

SUBJECT: City Council

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta City Councilman Kwanza Hall Introduces Justice Reform Package

By: Terry Shropshire

ATLANTA — Atlanta City Councilman Kwanza Hall introduced a legislative package aimed at defusing tension and building trust between communities and law enforcement. Under Mayor Kasim Reed's leadership the Atlanta Police Department (APD) has made progress implementing recommendations put forward by President Obama's 21st Century Policing Task Force.

However, communities who have been protesting since recent events in St. Paul, Dallas and Baton Rouge presented a list of reforms they would like to see in the City of Atlanta at a meeting with City officials this morning.

The legislative package is comprised of three pieces:

- A Resolution creating a City of Atlanta Task Force to further implement recommendations in the 21st Century Policing Task Force. The Task Force will be comprised of 17 representatives from the City and law enforcement bodies as well as community groups who focus on civil justice.
- An Police Transparency Ordinance that will affirm APD's commitment to release video within 48-72 hours from serious incidents and create and maintain a web-based searchable database of incidents.
- An Ordinance that repeals sections of Atlanta's Quality of Life ordinances (Chapter 106) that are outdated, duplicative of state law, or that lead to racial profiling and unnecessary jail time in the Atlanta City Detention Center.

"I think Atlanta can be a national leader in bringing our law enforcement community and our residents together to move forward and strengthen our city," said Councilman Hall. "I'm looking forward to the robust conversation that these policy ideas will generate."

<http://atlantadailyworld.com/2016/07/20/atlanta-city-councilman-kwanza-hall-introduces-justice-reform-package/>

Print Clips

SUBJECT: The Mayor

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Reed to respond to Black Lives Matter demands within 2 weeks

By: Raisa Habersham

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and a Black Lives Matter organizer got into a heated discussion at a town hall event Tuesday.

About 100 people attended the Channel 2 Action News “Atlanta Unite” town hall, which brought together community leaders and Atlanta officials following weeks of protests triggered by the police-shooting deaths of two black men in Louisiana and Minnesota.

Reed and Black Lives Matter organizer Mary Hook bumped heads on several issues including homelessness, Atlanta officers in public schools and protesting on highways. Reed was presented with a list of demands Monday.

“The greatest threat isn’t the highway,” Hooks said. “The real threat is people not being able to work.”

Hooks challenged Reed on his commitments to combating homelessness in Atlanta and removing armed police from Atlanta schools. Reed defended his position on the issues, saying Atlanta has been in a better position on homelessness since he became mayor.

“You shared your reality,” Reed said. “I’m here to share mine.”

Reed said he’ll respond to the group’s demands in detail within seven to 15 days. He added he’d look into some of the ideas, such as rotating officers working difficult beats.

“I’ll answer every single one so you’ll know where I stand,” he said.

The demands include:

- Redirect general funds from the police department – which accounts for 52 percent of the spending – to social services and projects.
- Release the of surveillance footage from the 2015 Alexia Christian shooting.
- Stop allowing the Atlanta Police Department to train with Israeli trainers.

- Decrease the presence of police officers in schools.

Reed said he welcomes other meetings in the future with Black Lives Matters' protesters to work toward a solution.

"I found the meetings yesterday very refreshing and needed and I tried to convey that tonight," he said.

Hooks said: "I don't know about the next steps, but we are in active resistance until something changes."

<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/local/reed-will-respond-to-black-lives-matters-demands-w/nr2Yz/>

SUBJECT: The Mayor

JNS.org

Mayor of Atlanta defends ties with Israeli police despite Black Lives Matter demands

By: Staff Writer

(JNS.org) The Mayor of Atlanta on Monday said that Israeli police officers will continue to train the Atlanta police department despite demands made by ALTisREADY, a group affiliated with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement.

"There was a demand that I stop allowing the Atlanta Police Department to train with the Israeli police department," Mayor Reed said at a press conference.

"I'm not going to do that. I happen to believe that the Israeli police department has some of the best counter-terrorism techniques in the world and it benefits our police department from that long-standing relationship," he said.

Some BLM protestors, and representatives from NAACP, the Nation of Islam and Southern Christian Leadership Council, as well as others, met with Reed on Monday in a closed door meeting in order to address crimes involving people of color by local police, *CBS46 News Atlanta* reported.

Other protestor groups were left out of the meeting, including ALTisREADY, but their demands were reviewed by the mayor.

