7 times involving the racial injustice, police  
8 brutalities, mistreatment of unarmed African-Americans  
9 and people of color in general. These challenges  
10 combined with a public health crisis, along with  
11 various other underlying social issues, such as  
12 poverty, unemployment, low education opportunity,  
13 economic inequality, and many others exacerbated these  
14 preexisting conditions (audio distortion) of color.

15 However, we can (audio distortion) change  
16 for the better. Today we invited two special guests  
17 as outlined, Attorney Robinson and Mr. Hammer.  
18 (Indiscernible) policing, civilian oversight, protests  
19 (indiscernible) and solution to (indiscernible). Our  
20 panel guests, which I've already outlined to you -- we  
21 are going to, I guess, open up with the professor and  
22 then Attorney Robinson.

23 Is that the format, Ms. White?

24 MS. WHITE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. Also,  
25 for the record, Commissioner Burton has also joined

1 the line. But, yes, that is the format.

2 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you. And you're  
3 going to be the timekeeper?

4 MS. WHITE: Yes, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER BELL: Okay. Thank you.

6 Professor, good to see you.

7 PROFESSOR HAMMER: I want to thank the  
8 members of the police commission for inviting me and  
9 say I have tremendous respect for your work. And I'm  
10 going to be talking in part about why civilian  
11 oversight is so important, particularly in these  
12 historic times. But I have a short PowerPoint, so I'm  
13 going to see if my screen share is going to be  
14 working -- it is -- and move to the screen share and  
15 walk through this quickly so we can get to your  
16 questions as well.

17 But the whole -- usually, I like to start  
18 honoring Judge Damon J. Keith (inaudible). When  
19 people sometimes ask me (indiscernible) work at the  
20 center (inaudible) life of Judge Keith, and those are  
21 very big shoes to try to be filling, but I like to  
22 call our ancestors into the room as we talk about  
23 these important issues.

24 So why is civilian oversight so vital? And  
25 I'm going to make two claims. The first claim is that

1 civilian oversight is essential to counter the  
2 racialized brutality inherent traditionally in police  
3 institutions, and I'll give you a sort of discussion  
4 of the history that led to the creation of the Detroit  
5 Board of Police Commissioners. But as we pivot from  
6 the present moment, I would also claim that civilian  
7 oversight is essential to transform policing and to  
8 find new sources of public safety. But if we're going  
9 to go down that transformative role, we need a deeper  
10 understanding of spatial-structural racism,  
11 particularly as it impacts Detroit and the rest of  
12 Southeast Michigan.

13           So in terms of the first claim, the  
14 civilian oversight was a response to a history of  
15 racialized policing. I'm just going to quickly give  
16 you the history lesson that goes through official  
17 reports that were done in the wake of various forms of  
18 social unrest starting in 1925, if people remember the  
19 Dr. Ossian Sweet episode. But that wasn't the only  
20 episode that summer. There was a handful of times  
21 when African-American professionals bought houses in  
22 white neighborhoods and were driven out by  
23 neighborhood so-called "improvement associations."

24           The mayor formed the report to the mayor's  
25 committee on race relations. What was the cause of

1 that unrest? And one of the most important causes of  
2 that unrest was crime and police practices, but I'm  
3 just going to highlight the sort of social and  
4 economic determinants of health in light of the  
5 COVID-19. The report also said the unrest was with  
6 response to poor housing, education, health,  
7 recreation, industry, but welfare and community  
8 organized, that were incredibly racialized, as all of  
9 you know the history of the city.

10 Then we have the 1943 race riots and the  
11 NAACP, with Walter White and Thurgood Marshall, came  
12 and did a report trying to say, "What were the causes  
13 of that?" Their top cause, they said, was the police  
14 department but also underlying sort of social and  
15 economic determinants -- recreation, education,  
16 housing, labor. And if we go 20 years later with the  
17 '67 rebellion, you have the Kerner Commission report,  
18 and the Kerner Commission says that the civil unrest  
19 in terms of first level of causes were police  
20 practices, was unemployment, underemployment,  
21 inadequate housing, inadequate education, poor  
22 recreation facilities, ineffectiveness of political  
23 structures and grievance mechanisms, something that  
24 I'll call a deficit of democracy and come back to that  
25 theme later.

1 But that was the background in the early  
2 1970s that led to the 1974 charter reform that created  
3 the police commission. And, as you-all well know, the  
4 stress organization to stop the robberies and ensure  
5 safe streets was really one of the catalysts that led  
6 to Mayor Young's election and in that same election  
7 led to the charter reform that created the police  
8 oversight, the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners.  
9 And Detroit was a leader in that process, and one of  
10 the people leading behind that was emeritus professor  
11 at Wayne Law, Edward Littlejohn, who was one of the  
12 advocates nationwide of this kind of civilian  
13 oversight and served on the first board of police  
14 commissioners.

15 That's the background. Right? And it  
16 created a board that has tremendous authority, and I  
17 know that the commissioners are aware of this, but I  
18 hope the other members of the public listening sort of  
19 pause for a minute and get a sense of really what  
20 authority this organization has, and this is a  
21 civilian oversight authority. It has structural  
22 authority over the budget. It has structural  
23 authority over selecting the police chief. It has  
24 structural authority in the appointment of a civilian  
25 director of police personnel.

1           It has a very strong policy authority.  
2       We're sort of thinking about the transformative  
3       potential of this commission. One of the most  
4       important functions it has is civilian complaints, and  
5       Ed Littlejohn reminds me to remind you that that's one  
6       of the most important functions you have, if you want  
7       to maintain the legitimacy of the public, is to have  
8       an effective, efficient, legitimate form of police  
9       complaints, and then it has substantial control over  
10      Detroit Police personnel.

11           I don't think any other city in the country  
12      has this whole basket of powers. They get excited if  
13      they get one of them. Right? And we, since 1974,  
14      have had all of them, and we have to sort of imagine  
15      what the potential is with a civilian oversight  
16      authority that has that kind of strength -- strong  
17      potential. But that is all -- you know better than I  
18      do. That's a very fragile power. Right? And it's  
19      one thing to give power on paper. It's another thing  
20      to exercise power in practice, and that's true not  
21      just of police oversight. It's true really, sadly, of  
22      democracy, in particular democracy in the city of  
23      Detroit.

24           One reason the civilian oversight is  
25      (indiscernible) is because it's antithetical to that

1 whole history of racialized police brutality that we  
2 see in the headlines today but also see going back to  
3 1925 here and, as all of you know, back centuries  
4 before that. There is a deficit of democracy in this  
5 city -- and I'm editorializing. These are my views.  
6 The emergency manager -- all right. You can't think  
7 of any historic institution across the country that  
8 was more undemocratic than an emergency manager that  
9 displaces the democracy.

10 And in 2013, just remembering the fact that  
11 that emergency manager gutted the power of the board  
12 of the police commissioners, and one of my complaints  
13 of -- of the emergency manager of that time is you  
14 can't destroy civil society and then, when you leave,  
15 expect civil society to be vibrant. Right? Civil  
16 society is an organic force, and when you destroy it,  
17 it takes a lot of time to try to rebuild it. And I  
18 would assert, respectfully, that we're still in a  
19 process of trying to rebuild the board of police  
20 commissioners that had to start from scratch after  
21 having such a long and -- and lengthy history of  
22 civilian oversight.

23 Civilian oversight in police is contrary to  
24 the trend we see elsewhere. We have a growth in  
25 authorities, not democracy in Detroit. We have a land



1 bank authority. We have a lighting authority. We  
2 have the Great Lakes Water Authority, which are really  
3 removing democracy further and further from the  
4 people, again, underlying how important this civilian  
5 oversight of the police commission really is and how  
6 vigilant we have to be not only in safeguarding it but  
7 making sure that it reaches its true potential.

8           It's also fragile because Detroit is  
9 embedded in a system that is really defined by what we  
10 call at the Keith Center a spatial-structural racism,  
11 and I would suggest if the police commission wants to  
12 start to think about its potential transformative  
13 role, it has to be more aware of the implications of  
14 how race and racism operates systemically to undermine  
15 public safety. And that underscores the fact that  
16 there are many forces that lead to safety in addition  
17 to police force. So I'm going to give the sort of  
18 quick version of our lecture on spatial-structural  
19 racism. We can spend hours on this, but I know we  
20 don't have hours.

21           One thing is to recognize how complicated  
22 race and racism is. If you ask most Americans what is  
23 discrimination or racism, they would say expressed  
24 forms of discrimination, and that's true. That  
25 exists. We must be vigilant against it. And it's

1 stronger now than any time in my lifetime, but that's  
2 just the tip of the iceberg. We have to really go  
3 under the waterline. We have to go to see the forms  
4 of implicit and unconscious bias. And there's been  
5 wonderful work in police departments, in schools, and  
6 in health care that really show how significant  
7 implicit bias is, and I know that they were doing some  
8 work on that, but I think there's an invitation to us  
9 across the country to be doing deeper work on that.

10 I often say that structural racism is the  
11 civil rights challenge of our generation. So I'll  
12 give a quick definition of structural racism, and then  
13 I'm going to turn to the center of the pyramid, and  
14 I'm going to turn to notions of spatial racism to try  
15 to create a broader grounding. Structural racism is  
16 the interinstitutional dynamics that produce and  
17 reproduce racially disparate outcomes over time. So  
18 think about the rates of mass incarceration. Right?  
19 **A huge racially disparate outcome.**

20 **So what is the interinstitutional dynamics?**  
21 **How does the housing sector interface with the**  
22 **education sector, interface with the job sectors,**  
23 **interface with the health sector to produce that**  
24 **racially disparate outcome and to reproduce it over**  
25 **time. And that's the inquiry of structural racism,**

1 and I think that's essential if we're going to think  
2 about the role of policing, of pivoting from this  
3 historically.

4 But I also think it's important to  
5 recognize that all systems are driven by a  
6 hydraulics -- right? -- by power, and historically in  
7 this country, and I would argue in the present day,  
8 what drives a system of structuralized racialization  
9 is a legacy of white supremacy and of white power, and  
10 if we're not more honest about the role that that  
11 plays in the city and in the region, we don't know the  
12 enemy that we're facing, and if you can't name your  
13 enemy, you can't fight your enemy, and we have to be  
14 more open and public about that fact.

15 But I want to talk about spatial racism  
16 because there's a geographic component of all of this.  
17 And, again, I'll do this quickly. And I'm happy to  
18 share slides with the commissioners, and I'm happy to  
19 share slides with anybody in the public that's  
20 watching us. One way to get a sense of spatial  
21 racism is through opportunity mapping, and anything  
22 that can be measured can be mapped. Right? So what  
23 is opportunity? That's the quality of the housing,  
24 employment, school, health, transportation, food,  
25 living environment, all of those factors tracing back

1 to 1925, 1943, 1967, that were causes -- that  
2 racialized disparities were these causes of social  
3 unrest.

4 That can be mapped. Right? So if we map  
5 that in Southeast Michigan -- and I'll use my mouse --  
6 we can actually see the presence of opportunity, which  
7 is these dark, rich colors, and we can see the absence  
8 of opportunity, which are light, pale colors. So if  
9 you're in outer space, you could see the presence and  
10 absence of opportunity. We would see this light, pale  
11 color as an opportunity desert, but it has its  
12 geopolitical name.

13 You could see outer space as an opportunity  
14 desert, but we know that Pontiac is in Oakland County.  
15 We know that Oakland County is one of the richest  
16 counties in America, historically, so we have an  
17 opportunity desert surrounded by a sea of opportunity.  
18 (Audio dropped) you can see almost the outlines of the  
19 city of Detroit, including Eight Mile, as a  
20 demarcation of the presence and absence of opportunity  
21 nestled right next to Grosse Pointes, which are an  
22 area of high opportunity.

23 And I always pause to say this is a story  
24 of institutions and not individuals. To have  
25 opportunity, you have to have (indiscernible)

1 political, economic, and social systems to support  
2 opportunity. So this is a story of the disinvestment  
3 of the institutions that are necessary for the  
4 creation of opportunity. It's not a story about  
5 individuals, and that's important. We're trained not  
6 to look at systems. We're trained to look at  
7 individuals. This needs to flip that on its head and  
8 let us think about the systems that are underlying the  
9 presence or absence of opportunity.

10 The next slide will overlay racial  
11 demographics. It will be a story of black and white.  
12 You'll see green dots that will reflect predominant  
13 African-American communities by census track, and  
14 we'll see that as it relates to opportunity. And I'm  
15 just gonna pause and breathe because you need to let  
16 that sink in. That is the presence of -- absence of  
17 opportunity in Detroit with an overlay of racial  
18 demographics. That is an extreme segregation of  
19 wealth and opportunity, but not just wealth and  
20 opportunity. It's an extreme segregation of race,  
21 wealth, and opportunity, and that's what we call  
22 spatial racism.

