

CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

Memorandum

TO: After Action File
FROM: Lieutenant James Laughter
DATE: December 17, 2020
RE: After Action Report / June 1, 2020 Incident

Date of Operation	June 1, 2020
Time Period	1300-1900 Hours
Location of Event	Civic Park; 1301 N. Civic Drive, Walnut Creek
Name of Event	George Floyd Solidarity Demonstration
Name of Operation	N/A
WCPD Incident Number	20-14609
WCPD Supplemental Report Number(s)	20-14650, 20-14652
CCCSO MAMFF Report Number(s)	Contra Costa County SO 20-5563, 20-5565, 20-5567, 20-5570, 20-5588 San Ramon PD 20-01136, Richmond PD 20-5522
Incident Commander	A/Lt. Hibbs

Background Information

In the wake of the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer, large-scale protests decrying police brutality and demands for police reforms were seen throughout the nation. Although most demonstrations were peaceful, some included assaults on police officers, burning of police department buildings, looting, fires, and other criminal activity.

On May 31, 2020, Walnut Creek experienced a major incident where 39 businesses were vandalized/looted. The seven hours of civil unrest resulted in the arrest of four subjects and the implementation of an emergency curfew for the City of Walnut Creek. Social media posts called for further civil unrest in Walnut Creek on June 1st and looting. We attempted to identify/locate event organizers/leaders to learn more about the protest and route but we were unsuccessful. We are unaware of anyone from the event who directly contacted us or the City regarding a permit or to share information.

Objectives

- Protect life
- Uphold constitutional rights of free speech and assembly
- Protect property
- Maintain public peace and order
- Protect vital facilities

Operations

A WCPD Lieutenant served as the Incident Commander and the department's Emergency Operations Center was activated. The demonstration occurred in Civic Park with a peaceful march that occurred around downtown Walnut Creek. At the end of the march route, a group of demonstrators broke away and marched to I-680 from Lawrence Way and interrupted freeway traffic.

Summary of Event(s)

*****This after action report is a summary of events that occurred on June 1, 2020. The below events were detailed from police reports, body worn camera footage, aerial footage, surveillance footage, audio recordings and dispatch notes. All event times referencing the use of tear gas/ 40 MM sponge rounds are approximate. *****

On May 30th, Walnut Creek began "trending" on Twitter with multiple social media posts suggesting planned looting of downtown businesses on June 1st. A majority of the social media posts advertised an event called the "George Floyd Solidarity Demonstration," which was scheduled to be held at Civic Park on June 1st at 1500 hours. This event was advertised as "Peaceful" and included specific language that said "Do Not Come to Loot." Several other social media accounts called for violence within Walnut Creek during the June 1st demonstration.

On May 31st, the Walnut Creek Police Department Command Staff held an emergency Zoom meeting to discuss the "George Floyd Solidarity Demonstration" and to begin the operational planning stage. By 1300 hours, Command Staff reported to the police department and closely monitored social media. By this time, enough information had been received through various channels to believe the planned protest scheduled for June 1st may bring a significant crowd and looting.

Walnut Creek Police Command Staff, during the operational planning stage, ordered all WCPD police officers to report for duty on June 1st. This "all hands on deck" included WCPD reserve police officers and various professional staff members. A formal request for mutual aid was made through the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office for the County's Mutual Aid Mobile Field Force team (MAMFF). In addition to requesting MAMFF, WCPD requested police officers from neighboring jurisdictions, the Central County SWAT team, and the CCCSO Drone team.

On May 31st, Walnut Creek experienced a significant threat to public safety within and around its downtown business district. This incident resulted in the firearm shooting of a demonstrator, looting of 39 businesses, vandalism of property, and approximately 7 hours of riotous civil unrest. Based on the May 31st looting incident and social media posts calling for further civil unrest in Walnut Creek, the operational plan was developed with an emphasis on "high police visibility" during the June 1st demonstration.

In anticipation of protestors taking to the streets, a plan was developed to close a large area of downtown to vehicular traffic. The closed area was identified as California Boulevard to the west, Ygnacio Valley Road to the north, Broadway to the east and Newell Avenue to the south. Many businesses also closed and boarded up their windows in anticipation of widespread looting and vandalism. The intersections on the outside of this border would be blocked by either barricades, police officer(s), police vehicles or a combination thereof.