ALTisREADY lists on its website that "the people demand a termination to APD's involvement in the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) program, that trains our officers in Apartheid Israel."

This is not the first time that the cause of the BLM movement has become conflated with a pro-Palestinian cause. On July 7 the NYU branch of the group Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) posted on Facebook that "many U.S. police departments train with the Israeli Defense Forces," and these are "the same forces behind the genocide of black people in America are behind the genocide of Palestinians. The IDF assists the NYPD and other American police departments in their oppression and murder of black people."

<http://www.jns.org/news-briefs/2016/7/19/mayor-of-atlanta-defends-ties-with-israeli-police-against-blm-demands#.V4-bTfmAOk0>

SUBJECT: The Mayor

Breitbart.com

WATCH: Atlanta Mayor Nixes BLM Demand To Stop Police Cooperation With ‘Apartheid Israel’

By: Deborah Danan

TEL AVIV – The mayor of Atlanta rejected outright a demand by Black Lives Matter protesters to terminate the local police force’s joint training exercises with “Apartheid Israel” police.

The #ALTisREADY group, who describe themselves as a “collective of student activists, community organizers and leaders working to amplify Black and other marginalized voices in Atlanta,” gave a list of demands to Mayor Kasim Reed.

The first demand called for “a complete overhaul of Atlanta Police Department’s (APD) training institutions ... [and] a termination to APD’s involvement in the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) program, that trains our officers in Apartheid Israel.”

Officers in the APD and across the U.S. take part in Israeli counterterrorism training courses.

In a press conference following the meeting, Reen told reporters:

“There was a demand that I stop allowing the Atlanta Police Department to train with the Israeli police department.

“I’m not going to do that; I happen to believe that the Israeli police department has some of the best counterterrorism techniques in the world, and it benefits our police department from that longstanding relationship.”

Some factions of the BLM movement have affiliated with anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist movements. A demonstrator at a protest for the 2014 killing of black teenager Michael Brown by a police officer told *The Daily Beast*: “We are being occupied. They say it’s the death of three men that started a chain reaction of death and destruction in Gaza,” a reference to the murders of three Israeli teens who were kidnapped by Hamas. “Will we as a people rise up like the people of Gaza? Will our community be bombed like last night with tear gas? That was a terrorist attack.”

Some BLM activists are aligning themselves with the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel on college campuses across the U.S. *Algemeiner* reported that, two weeks ago, the NYU chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) sparked outrage by comparing the “genocide” of black people in America with the “genocide” of Palestinians.

The group posted the following on its Facebook page:

In the past 48 hours another two black men have been lynched by the police. The total number of black people lynched by cops in 2016 now totals 136. We must remember that many US police departments train with the #IsraeliDefenseForces. The same forces behind the genocide of black people in America are behind the genocide of Palestinians. What this means is that Palestinians must stand with our black comrades. We must struggle for their liberation. It is as important as our own. #AltonSterling is as important as #AliDawabsheh. Palestinian liberation and black liberation go together. We must recognize this and commit to building for it.

#BlackLivesMatter #PhilandoCastile #NoJusticeNoPeace #FromBatonRougeToGaza
#PalestiniansForBlackLiberation

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2016/07/20/atlanta-mayor-nixes-blm-demand-to-stop-police-cooperation-with-apartheid-israel/>

SUBJECT: Atlanta News

WABE

Black Lives Matter Disavows Emerging Atlanta ‘President’

By: Lisa Hagen

When Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed tried this week to meet with activists after five consecutive days of Black Lives Matter demonstrations, many of the key protest organizers walked out, calling the meeting a disappointment.

One person stayed and delivered a joint news conference with city leaders. Flanked by the mayor and Atlanta's chief of police Monday, Sir Maejor addressed the media.

"We as protesters, and as community organizers, hope that our mayor listens to our concerns and that he actually sits down with the team, which I believe he will, and sees what's tangible -- what can we really make happen," Maejor said.

He took time to warn reporters of protesters hungry for a spotlight.

"Folks got to remember, and the press needs to remember, that you're going to find people protesting without a cause. You're going to find people protesting just because we're on TV, right?" Maejor said. "You've got folks out there with different agendas, trying to put their organizations on the map."