23 And Detroit is ground zero for spatial  
24 racism, and spatial racism affects anything you care  
25 about, certainly physical safety, certainly municipal

1 distress, certainly opportunities for police  
2 brutality. It was a cause of emergency management.  
3 As I alluded to in the definition of structural  
4 racism, it's the cause of mass incarceration.  
5 Anything you care about, anything that was in any of  
6 those reports from '25, '43, '67 is influenced by this  
7 spatial-structural racism.

8 All right. Another deep breath. And thank  
9 you for being patient on this journey with me. We are  
10 living --

11 As you suggested, Commissioner Bell --  
12 -- in a historic moment. The name George  
13 Floyd has come to symbolize the cumulative effects of  
14 400 years of racism in America and given it a name and  
15 a face, but we also face a dual pandemic. We have the  
16 epidemic of police brutality that we're witnessing,  
17 and we have the racial disparities embedded in the  
18 COVID-19 virus, which are illustrated by the portraits  
19 on Belle Isle. I suggest that these pandemics are  
20 interrelated, and they're interrelated through those  
21 notions of spatial-structural racism, and they're  
22 interrelated to the things that produce or don't  
23 produce our public safety.

24 Getting towards the end. If you have that  
25 backdrop, if you have a historical understanding of

1 police brutality, if you have an understanding of  
2 spatial-structural racism, how should the board of  
3 police commissioners respond? And I suggest that  
4 there's a traditional mission and a transformative  
5 mission. The traditional mission is how do you use  
6 the tremendous powers of civilian oversight that you  
7 have to effectively restrain the abuses inherent in  
8 racialized police practices? That's your core  
9 mission. That's a historic core mission, but I don't  
10 think it needs to end there. I know you can't end  
11 there given the present moment that we're in.

12 I would also suggest transformative  
13 mission, how to use the tremendous authority of  
14 civilian oversight to re-envision and redefine the  
15 true sources of public safety in Detroit. And if you  
16 take that mission, we have (inaudible) thinking (audio  
17 interruption). So we have -- racism, right, has been  
18 declared a public health emergency, and I would  
19 suggest that also means that racism is a public safety  
20 emergency.

21 We have to ask yourselves what are the real  
22 sources of safety, and we know the answer to that.  
23 This is not rocket science. It's good housing, good  
24 jobs; it's good education; it's good food. It's a  
25 healthy environment, many things that are reflected in

1 the new Detroiters' Bill of Rights and the same things  
2 that were absent and created unrest in Detroit all the  
3 way back to the last century. And I'll give you sort  
4 of a tool to think about as you're thinking about your  
5 budgetary pool and responsibilities, and this is  
6 coming straight out of economics. It's a dollar test.  
7 You'd say, "What produces more public safety? One  
8 more dollar in traditional police or one more dollar  
9 in jobs, housing, and education?"

10 And if the answer to that is one more  
11 dollar creates more safety in these other  
12 socioeconomic determinants of health, then I think we  
13 as a society have a responsibility to allocate those  
14 funds. Just one way to start thinking about a  
15 transformative mission. And I like to end where I  
16 start, which is a tribute to Judge Keith. And thank  
17 you for your time, and thank you for your attention.

18 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you, Professor.  
19 Very thorough, and we're gonna open it up to the  
20 commissioner. I would hope that you would only pose  
21 one question. I don't know if we can even entertain  
22 questions from the audience, but we have another  
23 guest, as you recall, so we're going to do ten minutes  
24 in terms of questions.

25 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Yes. Through the



1 chair.

2 Thank you, Dr. Hammer. Your very last  
3 statement dealt with the allocation of funds. May I  
4 ask you to please repeat that statement?

5 PROFESSOR HAMMER: Yeah. So one of my  
6 dirty secrets is I have a PhD in economics as well as  
7 a law degree. So if you ask an economist, "How do you  
8 get to equilibrium?" one measure is "Is the marginal  
9 rate on public safety the same?" Right? So I'm  
10 simply asking that question. Where do I get the most  
11 increase in public safety by spending a dollar? If  
12 it's in the police, I should spend it in the police.  
13 If I get greater public safety by investing in housing  
14 or health or education or workforce development, then  
15 I should be spending that dollar in these other areas.

16 And it's one way to give you a more  
17 rational and objective framework to be thinking about  
18 this question, about what's the sources of safety, but  
19 also how do I think about that from a rigorous  
20 budgetary perspective.

21 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes. I would like to  
23 ask Professor Hammer --

24 I would like to ask you -- my concern --  
25 and I really believe it would be the right move to go

1 toward what the city needs -- and I'm speaking of  
2 where I live, that I see so many people that are  
3 mentally ill. I think the money -- wherever we can  
4 get them from -- should be building a facility. And I  
5 know Conrad Mallett was the appointee that Mayor  
6 Duggan had chosen to address mental health. We don't  
7 have, sir, a place for these people to go to really be  
8 treated and cured and then receive an adequate job so  
9 they can have a family and have a home. Do you see  
10 that, sir, as being one of the priorities is a  
11 facility to address the concerns of the mentally ill,  
12 please?

13 PROFESSOR HAMMER: Yeah, you're --  
14 you're -- you're a greater expert on these issues than  
15 I. I can simply agree. Mental health is  
16 incredible -- important in terms of thinking about  
17 safety but -- individually and collectively -- and  
18 when I teach in the law school, I always try to have  
19 my students think, "Does the tool match the problem?"  
20 Right? "Does the tool match the problem?" And the  
21 truth is that for a mental health problem, you need a  
22 mental health professional. Right?

23 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes.

24 PROFESSOR HAMMER: And as valiant and as  
25 brave as our police officers are, they're not trained

1 to be social workers. They're not trained --

2 COMMISSIONER BURCH: That's what I'm  
3 saying.

4 PROFESSOR HAMMER: That's why we need that  
5 reallocation of the design of our response to fit the  
6 nature of the problem.

7 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: Mr. Chairman?

8 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: Reverend Holley.

10 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: Thank you for the  
12 wonderful presentation. I thank you so much. Let me  
13 ask you this quickly: Can you just tell me what  
14 your -- what's your -- your -- your -- what's your --  
15 I guess what I'm trying to say, what's your idea about  
16 facial recognition? What is your -- what are your  
17 thoughts about that?

18 PROFESSOR HAMMER: Yeah. Thank you for  
19 asking that. Police is just one form of social  
20 control, and you have to start looking at -- thinking  
21 about racialized practices, and there's many forms of  
22 social control. One means of social control is just  
23 abandonment, and one way you can understand the  
24 history of Detroit in the last 50 years is abandonment  
25 from the nation, abandonment from the state, and

1 abandonment from the region, and that's created all  
2 sorts of -- of -- of disinvestment, as I showed them  
3 the opportunity mapping of -- well, it's inefficient  
4 to have police running around in empty spaces and have  
5 social control, so my critique of Project Green Light  
6 is it really is the perfect complement to get  
7 racialized social control in a city that has been  
8 disinvested and abandoned.

9 In that respect, if you look at it through  
10 that lens, it becomes incredibly pernicious. And  
11 you're gonna have to ask yourselves -- which is  
12 another way to (indiscernible) -- "Would this happen  
13 in West Bloomfield? Would this happen in Ann Arbor?"  
14 And if it's not, you say, "Well, it ain't public  
15 safety." Right? And it ain't about the needs of  
16 white people. It really is a means of social control  
17 of African-American populations against a backdrop of  
18 historic levels of disinvestment and abandonment. So  
19 I'm very skeptical of it. I think it's pernicious,  
20 and I think we have to be incredibly aggressive in  
21 making sure that Detroiters are not subject to greater  
22 levels of surveillance than somebody who is in West  
23 Bloomfield.

24 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Amen.

25 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, sir.

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COMMISSIONER BROWN: Dr. Hammer, thank you, as always, for coming before the board. I really enjoyed your report and the (indiscernible) that you presented to us. My question is on the same lines of Reverend Holley, my colleague, is that how do we handle a situation with oversight committees that know and have evidence in reference to facial recognition that it doesn't work? It has not been successful, and we still have people that are making these decisions based on information that we have and still just refuse to do the things that are necessary to aid the public with these facial recognition issues, like the ones we're having right here in Detroit. How do we address those issues?

PROFESSOR HAMMER: It all comes down to power. Right? And if you look at a legal organizational chart, you could find sufficient sources of power and authority of -- of -- that you possess to -- to act in multiple ways to undermine that. I also know as a lawyer that the formal power and real power are not the same things, and to exercise formal power, you have to be strategic in building real power, and so you're going to have to start thinking.

1           And what's the source of real power in a  
2   democracy? The people. So at the end of the day, it  
3   is how do you as an intermediate-term strategy start  
4   to make sure that you are well connected with the  
5   citizens in Detroit -- right? -- and doing what is in  
6   their enlightened interest, because at that point when  
7   you come into a power struggle, either with the police  
8   department or the executive of the City, they got your  
9   back. Right? And it's a little convoluted answer,  
10   but I think it's the accurate one, that you have the  
11   tools already in your possession to seriously  
12   undermine the work of Project Green Light.

13           At the end of the day, it's going to be a  
14   street fight, and if you're in a street fight, you got  
15   to make sure you have not just the legal power but the  
16   political heft, and you have to be looking at both  
17   tracks if you're going to be actually implementing.  
18   But part of my invitation to this whole talk was to  
19   say we need you to have political heft. We need you  
20   to have the legitimacy and support and the connections  
21   to the citizens of Detroit, and we need you to be one  
22   of the people holding the banner of democracy higher  
23   because it's flagging not just around the country, but  
24   it is flagging in the city of Detroit.

25           COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER JONES: Again, thank you for  
2 coming -- coming before the board, Dr. Hammer, and I'm  
3 just listening to your answer on FRT. One of the  
4 things that you pulled up is you pulled up a chart,  
5 and that chart indicated the areas of disparity where  
6 more opportunities were available, but more resources  
7 were available, and the level of education was higher  
8 also. You made the comparison between somebody, like,  
9 in a West Bloomfield area and somebody, like, in the  
10 city of Detroit.

11 Even with the reports that we give, the  
12 CompStat reports, they're able to see with those  
13 reports the areas where they may need more resources  
14 before (indiscernible) in order to provide for crime  
15 prevention and also for -- to be able to solve crimes  
16 as well. We know that -- based on that information,  
17 we know that we do need additional resources within  
18 this region to be able to combat that same kind of a  
19 crime stat that takes place. And I notice you made a  
20 comparison between the two, but it seemed like you  
21 were tilting towards possibly saying that that's not  
22 something that we should entertain in the city of  
23 Detroit. Can you expand a little bit more on the  
24 difference?

25 PROFESSOR HAMMER: Yeah. First off, I

1 bring a tremendous amount of skepticism to crime data,  
2 and I think that you have to be very careful with  
3 crime data 'cause it's frequently a self-fulfilling  
4 prophecy, that if I say it's a hot spot and I put more  
5 police, I also find more crime, and it's a  
6 self-fulfilling prophesy. There's also a lot of -- a  
7 premier statistician that would call it junk science,  
8 so I just say that there's a good, healthy skepticism.

9 But I want to take a different track.  
10 Right? I would say imagine that crime map that you  
11 saw -- right? -- and imagine going back 20 years, and  
12 imagine it now reflecting not crime, just investment  
13 in education. Right? I would suggest you would have  
14 the same map. The same map that you see now as a  
15 result of crime in the last six weeks -- right? -- is  
16 also a statistical correlation in systemic  
17 disinvestment in education and housing.

18 And that's the (indiscernible) I would  
19 invite you to do, and I say that saying that the  
20 transformative mission is going to be  
21 intergenerational, so it's not that we snap our  
22 fingers and we get all these changes. It takes time,  
23 and it takes work, but it also takes leadership to the  
24 present moment to be taking the first steps down that  
25 path. But I really think that there is a need to



1 respond to crime. I don't want to say that I'm  
2 insensitive to that, but I think that when you get  
3 trapped in our current world view, in our traditional  
4 ways of thinking, we can't escape it, and the  
5 invitation we have in this moment that we're living in  
6 is to adopt new frames, new understanding, or doing  
7 deeper root-cause analysis to get at what really is  
8 causing that crime.

9           And I would suggest it's not just the  
10 actions of the last six weeks but going back at least  
11 60 years and seeing what is actually the predicates  
12 that have led to that. And then how do we as a  
13 society, with the leadership of the board and others,  
14 start to unwind that incrementally, step-by-step --  
15 right? -- of -- of -- with the connection to the  
16 people, which is the real source of the power of this  
17 organization?