Caltrans was contacted and requested to place signage on major freeways to alert drivers that there would be no through traffic into Downtown Walnut Creek. For additional security purposes, barricades were to be placed around the Police Department/ City Hall and the Walnut Creek Library (library was the staging area for all the law enforcement mutual aid responders).

In all, 225 police officers were on-hand for the June 1st demonstration. The operational plan identified the following teams and their mission:

- **Dayshift Patrol Team:** Handle calls for service outside the demonstration area.
- **Nightshift Patrol Team:** Handle calls for service outside the demonstration area.
- **Ready React Squad 1:** Police Department/ City Hall security
- **Ready React Squad 2:** Main Street/ Mt. Diablo Boulevard security- address possible civil unrest issues.
- **Ready React Squad 3:** Broadway Plaza security- address possible civil unrest issues.
- **MAMFF:** Assist w/ Police Department/ City Hall security and civil unrest issues within the downtown corridor.
- **Central County SWAT & Pittsburg PD SWAT:** Mobile team to assist with emergency incidents and to protect City Hall.
- **Arrest Processing Area:** In-custody processing area at the Walnut Creek Corporation Yard.
- **Traffic Control/ Road Closures:** Assist with traffic control and road closures within the downtown corridor.
- **Emergency Operations Center:** Command Post.
- **Drone Team:** Aerial footage.

For this demonstration, the mission of the Walnut Creek Police Department, with the assistance of other outside law enforcement agencies, was to be a highly visible presence, conduct crowd control management and apply the appropriate level of direction and control to:

1. Protect life
2. Uphold constitutional rights of free speech and assembly
3. Protect property
4. Maintain public peace and order
5. Protect vital facilities

On June 1st at 1300 hours, an operational briefing was held at the Library. This briefing included all sworn personnel assigned to the event and included a detailed overview of assignments, mission, and objectives. Briefing lasted for approximately 45 minutes and at its conclusion, all officers reported to their assigned areas. Secondary briefings were held by MAMFF, SWAT and ready react squads.

Protest Timeline (1300 hours to 1625 hours)

The scheduled demonstration was advertised to begin at 1500 hours, but small groups of protestors arrived early to Civic Park. Between 1300-1625 hours, a steady stream of protestors arrived to Civic Park with an estimated attendance of 3,000+ protestors.

At 1345 hours, a group of 200 protestors marched from Civic Park, south on N. Broadway toward the Library. The protestors were on the street and peacefully marched the following route:

N. Broadway, Mount Diablo Boulevard, Mount Pisgah, Lincoln Avenue, Carmel Drive, pedestrian bridge and back into Civic Park. No incidents occurred during this march.

At 1425 hours, another group of protestors left Civic Park toward Ygnacio Valley Road. The protestors were on the street and peacefully marched the following route: N. Civic Drive, Ygnacio Valley Road, N. Main Street, N. Civic Drive and back into Civic Park. No incidents occurred during this march.

Between 1445 hours and 1625 hours, a large portion of the protestors remained inside Civic Park and from all accounts held a peaceful rally with a variety of speakers.

Protest March through Downtown Walnut Creek (1625 hours to 1715 hours)

WCPD learned leaflets were being passed out to the crowd stating if you do not want a police confrontation you should march to the pedestrian bridge on Ygnacio Valley Road. All others march on Civic to Ygnacio Valley Road. This was significant to the mood and expressed intent of the crowd. This points to very real additional public and officer safety concerns. At 1625 hours, the large group of protestors within Civic Park split into two separate groups. The first group, estimated to have approximately several hundred protestors, walked from Civic Park, over the pedestrian bridge and onto Ygnacio Valley Road. The second group, estimated to have approximately 2,000 protestors, left Civic Park and walked to the location of the first group by taking over the roadway of N. Civic Drive.