Maejor has been quoted widely by both local and national media, including the Los Angeles Times and Fox News' "The O'Reilly Factor." By trade, he's an actor who's appeared on the FX show "American Horror Story: Coven."

Despite his increasing visibility, several members of groups organizing Atlanta's protests say Maejor does not speak for them. Additionally, National Black Lives Matter leadership now echoes their concerns.

"He's sending this message that nobody agrees with and he's meeting with these powerful people," said Asia Parks, an organizer with the activist group Rise Up. She said Maejor has played little to no part in organizing the protests that brought more than 10,000 Atlantans into the streets.

Maejor has pledged that his group will no longer protest, following an agreement he made with the mayor. A bulk of other protesters made no such assurances.

"His message is really of a personal matter and about himself," said Devyn Springer, another Rise Up organizer. Both he and Parks said they've found Maejor difficult to work with and complain that his public statements lack substance.

Maejor self-identifies as the president of Black Lives Matter of Greater Atlanta.

“We do not have presidents of chapters. We do not have CEOs of chapters. That is not our ethos,” said Alicia Garza, a co-creator of the national Black Lives Matter network.

Garza said Maejor had requested recognition from the national leadership, but was declined after conversations with local Atlanta activists about his ability to work with the LGBT community.

“I think there were lot of concerns around whether or not this person could work in a respectful and principled manner with people who were gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender,” Garza said. Being “queer-affirming” is one of Black Lives Matter’s 13 guiding principles.

Garza said an alignment with all of those values, and a rejection of violence, is a requirement for anyone interested in a formal affiliation with the Black Lives Matter network.

Khalid Kamau, one such established organizer with the movement’s Atlanta chapter, said earlier this year that Maejor had been pursuing leadership roles within the Black Lives Matter Atlanta chapter, including as head of communications. He said the actor has had consistent negative interactions with both activists and family members of police shooting victims.

“Our first chapter meeting was in December. By February, he had been sat down. We’d asked him just to not speak,” Kamau said.

Maejor would go on to attempt starting his own group. He was unwilling to discuss his apparent alienation from other activists.

"We're not going to get into this pissing match and going back and forth. We're not feeding into that. We're not doing it with the media and we're not doing it with each other," Maejor told WABE.

He said his group stood for leadership, development and accountability for both police and community members. Maejor was critical of the tactics of some Atlanta protesters, including the attitude of many who protested and left the mayor’s meeting. “Does Martin Luther King speak for everyone? No,” Maejor said. “So this notion that I speak for everyone? No, I don’t. I speak for a large amount of people. I speak for people in my community.”

He said, as matter of policy, he would not reveal the size of his group’s membership. By contrast, Atlanta’s Black Lives Matter chapter estimates they have about 200 active members, with “hundreds more on our rolls.”

<http://news.wabe.org/post/black-lives-matter-disavows-emerging-atlanta-president>

Print Clips

SUBJECT: The Mayor

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Mayor will review list of demands from ATLisReady protestors

By: Staff Writer

This morning's meeting between representatives of the Black Lives Matter movement and Mayor Kasim Reed were a picture of competing demands with some protestors saying they were shut out of the two hour meeting at city hall.

Members of #ATLisReady, the group that led last week's protest marches and demonstrations in the wake of the killing of two black men by police officers in Louisiana and Minnesota, said they were shut out of the meeting. They protested outside city hall and in the lobby – many wearing t-shirts emblazoned with the words “Unlovable Little Brat,” the term used by former mayor Andrew Young to describe some protestors. Four representatives who did get into the meeting left early, storming out shouting “power to the people” and “we have nothing to lose but our chains.” R&B musician Usher, who was in attendance at the meeting, attempted to calm protestors, but was shouted down.

On social media, #ATLisReady aired their dissatisfaction with the meeting being held behind closed doors. The group also linked to a list of 25 demands they wanted an immediate response to, which the mayor declined to give. They also called for a rally on Monday night, set to begin at 8 p.m. at city hall.

Following the meeting, Mayor Reed told the media that the #ATLisReady representatives wanted “yes or no responses to their list of demands, which I declined to give.” Reed said he would review the list of demands, which include an overhaul in training of the Atlanta Police Department, the end of “Operation Whiplash” (an Atlanta police operation to crack down on guns in neighborhoods the protestors say leads to racial profiling), to end a training exchange with Israeli police; abolishing no-knock warrants; and the diversion of APD funding to equitable housing solutions. You can read the full list of demands at [this link](#).