18           COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you. Thank you,  
19 all. Any other commissioner?

20           COMMISSIONER BURCH: I have one more  
21 question.

22           COMMISSIONER DAVIS: I have a question.

23           COMMISSIONER BELL: I'm sorry. We're going  
24 to have to cut off with Commissioner Davis, and I saw  
25 DC Bettison question -- and we're going to have to

1 move on. We have another speaker.

2 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Mr. Chairman.

3 COMMISSIONER BELL: Excuse me.

4 Commissioner Davis, you have the floor.

5 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Oh. Only -- sir,  
6 could you send us what you was presenting in any more  
7 detail? I think that would be helpful for us to be  
8 able to leisurely look through it and make an  
9 assessment.

10 PROFESSOR HAMMER: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

12 Commissioner Burch, and I'll move on to  
13 Deputy Chief -- Burton. I'm sorry.

14 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Chairman. I have maybe one or two questions, and  
16 I'll be brief.

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: You got one question,  
18 sir. You got one question, sir.

19 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Okay. Sure.

20 Question for Attorney -- law -- Wayne State  
21 University Law Professor Peter Hammer, do you feel  
22 that all of the racial disparity topics you brought up  
23 earlier has a direct relation to the poverty in  
24 Detroit that we face? And do you see facial  
25 recognition technology as another variable in the

1 racial disparity issue?

2 PROFESSOR HAMMER: Yeah. So I would go  
3 back to that definition of structural racism. I think  
4 it's powerful. It's the interinstitutional dynamics  
5 that produce these different outcomes, but you can  
6 also tell it through different stories. You can tell  
7 it all through housing and housing segregation in the  
8 city of Detroit -- right? -- and that's important.  
9 You can tell it all about the presence and absence of  
10 poverty -- right? -- and opportunity, 'cause I never  
11 like to say "poverty" without saying, "Where are the  
12 jobs?" Right? And if the jobs aren't in the  
13 neighborhood, you're not going to have wealth in the  
14 neighborhoods.

15 And, again, I always look at systems and  
16 not individuals, but I would end my answer by just  
17 saying that same crime statistic map, I talked about  
18 investment in education. Put poverty, 20 years, and  
19 then you have the same map. So are we really tracking  
20 crime, or are we tracking those same things that go  
21 back to 1925 which led to the civil unrest, which  
22 included measures of employment and poverty and  
23 opportunity?

24 COMMISSIONER BELL: DC Bettison.

25 DC BETTISON: I just wanted to talk about

1 Project Green Light shortly for a moment.

2 COMMISSIONER BELL: I'm sorry. You have to  
3 have a question for the professor. We're in that  
4 format. You cannot make a statement, but do you have  
5 a question for him?

6 DC BETTISON: So, Professor, you said that  
7 you're just skeptical of all crime stats and just --  
8 you don't feel there should be a Project Green Light  
9 where -- the citizens Downtown Detroit, they always  
10 had cameras, and so we feel that the neighborhood  
11 deserved to have cameras just like the good folks  
12 downtown. That's why we brought Project Green Light  
13 to the neighborhoods. So do you feel they shouldn't  
14 have cameras, like, in the neighborhood like the same  
15 folks downtown enjoy?

16 PROFESSOR HAMMER: Yeah. So, first, I want  
17 to thank you for the question. And the tradition of  
18 Judge Keith is always building relationships, so we're  
19 never here to vilify people or to alienate folks, and  
20 I just want to express my respect for the work that  
21 you do, even if we may have a disagreement. I think  
22 if you tell a story of surveillance downtown, it's a  
23 very different story than Project Green Light. The  
24 history and tradition of surveillance downtown is all  
25 about protecting people -- or protecting property, not

1 people, and really it's been part of a larger process  
2 of eliminating public spaces in the downtown area,  
3 excluding access to the downtown area from historic  
4 residents.

5 And then, because you're bringing in all  
6 the suburbanites, who have this hyper sense of being  
7 in danger in Detroit because they don't understand --  
8 and they're not from Detroit; they're not connected to  
9 Detroit -- you need to respond to the suburbanites'  
10 sense for safety, and the response to the  
11 suburbanites' sense for safety downtown was  
12 surveillance, which is really going to say, "We're  
13 going to keep you safe from Detroiters." So I would  
14 say that the history leading to surveillance downtown  
15 is a very different history responding to very  
16 different sets of power and constituents than the  
17 history leading to Project Green Light. So I would  
18 respectfully say that they're apples and oranges and  
19 just are responding to different social-political  
20 dynamics.

21 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you, Professor.

22 We're going to move on to -- this is going  
23 to be on ongoing dialogue, and perhaps we will do a  
24 (audio dropped).

25 MS. WHITE: Chairperson Bell?

1 (Technical difficulties.)

2 PROFESSOR HAMMER: Happy to help. Thank  
3 you.

4 MS. WHITE: Chairperson Bell, if the  
5 honorable board is ready for Attorney Robinson at this  
6 time?

7 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am. Yes, yes.  
8 Thank you.

9 MR. ROBINSON: Hello, everybody, and thank  
10 you to the honorable board for the invitation to come  
11 and speak with you on my subject matter. I want to  
12 start out by saying a reason that I -- I wrote the  
13 book is -- is because over the course of some 40-plus  
14 years, all I have lived and breathed, so to speak, has  
15 been around police and law enforcement. My brother,  
16 as Commissioner Bell knows, was a police officer, and  
17 Commissioner Bell and I worked hard together at the  
18 14th Precinct back in the old days.

19 So in the course of me starting out at  
20 17 years old as a police cadet -- I'm 65 years old,  
21 about to turn 66 -- all of those years really have  
22 been concentrated on the area of police and really the  
23 ins and outs of policing. As a police officer, I did  
24 so for over 13 years, and it was a very, very  
25 enjoyable experience. Learned a lot. And becoming a

1 lawyer, slash, police officer, I did have the  
2 opportunity to cover all bases, so to speak, on what  
3 goes on, from defending police officers and teaching  
4 police recruits in the academy and a short stint in  
5 teaching criminal law at Wayne State University and  
6 then, of course, leaving the police department and  
7 representing individuals for over 34 years who have  
8 been victims of police misconduct.

9           So with respect to the context of why I  
10 wrote the book and what I say in the book, I just  
11 wanted to give that backdrop. Now, it's sort of like  
12 it came to my attention one day that all of these  
13 incidents were happening over our nation, police  
14 misconduct, and when, of course, I was on the police  
15 department, we didn't have videos and all that stuff,  
16 so it was always a situation where a police officer  
17 said one thing, and the person who was making  
18 allegations against the police officer said another  
19 thing.

20           So it became a challenge in representing  
21 (inaudible) how it was I was able to demonstrate that,  
22 you know, my client was right; the police officer was  
23 wrong. When video and all -- that advent came about,  
24 I sort of thought, "Okay. This is going to be a lot  
25 easier," because, as Chief Bettison alluded to, I

1 think, a video is a video. It speaks for itself. But  
2 what I have come to conclude -- and starting from  
3 George Floyd, working our way back to when we saw the  
4 first video with Rodney King, an interesting thought  
5 occurred to me.

6           It's kind of like what was going on in the  
7 minds and the mentality of those police officers who  
8 knew that they were being videoed -- could have  
9 certainly presumed they were being videoed -- doing  
10 what they were doing. So that sort of was the impetus  
11 in (indiscernible). I wanted to take a look at, you  
12 know, really what's going on in the mind (inaudible)  
13 of police officers. So when you look at George Floyd  
14 and that situation and Officer Chauvin, he literally  
15 is in the process of taking another person's life but  
16 looking in the camera at the same time. And  
17 (indiscernible) he obviously is thinking he's not  
18 going along. He's just doing his job as a police  
19 officer.

20           So when you analyze and you look at many of  
21 those similar situations where there is video, it's  
22 sort of the same sort of mentality that "Although I'm  
23 being photographed or I'm being recorded, it doesn't  
24 matter." So it's almost as though something else, you  
25 know, takes over and empowers them to ignore common



1 sense and to ignore human decency in many of these  
2 cases. And then you go down the line with Eric  
3 Garner, Laquan McDonald, and over and over and over  
4 again, you're seeing the same thing.

5 So then I started looking at patterns of  
6 behavior. Okay? So I have had the experience of  
7 engaging with not just Detroit police officers but  
8 police officers throughout the state and even in other  
9 states, and, again, these patterns are all the same.  
10 So, you know, it's an issue that involves training.  
11 It's an issue that involves the way in which society  
12 sees police officers. It's a way in which the courts  
13 see police officers, and all of this comes to the  
14 floor in terms of how it is that the question of  
15 police misconduct and reform has to be addressed.

16 Certainly, back in the 1970s, things, I  
17 think, with the law were different. How it is that  
18 the law and the decisions that have come out of the  
19 court have really exacerbated the problem of police  
20 misconduct is an interesting thing because the  
21 communities that were (indiscernible) a police officer  
22 back, you know, 40 years ago are more expansive to --  
23 and they've been -- as a function of the courts  
24 creating broader and broader allowances for allowances  
25 for police officers (inaudible) the reasoning that the

1 courts don't want to handicap police officers from  
2 doing their job.

3           And at the same time what it does, though,  
4 is create a disenfranchisement and an infringement of  
5 citizens and their interactions with the police. It  
6 literally is to the point where citizens are deathly  
7 afraid of police, and police are deathly afraid of  
8 citizens, and I guess I frame it as, like, ignorance  
9 and arrogance bumping heads with each other. And when  
10 you have that sort of scenario, there's only going to  
11 be a fight. There's not going to be any diplomacy,  
12 and there's going to be a bad outcome.

13           I talk about in the book the human factor  
14 and trying to distinguish that so that police and  
15 citizens -- everybody understands that, you know,  
16 you're police first, but you're -- I'm sorry. You're  
17 a human being first, and you're police next. Drawing  
18 on my experiences as a police officer, I always  
19 treated in all the interactions that I had with  
20 citizens with the understanding first that I had this  
21 advantage over every citizen because I was a police  
22 officer. I had what I called a psychological  
23 advantage.

24           Part of that is understanding that the  
25 person that I'm dealing with, number one, has not had

1 the training that I had as a police officer, and in  
2 terms of, you know, how police deal with citizens,  
3 citizens don't get that type of training in how to  
4 deal with police. So I took that into consideration,  
5 you know, in every endeavor that I got into with a  
6 citizen, and the outcome was a positive outcome in  
7 that regard because I knew I had the authority, but  
8 abusing that authority -- again, when you've got  
9 ignorance and obstinance bumping heads with each  
10 other, there's going to be an explosion.

11 So it was all about diffusing a situation.  
12 It was all about approaching a situation such that I  
13 would invent the conduct and behavior that would not  
14 give rise to an attack. Now, you think about the  
15 nature of policing from the beginning of policing. So  
16 all of the (inaudible) of policing have been designed  
17 to make the officer's job safer. Okay? And, of  
18 course, the intent of nonlethal weapons being  
19 introduced into law enforcement, an intent to make the  
20 officer's use of force lesser in order to avoid  
21 tragedies.

22 Again, that human thing comes in, and all  
23 of the things that have been designed for, you know,  
24 lesser uses of force and, you know, lesser infliction  
25 of pain where that human factor (indiscernible) itself

1 into the jobs that the police officers do. There's a  
2 tendency for those things and this human factor coming  
3 in that leads to the same tragedies, lethal  
4 (inaudible) lethal force result. So, again, shifting  
5 the paradigm in terms of police reform and how it is  
6 that we collectively -- and I'm talking about the  
7 board of police commissioners. I'm talking about me  
8 as a lawyer. I'm talking about courts. I'm talking  
9 about judges. I'm talking about citizens, too, how it  
10 is that we all collectively can come together to  
11 understand, you know, the schism between the police  
12 and citizens, and -- and I'm suggesting that it has to  
13 start with the police.

14           Every encounter by a police officer begins  
15 and ends in the manner in which the police officer has  
16 approached a given situation. I think back to the  
17 days when I was a police officer and speaking with  
18 citizens who had been stopped by police officers  
19 versus those who had been stopped by state police  
20 officers, a citizen would always say, "You don't call  
21 me sir, but when the state police officer stops me, he  
22 always addresses me as sir." Well, it seems like a  
23 small thing, but it was kind of interesting, again,  
24 because there was a different expectation with  
25 citizens when they were stopped by state police

1 officers versus when they were stopped by a Detroit  
2 officer. And that "sir" factor is certainly a  
3 training issue that is a simple thing, but, if  
4 required, it could make a difference. Simple things  
5 like that.