Both groups merged into one large group at Ygnacio Valley Road/N. Civic Drive and marched west on Ygnacio Valley Road toward N. California Boulevard. The group then marched south on N. California Boulevard toward downtown Walnut Creek ([Link to video](#)). The group turned east onto Botelho Drive and then north on S. Main Street. Once in the downtown district, this group began to splinter into several smaller groups and continued marching north on Main Street at various speeds. Many of these smaller groups left the area and one group of approximately 200 protestors remained downtown (refer to Protest March Downton Incident below).

The main portion of this group, which numbered in the low thousands, continued their demonstration north on N. Main Street and stopped at the intersection of N. Civic Drive. Many of the protestors took a knee during a brief pause and then continued north on N. Main Street toward I-680. There were no incidents during this portion of the demonstration.

Protest March I-680 Incident (1726 hours to 1900 hours)

At 1726 hours, WCPD notified the California Highway Patrol that a large crowd of protestors were marching north on N. Main Street and possibly heading toward I-680 on Lawrence Way ([Link to video](#)).

At 1734 hours, WCPD received reports that the crowd was attempting to push past two CHP officers who were blocking the onramp to northbound I-680 from Lawrence Way ([Link to video](#)). Within minutes, CHP requested “code-3 cover” (emergency assistance) and reported their officers were surrounded ([Link to audio](#)). CHP officers, who feared for their own safety, retreated to their marked police vehicles. As the CHP officers were attempting to drive away, several protestors began vandalizing the exterior of the CHP vehicles with hard objects. In addition, there were reports of protestors jumping the center median and entering traffic in the southbound lanes (officers also observed protestors jumping on vehicles). This posed a significant hazard to public safety. Protestors were in danger of being struck by freeway traffic; they also posed a real risk of causing collisions.

Further, blocking freeway traffic prevents emergency vehicle responses by police, fire and medical teams.

In the WCPD command post, live streaming of the event on social media was being broadcast and a physical confrontation could be seen between CHP officers and protestors. Reports of wrong way drivers, vandalisms to vehicles and an assault were observed by on-scene officers. Pursuant to the operations plan, WCPD dispatched reaction teams to assist, which included the Central County SWAT team, Pittsburg Police Department SWAT team and a squad of MAMFF officers. The mission of these teams were to assist the public or officers in emergency situations.

At 1740 hours, several officers assigned to the Central County SWAT team arrived onto I-680 to assist on-scene CHP officers. Officers observed a large crowd of protestors blocking all northbound lanes. On-scene officers formed a skirmish line and gave several dispersal order announcements, which were ignored by the protestors. In an attempt to move the protestors off the freeway (for their safety, the safety of the trapped motorists, emergency vehicle response to other jurisdictions and any medical conditions a motorist may have and was seeking treatment), three 40 MM sponge rounds were deployed at the asphalt in front of the protestors. Since the protestors ignored the legal orders to disperse and the 40 MM sponge rounds deployed at the asphalt had no effect on the crowd, three tear gas canisters were deployed toward the crowd. This had a moderate effect and many of the protestors returned to the on-ramp or walked south on I-680 toward Ygnacio Valley Road ([Link to video](#)).

One protestor, described as a black male adult, in his 20's, wearing a white t-shirt, and light jeans picked up one of the gas canisters and threw it back toward the skirmish line of officers. This constituted an assault on an officer. An officer observed this and deployed one 40 MM sponge round at the suspect to thwart any further assaults or obstructions to the officer's efforts to safely disperse the crowd from the freeway. This less lethal round struck the suspect in his abdomen and he returned into the crowd of protestors (there is no video of this event and these details were obtained from police reports). The suspect was not identified and his injuries, if any, are unknown.

When the second group of Central County SWAT team members in their marked armored rescue vehicle (Bearcat) responded "code 3" to the freeway to assist on-scene CHP officers they were blocked by protestors. These officers were unable to enter the freeway from the on-ramp due to protestors actively blocking them in the roadway. The officers gave several dispersal orders, which were ignored by many of the protestors ([Link to video](#)). Consequently, in order to complete their rescue mission, Officers deployed one canister of tear gas and one 40 MM sponge round (this projectile was not shot at the protestors, but at the pavement near them). The tear gas had the desired effect and the protestors moved away from the armored rescue vehicle (no injuries were reported from this incident) ([Link to video](#)). No other force was utilized in this immediate interaction.