“This meeting wasn't about getting a deal, but having a conversation,” Reed said. “What I heard most often today was that folks want a different relationship with their police department.

Reed said he didn't "want to make another city's problem Atlanta's problem" and said many of the concerns from members of Black Lives Matter organization members were already being implemented by the city.

Sir Maejor, who represents Black Lives Matter of Greater Atlanta, said during the media briefing that the mayor listened to demands. "You are going to find people protesting without a cause and just because they are on TV. There are different agendas, organizations trying to get their name on the map and fighting over press coverage. Today's meeting was about understanding what the issues are. There's a diplomatic way of going about things and then there's shouting, making demands and using bully tactics. The mayor heard our concerns. We want our police officers to be more engaged with the community and de-escalate vs escalate."

<http://www.atlantaintownpaper.com/2016/07/32938/>

SUBJECT: The Mayor

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed: Meeting BLM protesters was productive

By: Ernie Suggs

When four community activists were allowed to return to a meeting with Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed on Monday, they gave him an ultimatum: Answer yes or no to a list of 25 “demands.”

Among them:

- Redirect general funds from the police department – which accounts for 52 percent of the spending – to social services and projects.
- Release the of surveillance footage from the 2015 Alexia Christian shooting.
- Stop allowing the Atlanta Police Department to train with Israeli trainers.
- Decrease the presence of police officers in schools.

As protesters chanted outside City Hall, Reed listened to the activists inside. He called the demands “thoughtful.” However, he refused to give definitive answers, although he later said some of the demands would be rejected outright.

“What I heard most often is that folks want a different relationship with their police department. I don’t want to make another city’s problem Atlanta’s problem,” Reed said about the meeting. “I will look at the demands and determine which ones are appropriate to respond to.”

And with that, the much ballyhooed meeting between Reed and the activists, some representing the Black Lives Matter movement — some not — yielded few concrete solutions.

Atlanta was one of several cities that experienced protests over the last two weeks in response to the shooting deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, two black men killed in Louisiana and Minnesota after encounters with police officers.

Their videotaped deaths were followed by the ambush-style killings of five police officers in Dallas and three in Baton Rouge on Sunday – only heightening tensions across America on the eve of the presidential conventions.

“I am concerned about our officers,” Reed said. “I can’t tell you how many families I have heard from who are worried about their husbands and wives being attacked by copycats.”

Atlanta Police Chief George Turner said on Monday that his officers just returned to eight-hour shifts after a week of Atlanta protests and a city on high alert.

On Monday night, Turner announced that in response to the recent police shootings in Dallas and Baton Rouge, the department is evaluating safety protocols. He immediately announced that two police officers will be required to be a one car in response to emergency calls in some parts of the city. Also, employee assistance team members will visit all of the zones to support officers.

The city has gone several days without any major protests, although there has been speculation that after Monday's meeting, they will resume.

"We are trying to do everything we can to be thoughtful, courteous and to show empathy," Reed said. "But that does not mean that the city will cease to function."

Some activists upset

Turner and Reed agreed to meet with protesters at City Hall after a series of marches last week that concluded with a rally outside of the Governor's Mansion in Buckhead. At that rally, protesters refused to leave until they met with Turner and Reed. Gov. Nathan Deal was out of the country at the time.

Reed and Turner, that night, sat down with four protesters and negotiated Monday's meeting.

Reed said he didn't leave Monday's sometime contentious meeting with activists with a deal, but that wasn't the point, he said.

"It was not my goal to come out and get a deal done, but there are some problems you have to work out and resolve," Reed said. "I don't believe meeting is a sign of weakness. But rather caring."

He said he was more interested in listening to the growing concerns of local protesters who have used the recent violence to bring attention to problems in Atlanta.

"Atlanta has a tradition of civic activism, and it is part of our success," Reed said. "I really don't believe this is a burden."

But the meeting, closed to the media, seemed to take a while to gain it's footing.

Initially, several protesters, ironically wearing "Unlovable Brats," T-shirts in a dig at former Ambassador Andrew Young who dubbed them that last week, came to the meeting, but left shortly after it started.

Several people who attended the meeting said the protesters "lacked decorum."

Several protest leaders said they wanted a public forum on the steps of City Hall, but instead got a closed door meeting.