6           When it is that a police officer gets into  
7 a scrape, there should be some sort of examination by  
8 a department to determine how it is that the conduct  
9 of the police officer, if done differently, could have  
10 changed the outcome. If, in fact, you know, my  
11 postulate is correct that every police encounter the  
12 police officer initiates determines how the outcome  
13 is, then shouldn't we be looking at how it is that a  
14 police officer's approach should be different in order  
15 to achieve what ultimately should be the goal, and  
16 that is everybody go home from that scene, or to jail,  
17 with their health and safety, both the police officer  
18 and the suspect.

19           So how do we achieve those things? How do  
20 we begin to change the culture of policing in order to  
21 achieve that goal? I say that there has to be some  
22 examination and focus again on what behaviors can be  
23 changed in the police culture in order to facilitate  
24 that. So I talk, and I cite the examples in the book,  
25 and I talk about the Tamir Rice case for a second, the

1 12-year-old kid. You know the case. Right? So he's  
2 got a gun. The police don't have to presume it to be  
3 a toy. They can presume it to be a dangerous weapon,  
4 and they should presume it to be a dangerous weapon,  
5 but in that understanding, again, stepping back,  
6 waiting, examining the situation thoroughly rather  
7 than rushing into a situation where the police puts  
8 his own life in danger and then turns around and  
9 shoots the 12-year-old -- and if you examine that  
10 scenario, again, what could the officer have done  
11 differently to have avoided that outcome, and you take  
12 each and every one of these encounters with the police  
13 and examine it from that perspective.

14           You've got so many test cases, as it were,  
15 or research projects, because these encounters happen  
16 over and over again, and take those as case studies  
17 and examine them and then train police in a fashion  
18 based on those case studies to look and see how it is  
19 that a change of approach and a change of conduct and  
20 behavior can actually accomplish the safety of the  
21 police officer who obviously has concern because the  
22 job is a dangerous job, you know. The expression is  
23 "Angels dare to tread" -- "fools rush in, but angels  
24 dare tread," or something like that. I forget the  
25 expression.

1 But I know that the Navy Seals certainly  
2 have a mantra where they don't rush into anything, and  
3 how often we've seen on these videos police officers  
4 doing just that, out of excitement or out of the quest  
5 to get the bad guy. Again, stop thinking, looking,  
6 and examining because, remember, you know, time and  
7 distance are as great a safety tool as a bulletproof  
8 vest and an AR-15, frankly. And these are things that  
9 officers and supervisors can train on.

10 The training the police officers get today,  
11 defensive tactics training versus the training I got  
12 when I was a police officer is totally different.  
13 It's almost as if the training comes from (inaudible)  
14 individuals or military individuals and sort of in --  
15 in -- in putting into the mind of the police officer  
16 that it is them or us. I don't believe and I don't  
17 recall, again, that being the regiment of the training  
18 when I was a police officer. Certainly, we were  
19 always taught that, you know, any situation can result  
20 in, you know, a bad outcome and to be cautious, but I  
21 don't think we were trained to see citizens as our  
22 mortal enemies.

23 And, you know, it's interesting, again,  
24 because over the course of all of these years that  
25 I've been representing these people, their stories,

1 when they tell me what it is that happened, it  
2 illustrates these same patterns and these behaviors  
3 that I'm talking about.

4 I have a dry mouth here.

5 In terms of the things that would create  
6 reform, how is it that courts have exacerbated -- how  
7 is it that these court decisions have exacerbated the  
8 problem? You've all heard of the qualified immunity,  
9 and over the course of some -- since the '80s, let's  
10 say, when one of the first (inaudible) cases of  
11 qualified immunity came out, it has expanded and more  
12 to the point where judges sitting on the bench are  
13 creating outs for police officers.

14 I hear these familiar refrains of police  
15 officers, and, again, this is consistent in all of  
16 policing using the same terms. "I feared for my life.  
17 I saw a shiny object," things like that. And when  
18 there is no video, it's really, obviously, harder to  
19 prove those sorts of things, and so now the courts  
20 have come in. And this last example of the shooting  
21 in Kenosha, Wisconsin (inaudible) qualified immunity  
22 (indiscernible) challenges.

23 In that case, what we saw was a police  
24 officer grabbing onto the shirt of the young man and  
25 then shooting him several times in the back, but the



1 police officer, I assure you, is going to place in his  
2 report all of the verbiage that is going to assist him  
3 through the courts on the issue of qualified immunity.  
4 Rest assured, even George Floyd, (indiscernible) is  
5 what it is that we saw, his defense is going to be  
6 qualified immunity.

7           So, again, it's -- in order to bring about  
8 change, in order to bring about reforms -- I mean,  
9 there are (inaudible) things that people talk about,  
10 you know, this defunding, and, of course, that doesn't  
11 make sense if you're talking about taking all the  
12 money away and then having no police department.  
13 That's absolutely absurd. But what isn't absurd is  
14 shifting the finances in order to introduce  
15 psychological evaluations, not just on hiring but  
16 during the course of an officer's career. There's no  
17 difference than an officer (inaudible) his weapons  
18 twice a year.

19           And why does a police department require  
20 that? They require that because they want officers  
21 not to use their guns to shoot people, you know,  
22 indiscretionally. There are other areas in policing  
23 that should be just as repetitively required to be  
24 trained on and -- including things that would seem  
25 simple, like the laws of arrest, you know. I've done

1 depositions -- and, again, this is not just reflective  
2 of the Detroit Police Department. It is a culture  
3 along police departments all over.

4           You ask the question of the officer, what  
5 is probable cause, and, you know, he can't get it  
6 straight, and it's, like, simple, that it's the sort  
7 of thing that, you know -- the constitution says that  
8 a person can only be arrested with probable cause, but  
9 if an officer is arresting people and does not have  
10 probable cause, then that's certainly not as dangerous  
11 as shooting people with an officer who doesn't have  
12 training. But I (indiscernible) people  
13 (indiscernible) depriving them of their freedom based  
14 on, you know, the fact that you're not gonna retain on  
15 a simple concept of, you know, where -- what is my  
16 authority? Where does it end in terms of arrests?  
17 That could be just as -- just as -- as damning. And  
18 the other thing, too, is, like --

19           COMMISSIONER BELL: Attorney Robinson, we  
20 are way over our time. Can you do a closing so we can  
21 do Q and A? I appreciate it, but we are stretching  
22 our time frame.

23           MR. ROBINSON: I apologize. The -- just to  
24 close it up, again, this is an effort, again, and it's  
25 going to take everybody that's involved, not just the

1 police. Everybody's involved, including the courts.

2 So thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts.

3 COMMISSIONER BELL: And thank you.

4 Commissioners, do you have a question --

5 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Mr. Chairman.

6 COMMISSIONER BELL: -- for Attorney

7 Robinson?

8 Commissioner Burch?

9 COMMISSIONER BURCH: What, we have one  
10 question, did you say?

11 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am. We're  
12 going to try to move --

13 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Okay. I understand.

14 COMMISSIONER BELL: We have a full agenda.  
15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Okay. I just wanted  
17 to ask his opinion as far as the retraining of  
18 officers.

19 Should they be trained to wound when the  
20 suspect is running away and not trained to kill?  
21 That's the question. Thank you.

22 MR. ROBINSON: I think that the officers  
23 should not be trained to do anything different than  
24 they are trained, and that is to shoot to kill, and  
25 the reason I say that is because if you follow the

1 rules -- and you can use the report -- then there's no  
2 reason to wound. There is a reason to exercise the  
3 authority that you have. So I -- I -- I would not  
4 agree with that. It's a nice thought. Again,  
5 mathematically, if you're at the point where you can  
6 actually take a life and that's your responsibility,  
7 then you should do it as effectively as your training  
8 allows.

9 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: Mr. Chairman?

10 COMMISSIONER BELL: Commissioner. . .

11 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: Holley.

12 COMMISSIONER BELL: Commissioner Holley, go  
13 ahead, sir.

14 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: Thank you so much,  
15 Mr. Chairman.

16 Thank you for the presentation, Attorney.

17 I'd like to ask you, Commissioner Bell,  
18 'cause I want to filter this through you. Is it your  
19 recommendation -- do you feel either way of  
20 recommending -- or that we have a salt-and-pepper  
21 team -- Hispanic and white in the Hispanic community  
22 and African-American and white in the black  
23 community -- that it would be a salt-and-pepper team  
24 rather than let them pick who they want to work with  
25 based upon where we are now? I run it through you,

1 Mr. Chairman, because you've been a police officer.

2 COMMISSIONER BELL: The attorney can  
3 respond to this question, too, but, basically,  
4 officers primarily go by seniority, and there's a  
5 whole lot of -- come into play, but that's the purpose  
6 of affirmative action is to integrate the Detroit  
7 Police Department with African-Americans, Hispanic,  
8 women, and et cetera, et cetera. So, basically, there  
9 is a contract, and there is a work environment, you  
10 know. So, basically, we would love to do that. We  
11 tried to do that. That's a preference of white to be  
12 with whites over blacks. You know, that's pretty much  
13 the response.

14 Attorney Robinson?

15 MR. ROBINSON: You know, going back to  
16 something that Professor was talking about in terms of  
17 racism in our society, would it make a difference?  
18 It's interesting, 'cause in some cases, yeah. In some  
19 cases, you know, from what I see, you know, in clients  
20 coming to me, there is still -- even in those  
21 salt-and-pepper situations, they -- let's call it  
22 white privilege. It comes out in the form of how it  
23 is the white officer, notwithstanding having a black  
24 officer or another officer of color, is going to  
25 interact with a person of color.

1 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Mr. Chair?

2 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am.

3 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Thank you.

4 Thank you, Attorney Robinson. I read your  
5 book. I highlighted. I put question marks, and I  
6 must say -- because you come with very strong  
7 credentials, a former Detroit Police officer, the  
8 attorney for the Detroit Police Department, and,  
9 apparently, a very successful litigant on behalf of  
10 citizens who have been abused by the law enforcement  
11 system. My question is do you still spend some time  
12 over at the Detroit Police Training Academy?

13 MR. ROBINSON: I have not been asked to do  
14 anything like that. I certainly would be open to it.  
15 I've even suggested in some of the cases that I have  
16 litigated against the City with the city law  
17 department and made discussions to -- to the law  
18 department as to some of my ideas that, frankly, would  
19 put me out of business. My heart is still with  
20 policing, you know. I'm not downing the police. I  
21 want to, again, do what I can to help create a  
22 non-brutal police agency.

23 During the course of the oversight with the  
24 Justice Department, I handled the number of those jail  
25 death cases and those wrongful detention cases and

1 made simple suggestions. A couple of them they  
2 actually did implement, frankly, so if I were ever  
3 asked, I would be more than happy to do so.

4 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Again, thank you so  
5 much for your presentation and for the book.

6 COMMISSIONER BELL: DC Bettison?

7 DC BETTISON: I got one question, but I  
8 just wanted to set the record straight with one thing.  
9 The Detroit Police Department does not train to shoot  
10 to kill. We train to stop the threat, only using the  
11 force that is necessary to stop the threat, in a  
12 deadly force situation. My question is for you,  
13 Counselor Robinson. You know, each law enforcement  
14 agency -- of course, you know, no one's perfect. No  
15 department's perfect. Members -- we do have some bad  
16 apples; however, would you agree that the majority of  
17 the Detroit Police officers that are out there on the  
18 job each and every day are doing it the right way,  
19 that the majority of our officers are good?

20 MR. ROBINSON: Well, let me answer it this  
21 way. I don't buy into the good cop/bad cop thing, and  
22 the reason is this: It's because, you know, one day a  
23 cop is caught, you know, with his hand in the cookie  
24 jar, but the week before he saved a little girl, you  
25 know, who was about to get run over by a speeding

1 truck. So you would characterize that same officer a  
2 week before as one of the good officers. The next  
3 week you would say he was a bad officer.

4 I know, in my years in working with police  
5 officers, certainly, there were officers that were  
6 extremely decent officers and treated people with  
7 compassion, and then there were knuckleheads. So I --  
8 I certainly agree, Deputy Chief, that there would have  
9 to be overwhelmingly more officers who are kinder and  
10 work with compassion and follow the rules. If that  
11 weren't the case, certainly, we'd be seeing a whole  
12 heck of a lot more cases of brutality and incidents  
13 being captured on video.

14 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

15 Any other commissioner?

16 Yes, sir. Commissioner Burton?

17 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Hello?

18 DC BETTISON: Yes, sir. We hear you.

19 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Yes, sir. Thank you.

20 Question for Commissioner Annie Holt. She mentioned  
21 she read the book. I want to know what about the book  
22 that she liked so much, and could she share with the  
23 commissioners? And what is your -- what chapter in  
24 the book that stand out the most?

25 COMMISSIONER BELL: Sir, I'm going to



1 interject. That question is not appropriate. If you  
2 have a question for the commissioner --  
3 Attorney Robinson, that would be more appropriate. Do  
4 you have a question? You can always talk to the vice  
5 chair offline. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Mr. Chairman?