During the above detailed incident involving the Central County SWAT team, lawful dispersal orders were given by the officers. It was later learned these orders were misrepresented by protestors and media outlets. The Central County SWAT team member, using the armored rescue vehicle PA system, clearly addressed the protestors blocking their forward movement by announcing "if you do not move, you will be gassed." However, this dispersal order was misinterpreted as "if you do not move, you will be dead." Body worn camera footage from within the armored rescue vehicle clearly shows that a lawful dispersal order was given ([Link to video](#)).

At 1748 hours, WCPD officers and Pittsburg PD SWAT officers arrived to the freeway to assist on-scene units. Officers formed a skirmish line within the northbound lanes of I-680. The protestors, estimated to be around 100 subjects, were blocking all the northbound lanes of the freeway and

refusing to leave the area. Many of the protestors had their hands up while chanting “hands up don’t shoot.” Officers, using a PA system, gave repeated dispersal orders and advised the protestors that leave the freeway, they would be arrested and/or tear gas may be used ([Link to video](#)).

Due to safety concerns for the protestors, bystanders within their vehicles and on-scene police officers, the crowd of protestors needed to be moved off the freeway. At 1750 hours, two noise flash diversionary devices, which illuminates a brilliant light and loud audible sound, and two tear gas canisters were deployed toward the front/sides of the crowd ([Link to video](#)). Officers then deployed five 40 MM sponge rounds at the pavement in front of the protestors (there is no video of this event and these details were obtained from police reports). This had minimal effect in dispersing the crowd from the freeway back onto the on-ramp toward Lawrence Way or pushed some of the protestors to walk south on I-680 toward Ygnacio Valley Road ([Link to video](#)).

The officers slowly advanced on the protestors to move them off the freeway and from the on-ramp of I-680 (Lawrence Way). As the officers slowly advanced, a large group of protestors refused to comply as they stood on the on-ramp (which is elevated from the freeway lanes). An officer gave multiple commands to this group to leave the area, but they refused to comply. In order to gain compliance, this officer then deployed three 40 MM sponge rounds at the elevated ground near this group, which caused them to walk south on the on-ramp toward Lawrence Way (there is no video of this event and these details were obtained from police reports).

One subject, described as a white male adult, white t-shirt, red backpack and carrying a sign, refused to leave the freeway as others around him were walking away toward the on-ramp. In order to disperse this subject and use the most expeditious force option one 40 MM sponge round was deployed and struck this subject’s left hip area. This subject started walking away, but immediately turned around and walked toward the skirmish line of officers. A second 40 MM sponge round was deployed at this subject, but the round missed him. The 40 MM sponge round struck the front driver side window of a black Mercedes ML320 and shattered the window. There were two occupants in the vehicle, but no injuries were reported. The identity of the white male adult protestor and his injuries, if any, are unknown (these details were obtained from police reports).

One protestor, a white male adult, who was standing on the on-ramp of Lawrence Way and wearing a blue t-shirt, black pants, dark baseball style hat, blue backpack with yellow caution tape around his shoulders, refused to comply with police orders after several commands were given. He was struck with a 40 MM sponge round. He was limping and directed by a police officer to an ambulance approximately 50 yards south of his location. The identity of this protestor and his injuries are unknown (there is no video of this event and these details were obtained from police reports).

Another protestor, white male adult, blue t-shirt, grey pants, white surgical mask and a blue baseball cap, refused to comply with police commands and was standing on the on-ramp in a fighting stance. This subject was given several more orders to leave the area, but refused to comply. A 40 MM standard sponge round was deployed and struck this subject in the lower abdomen. This subject fled the area and his identity/injuries are unknown (there is no video of this event and these details were obtained from police reports).