“I feel like we were lied to, bamboozled by the mayor,” said Taiza Troutman, 22. “We had people here at 8 a.m. and sent two people in to let them know we were more comfortable with a public forum outside on the steps. There was a meeting, but not ‘our’ meeting.”

After demonstrating outside, protesters attempted to storm back in the meeting, but were blocked. As they sang outside of the meeting room, police officers escorted the four leaders back in. The singer Usher came out of the meeting several times to try to calm down the protesters.

“The mayor did a helluva job,” said Sir Maejor, the head of Black Lives Matter of Greater Atlanta.

Sir Maejor was part of the meeting, but not part of the protesters who came in and out

“They were trying to bogard their way into the meeting, which is not the way to handle this and be heard,” Sir Maejor said. “They are not protesting for a good reason. The mayor met with you, why you still screaming at him.”

Al Vivian, a diversity trainer who mediated the meeting, called it “candid, open and transparent.”

<http://www.myajc.com/news/news/atlanta-mayor-kasim-reed-meeting-blm-protesters-wa/nrzt8/>

SUBJECT: The Mayor

Israel National News

Watch: Atlanta mayor shuts down Israel boycotters

By: [Ari Soffer](#)

When Mayor of Atlanta Kasim Reed was presented with a list of demands by a group associated with the "Black Lives Matter" (BLM) campaign, which included a demand to end joint training exercises with the Israeli police, he was none too impressed.

The BLM faction in question, ALTisREADY, had issued a list of demands to the Atlanta Police Dept., which led with the following:

We demand a termination to APD's involvement in the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) program, that trains our officers in Apartheid Israel (sic).

Responding at a press conference to a journalist who asked why he rejected the list of demands, Reed said bluntly:

"There was a demand that I stop allowing the Atlanta Police Department to train with the Israeli police department.

"I'm not going to do that; I happen to believe that the Israeli police department has some of the best counterterrorism techniques in the world, and it benefits our police department from that longstanding relationship."

Leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement met with Mayor Reed for two hours on Sunday.

The city has seen a number of protests over the killings of black Americans by police in the US, though the Atlanta rallies have been largely peaceful.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/215205>

SUBJECT: Atlanta News

WABE

Atlanta Demonstrators Hold Town Hall Monday Night After Meeting With Mayor

By: Martha Dalton

Protestors gathered at Atlanta's city hall Monday night. The group wants changes to Atlanta's police force in the aftermath of police shootings in Minnesota and Louisiana. Organizers weren't satisfied after an earlier meeting with Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed.

Some activists associated with a movement called "ATL is ready" met with the mayor. They said they wanted a public meeting, but instead Reed met with them privately. Organizer Avery Jackson was included in that meeting. At city hall Monday night, he said the group presented a list of demands to the mayor.

"One, we're trying to address how we train our officers; two, we want to address how they act in the field; three, we want to hold them accountable when they make mistakes; four, we want to discuss how we're resourcing our police department," he said.

Taiza Troutman, another organizer with the group, said Monday night's meeting was meant to be an open forum.

"We wanted to give the people a 'free for all' meeting," she said. "You know, that's what we thought the meeting with the mayor was going to be. If we brought extra people, we thought we'd be able to choose and bring the people who've been in the streets with us and know the issues."

The demonstrators said Reed rejected all of their demands. However, earlier Monday Reed said he would consider some of them, like mental health screenings for officers.

"ATL is ready" said it will continue to protest until the demands are met.

<http://news.wabe.org/post/atlanta-demonstrators-hold-town-hall-monday-night-after-meeting-mayor>

SUBJECT: APD

11 Alive Atlanta

Atlanta Police changes safety protocols in light of police shootings

By: Adrienne Haney

ATLANTA -- Atlanta Police says it has made changes to its safety protocols for its department in order to keep its officers safe.

This comes a day after three officers were shot and killed in Baton Rouge Sunday, and just weeks after five officers were shot and killed in Dallas.

According to a spokeswoman for the Atlanta Police Department, officers will patrol two to a car in some parts of the city as they respond to calls. The department's Employee Assistance team will also be visiting all Zones to support officers during this time, though officials did not indicate for how long the new protocols would be in place.

"As always, we remind our officers to be aware of their surroundings, use all their senses and to listen to their intuition when responding to calls," the department said in a statement. "Our top priority remains securing our city and protecting our citizens."