7 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, sir.

8 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Yeah.

9 Attorney Robinson, I appreciate you coming  
10 before us and speaking before the board. I understand  
11 your experience with everything, but I would like to  
12 know -- I haven't read your book, but I think I will  
13 now just to really dive into your psyche, but I would  
14 just like to know as a police officer and attorney for  
15 the police department and a police officer, and now  
16 you're writing books and teaching, what was the  
17 turning point for you to have the epiphany of the  
18 change of how you view policing in America when a lot  
19 of the things in practice and problems that we had  
20 back in the day when you were on the job -- what was  
21 your views on them then, and what are they now, and  
22 how have they changed?

23 MR. ROBINSON: That's an extremely fair  
24 question. I'm glad you asked that one because when I  
25 was a police officer -- just to give you an example --

1 and not a lawyer, I didn't know the difference between  
2 what, let's say, was constitutional versus what wasn't  
3 constitutional, and I cite the example of the wrongful  
4 detentions, when we would be called to the homicide  
5 scene and the homicide guys would come out. They  
6 would point to -- "Take him down. Take him down.  
7 Take her down. Take him down." And then we just  
8 followed the order, not knowing that that was a Fourth  
9 Amendment seizure.

10 So I was operating, you know, under the  
11 impression as a police officer who had been trained,  
12 okay, that that was okay, and -- and, again,  
13 obviously, it was not. So the turning point for me,  
14 again, was going to law school and learning the  
15 difference and the ins and outs of the Fourth  
16 Amendment. And I understand (inaudible) there are a  
17 lot of things that, you know, I wasn't doing right,  
18 but I did it because that was the training. That was  
19 what was expected.

20 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Mr. Chairman, I do  
21 have a question for --

22 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER BURTON: The question that I  
24 have -- I want to raise the same question that I  
25 raised to Wayne State law professor Peter Hammer.

1           Mr. Robinson, do you feel that the racial  
2   disparity has a -- here in the city of Detroit has  
3   direct relation to poverty in Detroit that we face,  
4   and can you see facial recognition technology as  
5   another variable in racial disparity?

6           MR. ROBINSON:  I -- I -- I -- I candidly  
7   have the other guy as a client that was arrested based  
8   on the facial recognition, and the reading and the  
9   research I've done -- and I attended a seminar on  
10  it -- absolutely.  It is a flawed -- a flawed process.  
11  Facial recognition works well with my cell phone, but  
12  the gravity of the impact going back to, again, the  
13  constitution and the deprivation of the saying that we  
14  as Americans hold so dear -- and that is freedom --  
15  you don't want to have a situation where you're  
16  employing a process that has known flaws with regard  
17  to persons of color.  And in San Francisco -- and  
18  there's been two other cities that ended their facial  
19  recognition use in the police department.

20           COMMISSIONER DAVIS:  I have one question.

21           COMMISSIONER BELL:  Yes, sir.

22           COMMISSIONER DAVIS:  Mr. Robinson --  
23  Attorney Robinson, what year did you retire from the  
24  Detroit Police Department?

25           MR. ROBINSON:  I resigned in 1988, so I had

1 13 years working -- police work.

2 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you. I assume  
4 that we can thank these two individuals, Professor  
5 Hammer and Attorney Robinson. I think it was well  
6 presented. If there is any follow-up or concern, you  
7 can always e-mail them directly or through Ms. White,  
8 and she will make sure they get your Q and A or  
9 whatever. If it's something that we need to hear with  
10 the public, then we can make sure we share that in our  
11 next forum. But this is going to be an ongoing --  
12 thought it was informative.

13 Commissioner Holt?

14 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Oh, well, I don't want  
15 to go back and forth, but the one point that I did  
16 take away from --

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: We don't want to go  
18 back and forth. We want to go forward. Thank you.  
19 We want to go forward. We want to move forward.  
20 Thank you. These two panelists have been outstanding.  
21 I would hope that you read the book, if you have the  
22 desire, and contact any -- Vice Chair Holt is  
23 available 24-7 to answer your concerns and -- but we  
24 want to move on. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you both. Yeah,

1     thank you.

2                   COMMISSIONER BELL:   Thank you,  
3     commissioners.

4                   The next item would be Ms. White.

5                   MS. WHITE:   Yes.   Through the chair --

6                   COMMISSIONER BELL:   Could we briefly  
7     address your report?

8                   MS. WHITE:   Yes.

9                   Honorable board, all of the items are  
10    contained in the most updated agenda that was e-mailed  
11    earlier today, and just highlighting a couple of  
12    points, the department transmitted the Bias-Based  
13    Policing Directive 102.2.   Staff is reviewing that  
14    item and will present a report to you based on our  
15    evaluation.   And also the honorable board received a  
16    Project Green Light report update this week, and  
17    staff's also preparing an additional report to go  
18    along with that -- that information for your  
19    consideration.

20                   And then, also, as a reminder, we will  
21    provide Professor Hammer's and any additional material  
22    from the presenters today -- we will make sure that  
23    the honorable board receives that information for your  
24    review and reference.   Thank you.

25                   COMMISSIONER BELL:   Thank you, Ms. White.

1 Unfinished business would be V & F Collision.

2 Ms. White, are we prepared to --

3 MS. WHITE: Yes, sir. Through the chair,  
4 we have Sergeant Zberkot, who will be speaking on the  
5 matter. She is presenting on V & F Collision in place  
6 of Captain Michael Parish, who was the tow monitor for  
7 the department, but Sergeant Zberkot is available, and  
8 also Mr. (indiscernible) with his attorney, Attorney  
9 Schulman, are also present on the line. But I believe  
10 Sergeant Zberkot is the -- will present first. And  
11 then also, for the record, chief legal counsel from  
12 the city's law department, Chief Legal Counsel Megan  
13 Moslimani, is also prepared to report on the legal  
14 recommendations to the honorable board.

15 COMMISSIONER BELL: Ms. White, this is  
16 unfinished business, and you did send an update in  
17 terms of this particular matter; is that correct?

18 MS. WHITE: Yes, sir.

19 COMMISSIONER BELL: Okay. Thank you.

20 MS. WHITE: Sergeant Zberkot.

21 SERGEANT ZBERKOT: Yes, ma'am. I'm  
22 Sergeant Michelle Zberkot from assets and licensing.  
23 I'll be presenting on behalf of the tow monitor,  
24 Captain Parish, due to a family death of a -- due to a  
25 family member's death today. The presentation is in

1 regards to the review of (indiscernible) submitted by  
2 Captain Parish on June 18, 2020, involving V & F  
3 towing.

4 An employee of V & F towing, Mr. Edward  
5 Moody, committed criminal acts while providing towing  
6 and recovery services for a vehicle ordered impounded  
7 by the Detroit Police Department. V & F failed to act  
8 in accordance with the highest industry standards and  
9 practices approved by the Detroit Police Department,  
10 City of Detroit. V & F failed to maintain a  
11 well-managed vehicle towing system that affords a high  
12 level of customer service, convenience, courtesy, and  
13 professionalism.

14 In regard to the case on March 9, 2020, the  
15 complainant, Mr. Victor Holloway, drove his mother's  
16 vehicle to a friend's house located in the city of  
17 Detroit. He stayed the night at that location,  
18 leaving his backpack, which contained his MacBook  
19 computer inside of a black case or pouch, his MacBook  
20 charging cord, and a wallet on the front seat of the  
21 vehicle. The following morning he went outside,  
22 discovered that the vehicle was missing. Mr. Holloway  
23 and his friend attempted to locate the vehicle in the  
24 area by themselves and was unsuccessful.

25 Unbeknownst to Mr. Holloway, a member of

1 the Detroit Police Department Abandoned Vehicle Task  
2 Force recovered the vehicle as a partial stolen  
3 recovery. The officer followed protocol by requesting  
4 to tow through dispatch, notifying TCRU, ensuring that  
5 the vehicle was entered into the lien system so that  
6 law enforcement agencies knew where the vehicle was as  
7 well as the owner. Mr. Moody, of V & F towing,  
8 received a run, which was to Brookdale in Midland.  
9 The vehicle was impounded by Mr. Moody and taken to  
10 V & F towing for storage.

11 Ms. Tanisha Holloway, the mother of Victor  
12 Holloway and the registered owner of the vehicle, was  
13 informed of the theft of the vehicle and contacted the  
14 Detroit Police Department. She was advised that the  
15 vehicle had been impounded and was being stored at  
16 V & F towing. Later in the evening, herself and  
17 Mr. Holloway responded to the 6th Precinct to file a  
18 theft report in regards to the vehicle. While at the  
19 precinct, Mr. Holloway received an alert notification  
20 from the Find My iPhone application in regards to his  
21 computer, which would have required the computer to  
22 have been partially charged or turned on.

23 The alert indicated that the MacBook was in  
24 the area of 9574 Evergreen and provided a map  
25 pinpointing the location of the MacBook.



1 (Indiscernible) that was assisting Ms. Holloway and  
2 her son at the precinct directed them to call --  
3 contact 911. They notified 911 and the officers in  
4 the area of Evergreen and Plymouth. The officers  
5 received information from Victor Holloway and his  
6 mother in regards to the computer and the  
7 notification.

8 The officers drove by 9574 Evergreen and  
9 observed a V & F tow truck near the location. They  
10 returned to the location of Victor Holloway and his  
11 mother and advised them to wait at the precinct. The  
12 officers then responded to 9582 Evergreen, which is --  
13 which was identified as Mr. Moody's home. He's the  
14 driver of the V & F tow truck in regards to this car.  
15 The sergeant on scene inquired about the computer.  
16 Mr. Moody advised him the computer was at the  
17 location. He retrieved the computer and provided it  
18 to the sergeant on scene.

19 Mr. Moody claimed during this investigation  
20 that he was rushed. He had to pick up his daughter.  
21 His intention of taking the computer out of the  
22 vehicle was for safekeeping purposes. He said that he  
23 didn't know what was inside of the black case until he  
24 got home. The understanding is that he placed it in  
25 his tow truck, which is a take-home vehicle.

1 COMMISSIONER BELL: Sergeant, excuse me. I  
2 don't want to interrupt you. We have this report.  
3 Can you get to the crux of the recommendation, please?

4 SERGEANT ZBERKOT: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER BELL: We understand the  
6 background. Okay?

7 SERGEANT ZBERKOT: Okay. In regards to the  
8 information obtained through our investigation, a  
9 warrant was submitted against Mr. Moody. Initially,  
10 it was submitted on April 16th. It was denied by APA  
11 Nancy Slezak. The reason for denial was insufficient  
12 evidence for criminal charges and that the items were  
13 returned to the complainant. We did a further  
14 investigation into this matter, and Mr. Holloway was  
15 interviewed a second time by Captain Parish and  
16 Officer Gillman, and it was determined -- Mr. Moody  
17 claimed that he never turned the computer on. When he  
18 opened it up, it appeared to be on, as it showed a  
19 refreshing-type signal; however, in the second  
20 interview with Mr. Holloway, he indicated that the  
21 computer hadn't been used in a long time and was  
22 completely dead and that the computer had to be  
23 plugged in and charged for the signal, the GPS signal,  
24 to be received through the Find My iPhone app.

25 So that find of refutes Mr. Moody's claim

1 that he didn't turn the computer on, as the victim's  
2 indicated that it was completely dead. Mr. Holloway  
3 actually received all of his property back except for  
4 the charging cord to the computer. With that  
5 additional information and confirmation from cyber  
6 crimes that the computer had to have been charged and  
7 powered on to receive that signal, a second warrant, a  
8 resubmitted warrant, was sent over to Wayne County  
9 Prosecutor's Office. APA Slezak reviewed it. The  
10 warrant was approved by her, the warrant request. The  
11 warrant was signed on August 25th with the charges of  
12 larceny from a motor vehicle, habitual fourth, for  
13 Mr. Moody.

14 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

15 Ms. White, I guess we're going to hear from  
16 the attorney from corporation counsel. Is that  
17 correct?

18 MS. WHITE: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER BELL: I'm sorry. I see it  
20 now.

21 MS. MOSLIMANI: Can you guys hear me?

22 THE BOARD: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. MOSLIMANI: Hello, honorable board. I  
24 don't know if you guys remember me. I've been in  
25 front of you a while back. My name is Megan

1 Moslimani. I'm chief legal counsel of special  
2 projects. I had an opportunity to review the  
3 paperwork about an hour before this meeting started.  
4 Ms. White is excellent on getting things over to me.  
5 This in particular -- instance -- we just didn't have  
6 the -- have it earlier in the day.