At 1753 hours, approximately 75-100 protestors stood on the on-ramp of I-680 from Lawrence Way with their hands up and chanting “hands up don’t shoot.” Officers formed a skirmish line on the on-ramp so the protestors could not re-enter the northbound lanes of I-680. The protestors refused to leave the on-ramp and were given dispersal orders to walk south on Lawrence Way. When they refused, two tear gas canisters were used and had a moderate effect in moving the crowd south on the

on-ramp ([Link to video](#)). No injuries were reported during the use of this tear gas. However, one subject, described as a white male adult, black hat, ski goggles, black shirt and tan shorts picked up one of the tear gas canisters that had just been deployed. As this protestor was about to throw the tear gas canister at the skirmish line of officers, he was struck with a 40 MM sponge round to his lower abdomen. This subject dropped the tear gas canister and fled the area (there is no video of this event and these details were obtained from police reports). The identity of this protestor and his injuries, if any, are unknown.

As the skirmish line of officers was slowly pushing the crowd of protestors south on the on-ramp of Lawrence Way toward Penniman Way, in an effort to clear and open the freeway, a group of 7-10 protestors stood their ground and refused to comply with police commands. One subject, described as a white male adult, white t-shirt and light colored jeans, had his fists clenched and was walking toward the skirmish line of officers. As this protestor was within arm's length of an officer, he was pushed away with the side of a 40 MM launcher. This protestor stumbled backwards and refused to comply with police commands. This protestor, with both of his hands, grabbed an officer's 40 MM Launcher in an attempt to gain control of the device. The officer holding the 40 MM launcher was able to free the protestor's grip and used the front of the 40 MM launcher to push the subject away. The front of the 40 MM launcher came into contact with the protestor's chest and he immediately fled the area (there is no video of this event and these details were obtained from police reports). The identity of this protestor and his injuries, if any, are unknown.

At 1800 hours, approximately 50 protestors still remained in the area and were standing within the intersection of Lawrence Way and Penniman Way. Some of the protestors were on their knees with their hands up. On-scene officers, using a PA system, repeatedly told the protestors that the emergency Walnut Creek curfew was in effect and they were all subject to arrest. The protestors were told that tear gas would be deployed if they did not leave the area.

At 1810 hours, a group of approximately 20 protestors remained within or near the intersection of Lawrence Way and Penniman Way. This intersection needed to be cleared of protestors refusing to comply with the emergency curfew and blocking the roadways. Many vehicles that were blocked from traveling on the one-way road began driving the wrong way to exit the area. One female adult protestor, who was kneeling alone within the intersection, refused to leave the area with the remaining group of protestors standing 15-20 feet behind her. Based on the emergency curfew, repeated dispersal announcements being ignored, and vehicles unsafely traveling the wrong way on Lawrence Way, resources were deployed. Two canisters of tear gas and one noise flash diversionary device was deployed between this female protestor and the group of protestors, which caused her to walk away and the group behind her began to leave the area ([Link to video](#)). This female protestor was arrested without incident for violation of the emergency curfew.

One subject within this group picked up one of the tear gas canisters and threw it back at the officers (almost striking them). ([Link to video 1](#)) ([Link to video 2](#)) This subject was immediately struck with a 40 MM sponge round and attempted to flee the area (two other officers observed this subject's actions and deployed two other 40 MM OC rounds at him). Officers caught up to this subject and attempted to place him under arrest, but were met with resistance from him and other protestors ([Link to video](#)).

Based on this subject's resistive behavior, the unruly crowd around the officers, and the subject not complying with verbal commands, two baton jabs were delivered to his lower back. This did not have an effect on the subject as he continued to resist and the use of a police K-9 was used to subdue

him. The K9 deployment had the desired effect and the subject was quickly taken into custody without further resistance. The suspect received medical attention and was later booked into County Jail for assault with a deadly weapon, resisting a police officer and curfew violation (there is no video of this event and these details were obtained from police reports).

As the above subject was being taken into custody, officers attempted to arrest two other subjects failing to comply with commands and the emergency curfew, which was in effect at 1800 hours. A female protestor was taken into custody without incident, and a male protestor, who began to walk toward the officers arresting the female subject was contacted ([Link to video](#)). The male protestor, who refused to comply with police commands, was taken to the ground and placed both of his hands to the front of his waistband. He refused to comply with police commands to give up his hands. An officer struck the lower left portion of this subject's abdomen with his baton and compliance was immediately gained ([Link to video](#)). The male subject was then taken into custody without further.