The changes come in the recent uptick in violence against police officers. After the deadly ambush against police in Dallas, a 911 caller in Georgia also ambushed a responding officer and shot him. Both the shooter and officer survived.

<http://www.11alive.com/news/local/atlanta-police-changes-safety-protocols-in-light-of-police-shootings/276245716>

SUBJECT: APS

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Atlanta police to patrol in pairs

By: Sierra Hubbard

The Atlanta Police Department is taking measures to protect its officers in wake of the recent to the shootings of police in Dallas and Baton Rouge.

Two officers will patrol per vehicle “in some parts of the city,” according to a written statement released Monday by the department. Employee assistance team members will also visit each zone to support the officers.

“As always, we remind our officers to be aware of their surroundings, use all their senses and to listen to their intuition when responding to calls,” Atlanta police spokeswoman Elizabeth Espy said in the statement.

Similar measures have already been taken in Chicago and other major U.S. cities.

“Our top priority remains securing our city and protecting our citizens,” Espy said.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/local/atlanta-police-to-patrol-in-pairs/nrzz8/>

SUBJECT: APD

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Atlanta cop charged with murder in shooting of unarmed black man

By: Brad Schrade

A murder warrant was issued Friday for a former Atlanta police officer who fatally shot an unarmed motorist and who investigators later determined posed no threat to the officer, Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said.

Officer James R. Burns, who was fired following the June 22 shooting of Deravis Caine Rogers, faces charges of felony murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and violation of his oath of office, according to a release by Howard on Friday night.

It's highly unusual for a district attorney in Georgia to seek an officer's arrest in a police shooting case before a grand jury meets to weigh the evidence, but Howard said his decision was based on what investigators have found so far.

"By reason of the evidence presented by several eye-witnesses, videos, and the findings of the Atlanta Police Department, we will proceed in this case in the same manner as any other defendant similarly charged — arrest, indictment and resolution," said Howard in a statement.

Howard's swift action comes as Atlanta police and city leaders have been on edge over a string of marches and protests sparked by deadly police shootings in Louisiana and Minnesota. Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed is scheduled to meet with protest leaders Monday after a tense standoff with demonstrators at the Governor's Mansion Monday night.

Howard's action is also another indicator that the officer's justification for shooting Rogers' was questionable. The Atlanta Police Department confirmed last week that Chief George N. Turner had fired Burns on July 1, less than two weeks after Rogers was killed, because the unarmed black man posed no threat to the officer.

In an internal affairs investigation into the shooting, Turner determined that Burns used excessive force and that his rationale for pulling his trigger was contradicted by other evidence.

Still, Howard's decision to press ahead with an arrest warrant marks the beginning of what could be a challenging legal fight if he is to secure an indictment and conviction. An Atlanta Journal-Constitution/Channel 2 Action News investigation last year found that of 184 fatal police shootings between 2010 and 2015, not one led to criminal prosecution.

<http://www.myajc.com/news/news/breaking-news/atlanta-cop-charged-with-murder-in-shooting-of-una/nry8m/>

SUBJECT: APS

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Atlanta schools chief has a 4-step plan to stop the violence

By: Molly Bloom

The superintendent of the Atlanta schools has a plan to stop the violence.

In a response to the killings in Nice last week and to terrorist attacks, mass shootings and fatal shootings of police in Paris; Orlando; San Bernardino, Calif.; Dallas and elsewhere, Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Meria Carstarphen says she has a four-step national plan to prevent similar events.

At the core of her proposal is a concept called “social-emotional learning” under which students are taught how to form healthy relationships and make responsible decisions. Atlanta schools are already spending millions to teach students those skills this year.

Carstarphen’s plan includes federal funding for 60 big-city school districts to teach students social-emotional learning and for early childhood education and mental health services; new state laws, funding and programs that support those efforts; funding for more research into social-emotional learning and developing lesson plans and ways of testing its effectiveness; and more high-quality training for school-based police officers.

Carstarphen says the U.S. Department of Education should funnel the money into select communities under a model similar to those used for previous Promise Zone and Promise Neighborhood programs intended to attack poverty and related problems. And she says the president should issue an executive order for emergency funding for the work.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/local-education/atlanta-schools-chief-has-a-4-step-plan-to-stop-th/nrziz/>

SUBJECT: APD

11 Alive

Mother files wrongful death lawsuit after Atlanta Police officer charged with murder

By: Julie Wolfe

ATLANTA - The mother of the 22-year-old man shot and killed by an Atlanta Police officer has filed a wrongful death lawsuit.