7 I had an opportunity to read Attorney  
8 Wyrick's recommendation as well as review the  
9 recommendations submitted by the City of Detroit  
10 Police Department. At this time I know that Attorney  
11 Wyrick had recommended a suspension, and for myself,  
12 reviewing this from a legal standpoint, the law does  
13 allow the board of police commissioners to terminate  
14 for any criminal activity by the company or by any of  
15 the company's employees. So the board does have the  
16 right and the ability to terminate.

17 At this time I think that the signing of  
18 this second warrant once more information was  
19 provided -- and I know that the sergeant mentioned  
20 that the individual was a habitual fourth offender.  
21 We don't know what the -- I didn't hear her mention  
22 the prior crimes that he was convicted of to cause him  
23 to be a fourth. I don't know if they were  
24 theft-related crimes; however, it's also important to  
25 note that this tow company was already on a 45-day

1 suspension this year as well.

2           So I think that my recommendation at this  
3 point would be to suspend the tow company again for  
4 another six months, but the board is totally in its  
5 right, if they do decide to terminate, that they have  
6 that right per the law. I would just note if that is  
7 what the board chooses to do, that they do have to  
8 afford the tow company a hearing in a reasonable  
9 amount of time. That's the best that I can do at this  
10 point, as I've just received the documentation less  
11 than about an hour ago.

12           COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

13           Ms. White, can we hear from the attorney  
14 for the V & F?

15           MS. WHITE: Yes. Attorney Schulman is on  
16 the line.

17           MR. SCHULMAN: Yes. Good afternoon. My  
18 name is -- sorry. Good afternoon, sir, Chairperson  
19 Bell, and the commission. My name is Sanford  
20 Schulman. I'm the attorney for V & F. I'm not sure  
21 if you'd just wish me to make an oral presentation as  
22 it relates to our position regarding -- I missed some  
23 of what was said. I've been on your Zoom since 3:00  
24 o'clock promptly, and for some reason I was  
25 disconnected during part of it, but I'm well aware of

1 the allegations. I have the discovery, and I'm  
2 prepared to present our position as it relates to  
3 these allegations.

4 MS. WHITE: Yes, sir, Attorney Schulman.

5 MR. SCHULMAN: So V & F has been in  
6 business for over 40 years, and I don't think -- I  
7 didn't hear anything about any claims of theft or  
8 anything like that. Obviously, as -- the towing  
9 company is required to and entrusted to make sure that  
10 the property is safe, and in this case there was no  
11 allegations that any property was actually sold or  
12 stolen or moved. The laptop that's in question wasn't  
13 even wiped out. There was nothing damaged on it.

14 There was no allegations it was even  
15 stolen, and I know that because the issue started off  
16 with a laptop that was part of a vehicle that was  
17 towed, as well as a wallet and some other items, and  
18 in the referral to the BOPC, the allegations are  
19 suspect, their claim that protocol wasn't followed and  
20 (inaudible due to papers shuffling). The allegations  
21 are that there's lack of managerial concern for  
22 Mr. Moody's actions, that there was a unnecessary  
23 suspense and anxiety of Holloways, that there was  
24 substantial police resources, and there were some  
25 other issues regarding practices (inaudible).

1           So as it relates to this, let me just say  
2   that what happened here is a vehicle was stolen.  
3   The -- Mr. Holloway, the son, makes a claim or a  
4   complaint or a call in the morning and -- and the --  
5   his mother the next morning is aware of this but  
6   decides that she wants to stay at work until 5:00 p.m.  
7   She doesn't want to, basically, deal with this. In  
8   fact, if you look at the reports, she said that she  
9   got -- and this is in her own words -- she got the  
10   runaround by the police. She felt that -- in fact,  
11   ultimately, she would call V & F. And V & F doesn't  
12   know who the owner is. They're not apprised who the  
13   owner of the vehicle is.

14           But what I found as particularly disturbing  
15   or challenging or interesting is that the police come  
16   to Mr. Moody's house, and they have (indiscernible) a  
17   single phone call, so it's not like they just call.  
18   If they had called, they would have been apprised of  
19   Mr. Moody, who resides about a mile or less than a  
20   mile from V & F. It was the end of day. He has his  
21   daughter. He takes this property home, but he's  
22   prepared to -- the next morning to take it to the --  
23   to the V & F.

24           There's no (indiscernible) six or seven or  
25   eight or nine or even ten or twelve hours between the

1 time of the tow, which was 9:00 in the morning, and  
2 11:00 p.m. when the police came to his residence.  
3 There's no allegations he even moved it, secreted it,  
4 sold it, did anything. And I find then, you know --  
5 that -- and when you come there, the property's  
6 returned. So there's no question about the fact that  
7 the property was secured and returned, and that's  
8 really ultimately what the consumer, the citizens,  
9 want.

10 The Holloways don't have any unnecessary  
11 suspense or anxiety. In fact, they delayed it by  
12 waiting till the end of the workday, and then the  
13 whole time, you know -- V & F stays open. They're  
14 closed now, and there's no indication that they have  
15 any suspense or anxiety about it. There's no  
16 substantial police resources. They don't call, text,  
17 e-mail. All they have to do is call and say, "Hey, is  
18 there a laptop there?"

19 "Sure. Come by and pick it up, or have the  
20 guy come pick it up."

21 It's just -- I think that there's obviously  
22 some issues with -- with Captain Parish and V & F,  
23 but, in this case, the V & F does -- in our position,  
24 there's nothing that shows that there was any intent  
25 to keep this (indiscernible). The Wayne County



1 Prosecutor's Office denied (inaudible) warrants  
2 initially -- March, April, May, June, all denials. It  
3 was interesting that literally on August 25th, on the  
4 eve of this hearing -- I mean, this is a police  
5 department, obviously, you know. They sign a warrant  
6 on this, which is interesting.

7 I can't imagine as a 30-year practitioner  
8 in 36th District Court -- I had an armed robbery  
9 today. I had a carjacking yesterday. I'm there every  
10 day, Frank Murphy. I mean, to wait five, six  
11 months -- I mean, you read it and make a call. The  
12 prosecutors have discretion. They know how to sign a  
13 warrant. They look at it. (Indiscernible) sign it.  
14 They deny the warrant -- five, six months.

15 It's not -- no additional information was  
16 provided. They saw that an employee of V & F secures  
17 a piece of property, and several hours after the close  
18 of the business day, the police come to his house, and  
19 he hands it over, and that's the sum and substance of  
20 it. There was no indication that he was out on the  
21 streets selling it or on the Internet looking for  
22 someone to buy it or anything of that sort. And  
23 then -- and yet unnecessary suspense or anxiety to the  
24 Holloways -- in fact, they got all their property  
25 back. It was at the same time. It was a wallet that

1 was not taken from the car and some other property,  
2 and all of it was secure. All of it was returned  
3 completely safe and in safe condition, and there was  
4 no substantial police resources necessary.

5 If anyone had a complaint, it was the  
6 Holloways. In fact, in the report they strongly urged  
7 that no action be taken. Constantly said that. They  
8 did not want it. And it was this constant  
9 bombardment -- reevaluate this -- re-interview you --  
10 which is very unusual in this kind of situation after  
11 the police had already denied -- prosecutor had  
12 already denied a warrant. Now, can they ensure a more  
13 strict (indiscernible) tolerance in terms of any  
14 property?

15 As a lawyer, sometimes people take files  
16 out of my office that are protected -- terrorism  
17 cases, a protective order, but, you know, as long as  
18 the spirit of the rule is being followed, that the  
19 property is safe and it's returned in the same manner,  
20 I don't believe that such a strict remedy of a, you  
21 know -- of termination, even suspension is necessary.  
22 I could answer any further questions or go into any  
23 further details, but I'm just -- a significant amount  
24 of detail that I was provided, I just wanted to  
25 highlight the salient points.

1 MS. WHITE: Through the chair --

2 (Cross talk.)

3 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: Talking to me or  
4 someone else?

5 COMMISSIONER BELL: Commissioner Holley, I  
6 hear you.

7 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: Mr. Chairman, because  
8 of time, can -- because the city attorney, she just  
9 got this about an hour ago or less, can she review  
10 what was said by the attorney and the case and bring  
11 us another recommendation next week?

12 MS. MOSLIMANI: I can actually respond now.  
13 I listened to Mr. Schulman's argument. I don't think  
14 that I necessarily need time to review after listening  
15 to his argument. I would actually like to respond to  
16 it through the chair.

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am.

18 MS. MOSLIMANI: Mr. Schulman, I heard you  
19 say that the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office waited  
20 five to six months before signing, and I would like to  
21 point out as a former prosecutor for five years -- I  
22 think we worked together in the past -- I was in the  
23 trials division, and I also signed warrants regularly.  
24 When a prosecutor signs a warrant, they sign that  
25 warrant to prove a case beyond a reasonable doubt, and

1 at the first time that the warrant was brought to  
2 them, they didn't have that information regarding that  
3 the laptop was dead, which shows that Mr. Moody took  
4 the laptop into his home. He plugged it in, and he  
5 turned it on.

6 Now, if he was securing something for the  
7 tow company the next day to take back to the tow  
8 company, I don't believe a reasonable person or  
9 somebody who did not have the intent to deprive  
10 somebody of their property would have plugged in that  
11 laptop and turned it on. Because the laptop was  
12 turned on, that's why the victim was able to locate  
13 where his laptop was and call the police. He was then  
14 told to call 911. They did not have information that  
15 the car had been towed, just that Apple computers  
16 allow for users to find their laptops.

17 And I think it's very important to note  
18 that this tow company is in this rotation not to steal  
19 from people. It's there to provide tows for people  
20 and cars that have been abandoned in the city of  
21 Detroit. Now, it's one thing to say that there may  
22 have been some sort of bad actor working for the tow  
23 company and this is not their best practices, but  
24 that's not what I heard from you today. And it's very  
25 alarming and disappointing that it was more that this

1 was not a theft and rather this is not the standard  
2 protocol of this tow company.

3 Because there should be security and safety  
4 protocols that are developed for best industry  
5 standards as our RFPs and contracts with these tow  
6 companies provide for. So if that is something that  
7 this tow company is okay with and that is some sort of  
8 procedure -- just like you said, the woman who took  
9 her son to get the laptop waited till the end of the  
10 day. Mr. Moody went home with somebody's personal  
11 property when he could have taken it back to the tow  
12 yard.

13 So that would be my response to what you  
14 just argued this afternoon, and I think that after  
15 hearing that, that I agree with the City of Detroit's  
16 position as well as the board's position that a  
17 termination of this contract would be most appropriate  
18 after hearing what was just said.

19 COMMISSIONER BELL: Commissioners --

20 Thank you, Attorney.

21 You have Captain Parish's detailed report  
22 in a timely manner, and also you received AC White's  
23 report and recommendation to supporting Captain Parish  
24 in terms of (inaudible). So that you have that  
25 report, so I don't think we need any other

1 information. We heard from the attorney for the  
2 towing company. We heard from corporation counsel,  
3 and so what is your (indiscernible)?

4 MR. SCHULMAN: Could I respond to the  
5 last --

6 COMMISSIONER BELL: Very briefly, sir.  
7 Very briefly.

8 MR. SCHULMAN: Through the chair. Yeah, I  
9 don't think there's anything in the record to suggest  
10 that the prosecutor had any additional information. I  
11 have former prosecutors in my office, and they --  
12 that's not how it works. They were provided the  
13 information six months later. And, second of all, if  
14 you look at Victor Holloway, who is actually the owner  
15 of the laptop, they'll say that it's possible that  
16 that laptop was on the entire time; and, third, the,  
17 you know -- the actual idea that he was secreting it  
18 from anybody is -- in fact, it was right in the  
19 hallway when the police showed up. It wasn't secreted  
20 or hidden in any way. And the idea is that he was  
21 holding the property after hours because nobody came  
22 in before that. He had no way of knowing the identity  
23 and if the identity came off the computer. It's like  
24 opening a wallet. And that's exactly what the police  
25 did when they came to the truck. They found a wallet.

1 They opened it up in the same manner that we would do  
2 to make sure that we have the identity and secure it  
3 properly.

4 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Through the chair.

5 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am.

6 COMMISSIONER HOLT: I move that we support  
7 Attorney Moslimani's suggestion that we suspend V & F  
8 for six months.

9 COMMISSIONER BELL: I don't think she said  
10 that. I think she came back with a termination.

11 Could you clarify what you heard and what  
12 you said? At the end, you came back and said  
13 "termination."

14 That's what you're supporting; is that  
15 correct, Attorney?

16 MS. MOSLIMANI: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Oh, okay. Well, I  
18 support that motion, that we suspend.

19 COMMISSIONER HOLLEY: I second that.

20 COMMISSIONER HOLT: That we terminate.

21 That we terminate. That we terminate.

22 COMMISSIONER BELL: Okay. Let's get clear  
23 now.

24 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Right. What's the  
25 motion?