A female protestor contacted the City of Walnut Creek several days after this event and filed an injury complaint. Per the complaint, she claims to have been struck with a rubber bullet to the left side of her forehead. A review of all body worn camera and aerial footage shows this female protestor, who has dark hair with purple hair dye, black shirt, dark vest, purple facemask and carrying a green back pack, standing near a fence line and/or being carried away by a male protestor while on Lawrence Way north of Penniman Way (at approximately 1813 hours) ([Link to video](#)). Her face is visible in one of the videos, which shows a bloody white bandage on her forehead ([Link to video](#)). The male protestor is carrying this female south on Lawrence Way toward Parkside Drive as officers walked behind them. We are not aware of any video footage that shows this female protestor being injured. There are also no reports documenting this injury and at this time it remains unknown how this injury occurred.

N. Broadway & N. Civic Incident (1800 hours to 1900 hours)

In the area of Civic Park and City Hall, approximately 200 protestors remained in the area. A majority of the protestors were on N. Broadway directly in front of City Hall. MAMFF's skirmish line extended across N. Broadway and a portion of Civic Park.

At 1812 hours, a dispersal and curfew announcement was given to the protestors. At 1821 hours, a second dispersal and curfew announcement was given to the crowd, which was ignored ([Link to video](#)). The skirmish line slowly began to walk north on N. Broadway to push the large group toward N. Civic Drive. One protestor, a female, was taken into custody without incident for failing to leave the area and arrested for a curfew violation ([Link to video](#)). A second protestor, a male, was taken into custody without incident for failing to leave the area and arrested for a curfew violation.

The skirmish line stopped its forward movement at the intersection of N. Broadway and N. Civic Drive with approximately 50 protestors remaining within or around the intersection. At 1825 hours, protestors within the crowd began to throw rocks, bottles and homemade smoke devices at the officers ([Link to video](#)).

At 1830 hours, MAMFF used three canisters of tear gas and fired two 40 MM sponge rounds toward the group of protestors who were threatening the safety of on-scene police officers (objects being thrown at the police skirmish line). One protestor covered two of the active tear gas canisters with hazard cones causing them to catch on fire ([Link to video](#)). One police officer, who was not wearing his/her gas mask properly, received a minor injury from the tear gas exposure and was treated on-scene by medical personnel. Two protestors, one male and one female, were immediately taken into

custody without incident and arrested for violation of the emergency curfew order.

One subject, a white male adult wearing a red shirt, green shorts, and white shoes, was observed throwing rocks toward the skirmish line of officers. One 40 MM sponge round struck this subject, who then ran away from the area ([Link to video](#)). His identity and/or any injuries to his person are unknown. Two more protestors were taken into custody without incident for violation of the emergency curfew ([Link to video](#)).

At 1834 hours, MAMFF began to walk slowly north toward the remaining group of subjects who were refusing to leave the area. In an effort to disperse the unlawful assembly and prevent further assaults on officers, public endangerment and vandalisms, three 40 MM sponge rounds were deployed at the asphalt near these protestors and one noise flash diversionary device was used to move them further north on N. Broadway (none of these projectiles struck any of the protestors). Two tear gas canisters were deployed toward the remaining protestors, which helped move them out of the area ([Link to video](#)). By 1845 hours, a majority of the protestors had left the area and the skirmish line returned to its original location near City Hall.

By 1900 hours, the City public safety was restored and all personnel returned to City Hall and released from duty. All roadway closures were cleared and traffic signal lights were returned to original form.

USE of FORCE BREAKDOWN

Tear Gas: 15 canisters deployed

40 MM Sponge Round: 27 rounds (15 rounds were deployed as distractions & 12 rounds were deployed at protestors)

K-9 Bite: 2 bites (1 incident)

Baton: 1 baton strike and 2 baton jabs (2 incidents)

40 MM Launcher: 2 applications of force by using the launcher to push or jab a protestor (1 incident)

Total: 49 less lethal applications during the June 1st demonstration

Planning

The Walnut Creek Police Department's command staff worked together to complete the plan of action for this event. A WCPD Lieutenant completed the Operational Order and briefed all assigned personnel.