The Cochran Law Firm announced it had been hired by Melva Rodgers two days after Officer James Burns was booked on charges of felony murder and aggravated assault.

The incident took place on June 22 when Burns, who has since been fired, shot and killed Rogers on Monroe Place in Atlanta.

The Cochran firm said they'd conducted their own investigation and determined: "Deravis Caine Rogers was murdered by James Burns without any legal justification and in direct violation of his civil rights". Officer Rogers is named directly in the suit, along with the Atlanta Police Department.

"It is also clear from our investigation that the shooting death of Mr. Rogers was directly caused by The Atlanta Police Department's persistent and widespread practice of allowing its officers to use unreasonable and excessive force without any repercussions," the lawsuit argues.

"Our firm has filed a civil rights lawsuit on behalf of Melva Rogers against the City of Atlanta Police Department and James Burns to hold them not only legally responsible for the wrongful death of Deravis Rogers, but to make real changes within the Atlanta Police Department," Attorney Shean Williams said in a statement released by the law firm.

Melva Rogers and the attorneys with the Cochran firm will meet with Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard on Wednesday, July 20.

Burns had his first court appearance on Monday, July 18.

<http://www.11alive.com/news/local/mother-files-wrongful-death-lawsuit-after-atlanta-police-officer-charged-with-murder/276017556>

SUBJECT: The Mayor

13 WMAZ

Mayor Reed urges empathy for police, restraint against protesters

By: Valerie Hoff and Adrienne Haney

ATLANTA -- Demonstrators are already prepping for a fifth night of protests in the metro area, this time in Buckhead.

There are different groups holding different events, and while some tactics of those groups might be more forceful than other, all groups have one common goal: to be heard and gain a more equal playing field when it comes to law enforcement and the judicial system.

On Monday, Atlanta's mayor Kasim Reed and other leaders gathered to urge protesters to stay within the law, but also to show empathy for police officers working 12-hour days to keep both the public and the protesters safe, all while under stressful and tense conditions.

“It is of grave concern...the toll that it's taken on our law enforcement,” Reed said. “I believe our officers have done an exceptional job. They have had bottles of water thrown at them, and obscenities and insults shouted at them repeatedly for hours on end, and they are exhausted.

At the same time, the mayor urged those officers to continue to use restraint.

The Mayor has been supportive of the protesters who obey the laws and said is willing to meet with those who plan taking to the streets to hear their suggestions for change. And it appears the calls for peace have worked. So far, just 14 people were arrested during protests over the weekend – a very small number compared to other U.S. cities.

<http://www.13wmaz.com/news/mayor-reed-urges-empathy-for-police-restraint-against-protesters/270852106>

SUBJECT: The Mayor

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed personally involved in demonstrations

By: Dan Klepal

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed was watching live video of a semi-truck stopped by protesters on the downtown connector Friday night, but he was thinking about 1992 Los Angeles.

That's the year L.A. burned during rioting that followed the acquittal of four police officers charged with use of excessive force in the videotaped beating of Rodney King. One of the victims on the first day of the riots was a truck driver named Reginald Denny, who was nearly beaten to death on live television after being stopped by protesters.

Reed made the decision to go into the crowd as he watched Atlantans shake and climb on top of the the truck.

“It just struck me as a moment when things could go really badly and we needed a pause,” Reed said during an interview Tuesday with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.. “I thought if that truck had been turned over, there are a lot of things that could have gone wrong, and the energy would have moved to a different place.

“When I got to the protest ... the young people moved toward me and away from the truck.”

Reed has twice entered the fray since demonstrations started Thursday, after African-American men were killed by police in Louisiana and Minnesota. He did so again Monday night, when demonstrators camped in front of the Governor's mansion began chants, demanding a meeting with him and Police Chief George Turner.

The mayor and Turner showed up and met with four young protesters, emerging from a police command vehicle 45 minutes later to announce a larger meeting Monday at City Hall. It's unclear if the demonstrations will continue this week.

Reed said his motivation for meeting Monday was opposite of Friday: “My feeling was they had been non-violent, done minimal property damage, and I watched them attempt to have a more orderly demonstration, so I thought it was appropriate to meet.”