1 COMMISSIONER BELL: Could you restate the  
2 motion, Ms. Vice Chair?

3 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Okay. Through the  
4 chair, I move that we support the attorney's. . .

5 COMMISSIONER BELL: Just -- recommendation.

6 COMMISSIONER HOLT: -- recommendation that  
7 we terminate V & F towing service.

8 UNIDENTIFIED COMMISSIONER: I second that.

9 COMMISSIONER BELL: We got a second.  
10 Discussion?

11 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I  
12 understand that -- okay -- we moved to terminate.  
13 Does that mean we have to come back for another  
14 hearing?

15 COMMISSIONER BELL: This is the hearing.  
16 Is that correct? This is the hearing?

17 COMMISSIONER BROWN: I was under the  
18 impression that if we move to terminate, the attorney  
19 said we would have to come back for a hearing. Could  
20 we get them to clarify that?

21 MS. WHITE: Attorney Moslimani, if you  
22 could unmute your microphone, please.

23 MS. MOSLIMANI: So I read the rule that is  
24 applied to what we're talking about today just a  
25 moment ago. I would like to bring up my notes and



1 actually read that onto the record if you give me a  
2 moment.

3 MS. WHITE: Also, through the chair,  
4 honorable board, Mr. Spadafora is also on the line as  
5 well for --

6 COMMISSIONER BELL: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. MOSLIMANI: The rules for  
8 police-authorized towers states "The City may  
9 immediately terminate any towing permit with a tow  
10 company for fraud or criminal conduct by the tow  
11 company or its employees provided, however, that as  
12 soon as possible, the permit holder shall be afforded  
13 an opportunity for a hearing before the board of  
14 police commissioners or the board's designee,  
15 following which hearing the board shall either affirm  
16 or rescind the termination." So --

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: Okay.

18 MS. MOSLIMANI: Go ahead. Through the  
19 chair.

20 COMMISSIONER BELL: You are correct,  
21 Commissioner Brown.

22 And, Attorney, we will have to have a  
23 follow- -- yes, that would be proper. Thank you for  
24 clarification.

25 Thank you, Commissioner Brown, for bringing

1 it up.

2 Any other discussion? Roll call.

3 MS. WHITE: Madam Vice Chair Holt?

4 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Yes to terminate.

5 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Brown?

6 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Yes.

7 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Burch?

8 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes.

9 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Burton?

10 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Yes.

11 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Davis?

12 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

13 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Hernandez?

14 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ: Yes.

15 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Jones?

16 COMMISSIONER JONES: Yes.

17 MS. WHITE: Chairperson Bell?

18 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes.

19 MS. WHITE: The motion passed.

20 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you, Ms. White.

21 Thank you, all -- Attorney and all involved

22 parties. Thank you.

23 MS. MOSLIMANI: You're welcome.

24 MR. SCHULMAN: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER BELL: You will be notified in

1 terms of the hearing date.

2 MS. MOSLIMANI: Through the chair. May

3 I --

4 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. MOSLIMANI: And I would like to note  
6 again that I'm reading the rules as we're arguing  
7 this, but I would like to make a record that I believe  
8 that the hearing date -- the way that this is written,  
9 I do believe that this was the hearing because if we  
10 think about this, had we provided in writing that this  
11 could have been a termination or we had said we  
12 decided to do a suspension and we informed the tow  
13 company of that in writing, then I think then they  
14 would have been afforded an opportunity for a hearing.

15 But rather because the rule states "in a  
16 reasonable amount of time," I believe that this board  
17 did afford a hearing, but we afforded a hearing  
18 immediately, so we gave the tow company as well as  
19 their attorney an opportunity to speak today and speak  
20 about the best practices of their tow company and what  
21 happened with regards to their employee Mr. Moody and  
22 the criminal conduct of him. I don't believe that  
23 another hearing is required under the law, and I just  
24 want to make that record; however, I defer to the  
25 board.

1 COMMISSIONER BELL: I would hope that you  
2 make that written recommendation because it appears  
3 that we've been at this matter for a period of time,  
4 and they're well aware of what -- the process that  
5 would take place today. So if you would give us that  
6 intake on -- in written form, then we can respond  
7 appropriately.

8 So we're going to move on.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. MOSLIMANI: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER BROWN: I would support her  
12 recommendation if that's --

13 COMMISSIONER BELL: Well, she gonna follow  
14 that. Yes, sir. Thank you. Thank you.

15 Announcements? I --

16 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Mr. Chairperson?

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER BURTON: You didn't call for  
19 any more --

20 COMMISSIONER BELL: Any more unfinished  
21 business, sir?

22 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
23 I'd like to move that -- that we suspend DPD's facial  
24 recognition.

25 COMMISSIONER BELL: That ruling is out of

1 order, sir. We're going to move on.

2 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Support.

3 COMMISSIONER BELL: Our next meeting's  
4 going to be on Thursday, September the 10th, 2020.

5 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Mr. Chairman, you  
6 didn't call for any new business.

7 COMMISSIONER BELL: That will be coming up,  
8 sir. Our next community meeting will be on Thursday,  
9 October the 8th, 2020, 3:00 p.m. So the next two  
10 meetings will be Zoom meetings on September the 10th,  
11 and then after, our community meeting will be on  
12 October the 8th.

13 We are going to hear from the audience.  
14 We're going to limit them to one minute to speak. We  
15 have 20 or more callers. If they have a specific  
16 concern or a complaint or whatever, the board can take  
17 that in terms of sharing it with Ms. White, our board  
18 secretary, and she will forward it to OCI or whatever  
19 concern -- or DPD. If you have any concern or  
20 question that we can address, we would entertain that.

21 Mr. Brown -- or Ms. Blossom, I guess.

22 MS. BLOSSOM: Yes. Mr. Brown is on  
23 vacation. But, Mr. Chairman, there were 22 speakers  
24 who met the 4:00 p.m. deadline. I'm going to call  
25 each one by name, starting with Eric Blount and

1 Lieutenant Mark Young.

2 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

3 MR. BLOUNT: Can you hear me?

4 THE BOARD: Yes, sir.

5 MR. BLOUNT: Hello. Yeah. For the record,  
6 my name is Eric Blount, lifelong Detroiter.

7 Professor Hammer, as someone trained and a  
8 practitioner in economics and anti-racism, I really  
9 appreciate your dollar test. I think it's a great  
10 tool for root-cause analysis and goes to the core of  
11 many concerns that experts and commonsense citizens of  
12 Detroit have with facial recognition technology and  
13 its tremendous hyper-surveillance and funding  
14 requirements with hundreds of workers and tens of  
15 millions of dollars in IT software and infrastructure.  
16 I yield my time.

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

18 MS. BLOSSOM: Mark Young, followed by  
19 Detroit DSA, followed by Susan Steigerwalt.

20 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Mr. Chairman? I  
21 recommend that each speaker get their full two  
22 minutes.

23 COMMISSIONER BELL: Excuse me.

24 Go ahead, Ms. Blossom. Go ahead.

25 MS. BLOSSOM: Mark Young.

1           LIEUTENANT YOUNG: Can you hear me?

2           COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, sir.

3           LIEUTENANT YOUNG: First of all, I want to  
4 give my condolences to the Wayne County Sheriff's  
5 Department on the passing of Corporal Bryant Searcy.  
6 It only emphasizes the inherent dangers that all law  
7 enforcement face every day. I want to give a  
8 shout-out to the members of the Detroit Police  
9 Department who continue to do a phenomenal job under  
10 very unprecedented circumstances. There's more I  
11 would like to say, but a minute just won't do. I  
12 yield my time.

13           COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

14           MS. BLOSSOM: Detroit DSA, followed by  
15 Susan Steigerwalt, followed by No Conspiracy Theories.

16           Detroit DSA, you have the floor.

17           DETROIT DSA: Can you hear me?

18           COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am.

19           DETROIT DSA: Okay. I'm going to read a  
20 statement against police brutality that was released  
21 today. "The actions of Detroit Police on the morning  
22 of Sunday, August 23rd, were sadistic and all too  
23 familiar. Video footage clearly shows that DPD  
24 escalated a confrontation with demonstrators  
25 exercising their right to assemble. The evidence is

1 shocking, damning, and overwhelming, using the  
2 (indiscernible) of police departments always use when  
3 they have been caught abusing their power.

4 "Detroit Police shamefully spread lies to  
5 the media almost immediately following the events of  
6 Sunday morning. The department, led by Chief James  
7 Craig, has been changing their story ever since.  
8 After Sunday's display of police brutality, a DPD  
9 spokeswoman announced that protestors had thrown rocks  
10 and water bottles at police. On Monday, Chief Craig  
11 was forced to walk back that lie when a police officer  
12 was clearly shown on video striking a citizen whose  
13 hands were tied with a baton. Chief Craig provided a  
14 lie of his own by saying the officer never struck that  
15 individual. When legal observers were assaulted and  
16 pepper-sprayed early Sunday morning, Chief Craig was  
17 unapologetic and proudly boasted that his department  
18 would ignore the" --

19 (Audio dropped.)

20 MS. BLOSSOM: Detroit DSA?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll finish reading  
22 the statement. "Chief was unapologetic and proudly  
23 boasted that this department would ignore the  
24 constitutional rights of" --

25 (Audio dropped.)



1 MS. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chairman, we had a  
2 technical issue with Detroit DSA. We'll try to get  
3 that speaker back. We're going to go to Donald  
4 Hudson.

5 MR. HUDSON: Okay. Can you hear me?

6 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, sir.

7 MR. HUDSON: I would like to say good  
8 afternoon to the commissioners, in particularly to  
9 Chair Bell and my former colleague, Deputy Chief  
10 Bettison. I'm Lieutenant Donald Hudson. I'm a  
11 retired Detroit Police lieutenant. I retired in 2012  
12 after 39 years serving the police department. Eleven  
13 of the -- my last twelve years I spent with the office  
14 of civil rights, where I was a part of an independent  
15 workforce between -- inside the Detroit Police  
16 Department, who completely rewrote the Detroit Police  
17 manual to correspond to the consent decree we were  
18 under. I was shocked yesterday to see on Channel 7,  
19 where they said the board of police commissioners  
20 today was going to have a hearing concerning changes  
21 they wanted to make to the Detroit Police Department  
22 concerning use of force and firing firearms at a  
23 moving vehicle and several other -- those changes have  
24 already been made in conjunction --

25 (Microphone muted.)

1 MS. BLOSSOM: Detroit DSA, you have a  
2 minute, sir.

3 DETROIT DSA: Can you hear me?

4 MS. BLOSSOM: Yes. You have the floor.

5 DETROIT DSA: So I wanted to read the rest  
6 of the statement that was started prior. "So earlier  
7 this summer when a police SUV ran through a crowd of  
8 protestors in Detroit, Chief Craig suggested the  
9 officers did the right thing. There have been  
10 numerous incidents of (indiscernible) brutalizing our  
11 fellow protestors, and even killing our dogs. Chief  
12 Craig has also" --

13 (Unreportable speaker.)

14 MS. BLOSSOM: Susan Steigerwalt has  
15 returned to the room.

16 Ma'am, you have the floor. Ms.  
17 Steigerwalt?

18 We seem to have some connectivity issues  
19 with some of the persons for public comments. We'll  
20 go to Julie Rome-Banks, Jonathan O'Brien --

21 MS. STEIGERWALT: I'm sorry. I'm unmuted  
22 now. May I speak?

23 MS. BLOSSOM: Yes.

24 MS. STEIGERWALT: Okay. My name is Susan  
25 Steigerwalt, 68 years old. I've lived in the city

1 since 1974. I want to just highlight some of the  
2 interesting events of this meeting. Number one, Peter  
3 Hammer suggested reallocation of resources for  
4 housing, education, job disparities, and mental health  
5 services, not unlike what's being suggested with  
6 defunding the police. It's really about reallocation  
7 in order to make the city safer.

8 Number two, both guests, Dr. Hammer and  
9 Attorney Robinson, have suggested that we discontinue  
10 Project Green Light because the increased surveillance  
11 of the black community, increased institutional  
12 racism, and the facial recognition is inaccurate in  
13 black people. So both of our guests suggested we  
14 discontinue it. One more thing. The point is that,  
15 as Professor Hammer said, this group has a lot of  
16 power that hasn't been exerted in constructive ways.

17 (Microphone muted.)

18 MS. BLOSSOM: The next speaker will be  
19 David Scott, followed by Kimberly Jenson, Vance  
20 Walker, Linda Crockshot.