Logistics

All WCPD officers and mutual aid police officers were assigned crowd control equipment. Tear gas, flash bang diversionary device, baton and 40 MM munitions were utilized by trained officers. The Central County SWAT team utilized their armored rescue vehicle (Bearcat) during this event.

Finance

Overtime for WCPD personnel was required for this incident in the amount of \$37,203.32. Off-duty WCPD police officers and professional staff were called in to assist and an overtime budget code was created to track overtime expenditures. Overtime costs from outside law enforcement agencies is not included.

Intelligence

WCPD's Criminal Analyst, police detectives and assigned Terrorism Liaison Officers monitored intelligence and disseminated the information accordingly. All information obtained from this event was collected through various social media platforms.

Attachment(s)

- Social media intelligence
- Police reports
- Dispatch data
- Body worn camera footage
- City Council staff report
- Audio recordings
- Aerial footage
- Surveillance footage

Liaison

A WCPD Lieutenant was assigned as the mutual aid liaison. A mutual aid request was made to the Contra Costa County Mutual Aid Mobile Field Force (MAMFF), the Central County SWAT Team and neighboring law enforcement jurisdictions.

Public Information Officer

A WCPD Lieutenant was assigned as the Public Information Officer. This Lieutenant provided periodic updates via Nextdoor and Facebook. Media presence on-scene was minimal and interviews with media outlets were completed in the days after this incident occurred.

Staging Area

A WCPD Sergeant was assigned to operate the staging area. A staging and arrest processing area was established at the Walnut Creek Public Works Corporation Yard.

Use of Force
Force used was tear gas, baton strikes, 40 MM sponge rounds, and a police K-9.

Arrests
Seven arrests were made during this event for various violations (assault with a deadly weapon, resisting arrest, and curfew).

Statistical Data

Nomenclature	Number
Number of WCPD Personnel Assigned to Event	80 (police officers, reserve officers & dispatchers)
Number of Outside Agency Personnel Assigned to Event	145 police officers
Number of Subjects, Participants or Protesters at Event	Approximately 3,000+
Complaints	Refer to City Attorney
Total Uses of Force	49 less lethal applications
Overtime Expenditures	\$37,203.32
Arrests Adult	7
Arrests Juvenile	1
Citations (moving, ped & registration)	0
Firearms Recovered	0
Vehicles Towed	0
Vehicle Pursuits	0
Police Vehicles/Property Damaged	0
Reported Civilian Property Damage	1
Officers Injured	1
Subject Injuries	2
Uninvolved Party Injuries	0

What Went Well
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual aid request - A request was made through the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office and sufficient personnel were on-scene and readily available. • Communication - Radio communication amongst the various police teams during this event worked efficiently most of the time, with only minor shortfalls. • Use of Drones - Aerial footage of this event tremendously assisted on-scene officers with rapid updates and real-time information. • Road Closures - Roadways surrounding downtown were closed prior to the event and allowed protestors to march in relative safety. • Mission & Objectives - Adherence to the mission and objectives by all assigned personnel.

Lessons Learned

- After a detailed review by the Chiefs of the Central Contra Costa County Regional SWAT Team, the decision was made to no longer bring police K-9's to protests and/or demonstrations to be sensitive to community concerns.
- An internal decision was made to require the direct approval from a Captain or Chief for the use of tear gas.
- SWAT operators should generally not be used for crowd control and should be staged out of sight to be called in for active shooter, officer rescue and other events where special weapons and tactics are needed. The armored rescue vehicle should also be out of sight and only used in emergency situations.
- All mutual aid agencies need to be on the same radio channel with venue agency
- Pair Reserve Officers with Regular Officers.
- We should always attempt to make contact with organizers to facilitate cooperation and ensure the safety of all involved whenever possible.
- Social Media should be used to give regular updates to the general public more frequently
- Consider using motorcycle officers to close down streets to prevent pedestrian/vehicle conflicts
- Ensure all Body Worn Cameras are on during the entire event

Training Needs

- Crowd Control Training – Officers benefit from increased training on crowd control. Training was conducted in July 2020.
- Crisis Intervention/ De-Escalation Training - WCPD continues to provide its personnel with CIT & De-Escalation training.

James Laughter

Lieutenant

Operations Bureau Watch Commander