21 And, Mr. Chairman, they're not in the room  
22 currently. I'll call the next three speakers.

23 Adam Jay, Jen -- again, they don't appear  
24 to be in the room at this time either, Mr. Chairman.  
25 I'll go to the next speaker who is present, Tawana

1 Petty.

2 MS. PETTY: Can you hear me?

3 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. PETTY: As I go to sleep and wake up to  
5 drones outside my window every single day and every  
6 single evening and I witness ramping up of white  
7 militia violence in black communities, I can't help  
8 but pray that we are not on our way back to the race  
9 riots of 1943. I will end with this because my time  
10 has once again been limited to one minute. Facial  
11 recognition must go. Project Green Light must go.  
12 Racism and police brutality must go, and reinvestment  
13 in our neighborhoods must happen before it's too late.  
14 I witnessed 900 of the 1,500 ancestors of  
15 Belle Isle this past weekend, at least 15 of which I  
16 knew personally. May the BOPC stand on the shoulders  
17 of those ancestors who would still be here if it  
18 weren't for a government that continues to fail black  
19 bodies. I yield my time.

20 MS. BLOSSOM: The next speaker would be  
21 Jacob M. Rothchild. I don't see that speaker in the  
22 room. Larry Gunk does not appear to still be here.

23 Emma?

24 Scotty Bowman will be the next speaker.

25 Mr. Bowman?

1 MR. BOWMAN: Hello? Yeah. First of all, I  
2 once again am disgusted by Chairman Bell's total  
3 disregard for the people of the 5th District who  
4 elected Willie Burton. He says Burton's out of order  
5 when Burton tries to make a motion, and he says  
6 he's -- he's inappropriately asking a question when he  
7 asks a question. Let his constituents decide if the  
8 question is appropriate.

9 And, again, the whole facial recognition  
10 thing, which Burton was making the motion on -- which,  
11 I guess, is out of order to Bell because Bell  
12 apparently loves the facial recognition thing so  
13 much -- that -- that was -- didn't make any sense.  
14 Oh, and new business, he skipped over new business,  
15 which is on the agenda, after he said it would be,  
16 violating Robert's Rules, so this person is unfit to  
17 be chair, unfit to be a police commissioner. Finally,  
18 hey, Duane Jones is unfit to be a police officer, but  
19 he's not a corporal. He's a sergeant now.

20 MS. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chairman, your final  
21 speaker who is present, the speaker whose phone number  
22 ends in 973.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello? Can you hear  
24 me?

25 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, Chairman Bell  
2 and honorable board. I just want to say thank you to  
3 Attorney Robinson for his presentation.

4 And, Professor Hammer, thank you.

5 I worked under Professor Hammer in racial  
6 equity training with Judge Damon Keith, so I'll be  
7 calling Professor Hammer. But, also, too, that  
8 presentation did show them deliberately murder --  
9 lynch -- George Floyd. I was in Washington, D.C., and  
10 these prosecutors talked about the -- last Saturday --  
11 the playbook. In 2017, there was a chief of police, a  
12 white police officer that stopped a woman, and she  
13 said, "Please don't kill me," and he said, "We only  
14 kill black people."

15 This is a wicked system, and the Bible  
16 talks about that. It's a deliberately -- there's good  
17 police officers, just like Deputy Chief Bettison  
18 stated, white and black, but there are some -- it was  
19 a lynching, and this is -- I just did a video on it  
20 that I put across the country on Breonna Taylor --

21 (Microphone muted.)

22 MS. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chairman, that was your  
23 last speaker. Public comments are over.

24 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you, Ms. Blossom.  
25 Under new business, we have a personnel

1 matter, the suspension of an officer. The chair would  
2 entertain a motion to that effect.

3 COMMISSIONER HOLT: What's the motion? To  
4 go into a closed meeting?

5 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, ma'am.

6 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Oh, okay. I move that  
7 we go into a closed meeting to discuss the personnel  
8 matter.

9 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ: Support.

10 COMMISSIONER BELL: It's been properly  
11 moved and seconded. Discussion? Those in favor, yes.

12 THE BOARD: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER BELL: Those opposed?

14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: That was supposed to  
15 be a roll call vote.

16 COMMISSIONER BELL: We'll go into closed  
17 session.

18 Ms. White?

19 MS. WHITE: Madam Vice Chairperson Holt?

20 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Yes.

21 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Brown?

22 Commissioner Brown? I can come back.

23 Commissioner Burch?

24 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes.

25 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Burton?

1 Commissioner Burton? I'll come back.

2 Commissioner Davis?

3 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

4 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Hernandez?

5 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ: Yes.

6 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Holley?

7 Commissioner Holley?

8 Commissioner Jones?

9 COMMISSIONER JONES: Yes.

10 MS. WHITE: Chairperson Bell?

11 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes.

12 MS. WHITE: Just to make sure, Commissioner

13 Brown?

14 I believe his microphone is -- is --

15 Your microphone, Commissioner Brown.

16 Commissioner Burton?

17 Okay. The motion passed.

18 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you, Ms. White.

19 Would you explain the process?

20 MS. WHITE: Yes. Yes, sir.

21 Honorable board, you should have received

22 the e-mail correspondence that gives the link for the

23 closed session so we can log out of this meeting and

24 then log into the other meeting platform, which I just

25 sent by e-mail. And cohost will stay in this meeting



1 to keep this platform open for the public attendees to  
2 stay until you return.

3 COMMISSIONER BELL: If we have any issue,  
4 what should we do?

5 MS. WHITE: Please contact me by phone,  
6 text, e-mail. But you should have no issues.

7 COMMISSIONER BELL: Thank you.

8 MS. WHITE: Thank you.

9 MS. WHITE: Ms. Blossom, I am designating  
10 now.

11 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ: Ms. White, I may  
12 have missed the communication. I'm trying to refresh  
13 but don't seem to have the additional -- could you  
14 please resend?

15 MS. WHITE: Okay. I'll resend it. Thank  
16 you.

17 (The commissioners enter a closed session  
18 at 6:04 p.m.)

19 (The commissioners reconvene at 6:22 p.m.)

20 COMMISSIONER HOLT: I can make a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER BELL: To reconvene.

22 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Okay. I make a motion  
23 that we reconvene.

24 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Second.

25 COMMISSIONER BELL: It's been properly

1 moved and seconded that we reconvene our public  
2 meeting. Discussion? Those in favor, yes.

3 THE BOARD: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER BELL: Those opposed? Motion  
5 carried.

6 The chair would entertain a motion to the  
7 matter.

8 COMMISSIONER HOLT: I move that we accept  
9 Chief Craig's recommendation that Police Officer  
10 Daniel Waldrep be carried into administrative leave  
11 without pay but with medical benefit status, effective  
12 on the date of occurrence by the board of police  
13 commissioners.

14 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER BELL: It's been properly  
16 moved and seconded. Discussion?

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: Roll call.

18 COMMISSIONER BURCH: I'll wait till after.

19 COMMISSIONER BELL: Okay. Roll call.

20 MS. WHITE: Vice Chair Holt?

21 COMMISSIONER HOLT: Yes.

22 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Brown?

23 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Yes.

24 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Burch?

25 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes.

1 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Burton?

2 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Yes.

3 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Davis?

4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

5 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Hernandez?

6 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ: Yes.

7 MS. WHITE: Commissioner Holley?

8 Commissioner Jones?

9 Chairperson Bell?

10 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes.

11 MS. WHITE: The motion passed.

12 COMMISSIONER BELL: How many commissioners,  
13 ma'am?

14 MS. WHITE: Seven.

15 COMMISSIONER BELL: Okay. The motion's  
16 passed. Any other business before this body should  
17 entertain a motion for adjournment?

18 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Mr. Chairman, you  
19 should call for any more new business.

20 COMMISSIONER BELL: Commissioner Burch?

21 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes, sir. I just  
22 wanted to ask you would you please revise the letter  
23 to AC White and add all of the commissioners' names  
24 with your comments in the letter? Could you do that,  
25 please?

1 COMMISSIONER BELL: Commissioner Burch,  
2 that's inappropriate. I will talk to you later on  
3 that.

4 Commissioner Burton?

5 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Mr. Chairman, I move  
6 that -- after -- I mean, after looking at everything  
7 that's been going on across this country about use of  
8 force, I move that we prohibit DPD from participating  
9 in the 1033 Program with the Department of Defense.

10 COMMISSIONER BELL: The chair rule that's  
11 out of order. The chair would entertain a motion for  
12 adjournment.

13 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Point of order,  
14 Mr. Chairman. That motion was properly seconded and  
15 supported by Commissioner Davis and properly supported  
16 again today.

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: It's out of order, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Point of order,  
19 Mr. Chairman.

20 COMMISSIONER BELL: I'm not gonna --

21 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Mr. Chairman --

22 COMMISSIONER BURTON: This is a form of  
23 harassment, Mr. Chairman.

24 COMMISSIONER BELL: Motion for adjournment,  
25 please.

1 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Mr. Chairman?

2 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, sir.

3 COMMISSIONER BROWN: So in light of the  
4 information we received with the commentary from  
5 Dr. Hammer and Attorney Robinson, I think they're  
6 right on point with the things they're saying and how  
7 the departments must change, and we've been going back  
8 and forth over these issues with facial recognition  
9 and Green Light. So I want to make a motion. I'm  
10 gonna move that we suspend the use of facial  
11 recognition for the remainder of the year and that we  
12 come back and reevaluate it.

13 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Second.

14 COMMISSIONER BELL: The chair's ruling  
15 that's out of order. We --

16 COMMISSIONER BROWN: That motion is not out  
17 of order, Mr. Chairman.

18 COMMISSIONER BELL: We do not have the  
19 authority to do that, sir.

20 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Yes. Yes, we do.  
21 Well, let's talk about it in a discussion, Mr. Chair.  
22 Let's just move forward, and we'll have a discussion  
23 about it instead of going back and forth with it.

24 COMMISSIONER BELL: There's no discussion.  
25 The chair --

1 COMMISSIONER BROWN: But we do have the  
2 authority --

3 (Simultaneous speakers.)

4 What do we have the authority to do? You  
5 don't get to rule on a motion that people put on the  
6 floor, Mr. Chairman. Let me remind you --

7 COMMISSIONER BELL: The chair has the  
8 authority, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER BROWN: No, you do not.  
10 You're in violation of parliamentary procedures. Your  
11 actions are very unethical, and you're just really  
12 abusing your authority, or whatever authority you  
13 think you have, but you don't have that authority over  
14 us. When a motion's been properly moved and seconded,  
15 you need to move forward with it. We need to have a  
16 discussion about it and vote it up or down.

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: There's no vote, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER BROWN: That's the proper  
19 thing to do. It's been moved and seconded. It has  
20 been moved and seconded, Mr. Chair. Are you saying  
21 that you are not going to allow this motion to go  
22 through, you're going to violate the parliamentary  
23 procedure and Robert's Rules of Order and the bylaws  
24 of our organization? That's what you're doing?

25 COMMISSIONER BELL: Yes, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER BROWN: That's all we needed.

2 Well, I have another motion.

3 COMMISSIONER BELL: Ms. White, do we still  
4 have a quorum?

5 MS. WHITE: I am checking right now, sir,  
6 and I do not see a quorum at this time, sir.

7 COMMISSIONER BELL: So we stand adjourned.  
8 We do not have a quorum.

9 COMMISSIONER BROWN: We can't adjourn if we  
10 don't have a quorum.

11 COMMISSIONER BELL: So we don't have a  
12 quorum. We can't conduct any business without a  
13 quorum.

14 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Point of order,  
15 Mr. Chairman Bell. This is nothing but another way of  
16 abuse of power by you, Chairman Bell. People of  
17 Detroit that attend these meetings are very outraged  
18 and disturbed, and I am very displeased in the way  
19 that you are -- your behavior as chair.

20 COMMISSIONER BROWN: And I echo those  
21 sentiments.

22 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Next week,  
23 Mr. Chairman, I will be putting a motion out there to  
24 get you removed as chair.

25 (Commissioner Bell leaves the meeting.)

1 MS. WHITE: Thank you, honorable board. I  
2 think the meeting has been adjourned, and Chairperson  
3 Bell is no longer on the call. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

5 (The meeting was concluded at 6:28 p.m.)  
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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY

2 STATE OF MICHIGAN )

3 ) SS

4 COUNTY OF OAKLAND )

5

6 I, Susanne Ellen Gorman, a Notary Public in  
7 and for the above county and state, do hereby certify  
8 that the above meeting was taken before me via  
9 videoconferencing equipment; that this is a true,  
10 full, and correct transcript of my stenographic notes  
11 so taken to the best of my ability; and that I am not  
12 related to, nor of counsel to either party, nor  
13 interested in the event of this cause.

14

15

16



17

Susanne Ellen Gorman, CSR-9271, RPR

18

Notary Public,

19

Oakland County, Michigan.

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22

23

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25 My commission expires: September 14, 2023

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**\$**

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**\$5,000** 6:21

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