Public protest and civil disobedience come with high political risk, no matter what an elected official does, experts say.

Lawrence Jacobs, director of the Center for Study of Politics and Governance at the University of Minnesota, called it a “no win situation.”

“Mayors are quite literally caught in the middle,” Jacobs said. “If they sit back, they face shame for failure of leadership. When they go into the streets, they risk appearing ineffectual or face the political cost of being repudiated by allies.

“How do you speak to your base, who are livid and feel assaulted by police, and at the same time work cooperatively with that essential group of public servants?”

Reed seems to have somehow pulled it off, said Angelo Fuster, a communications expert who served in the administrations or worked on the campaigns of three Atlanta mayors — Maynard Jackson, Andrew Young and Bill Campbell.

“There is risk, period,” Fuster said Tuesday. “I was a little surprised he showed up last night, because I don’t think the administration responds well to demands like that. But I was pleased that he did show up. He listened and invited them to City Hall next week.

“I thought that was effective.”

Not everyone thinks the mayor’s approach has been effective.

Francys Johnson, president of the Georgia NAACP, said Atlanta police “manhandled” protesters Monday night prior to Reed’s meeting with them. He said a white Presbyterian minister was still in Grady Hospital Tuesday because of a shoulder injury he suffered during arrest.

“To manhandle protesters, throw them in jail like they did last night, is not consistent with what Mayor Reed said he would do,” Johnson said.

About 16 people were arrested Monday; fewer than 25 were arrested during the four previous days.

Georgia Sen. Vincent Fort, who has clashed with Reed over many issues, questioned why so many people were arrested during one night of protests in Buckhead.

“The thing that aggravates me, and that concerns me greatly, is that when students are downtown they are given latitude. But, but when they go to Buckhead, they are arrested in mass,” Fort said. “The location of the protests was the only variable. That’s a problem of justice.”

Reed said the protesters were arrested Monday when they impeded traffic in a major business corridor. The mayor said he does not regret inserting himself in the demonstrations. Atlanta’s reputation and history of non-violent protests is too important, he said.

“It’s my job to listen and to try and address the challenges that generate this kind of frustration,” Reed said. “You can’t fear the people you represent.”

<http://www.myajc.com/news/news/local-govt-politics/atlanta-mayor-kasim-reed-personally-involved-in-de/nrxTt/>

SUBJECT: Public Safety

Technique

Safety concerns at Black Lives Matter protests

By: Maura Currie

Protesters have taken to the streets of Atlanta for five consecutive nights in the wake of police shootings and retaliatory attacks across the country.

Two black men, Alton Sterling and Philando Castille, were shot and killed by police officers in incidents which were captured on camera and circulated on the internet. Following this, on July 5 and 6, Black Lives Matter protests and occupations began to surface in major cities such as Chicago, St. Paul, Minn. and New Orleans. On July 7, a sniper targeted police forces monitoring a protest in Dallas, killing five officers and wounding seven. Protest movements have continued nationwide in the days since amid ongoing discussion of the role of policing in racial issues.

Protests in Atlanta peaked on July 8 as approximately 10,000 people participated in marches and events around the city. That evening saw a group of hundreds occupy the Downtown Connector, briefly blocking traffic along the freeway between North Avenue and Spring Street.

GA Code § 32-6-1 (2015) states that “(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct, encroach upon, solicit the sale of any merchandise on, or injure materially any part of any public road.” Demonstrators and protesters may wish to expand the reach of their message by moving their activities onto the roadways but need to realize they are in violation of the law when they do so. These laws have a clear purpose for keeping everyone safe; motorists who are not aware

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed expressed his sentiments in a statement made Monday on his Facebook page. In it, he discussed how those comparing the marches of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the demonstrators attempting to block streets in Atlanta are misguided. Reed stated that Dr. King’s marches were done after long periods of planning and coordination with public officials and that this has not been the case with the current protests, which “put innocent motorists’ lives at risk without warning.”

<http://nique.net/blogs/technocrats/2016/07/13/safety-concerns-at-black-lives-matter-protests-2/>

SUBJECT: Atlanta News

13 WMAZ

MEDICAL EXAMINER: Man found hanging in Piedmont Park officially ruled suicide

By: Staff Writer

ATLANTA - The body found hanging in Piedmont Park last week has been ruled a suicide by the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office.

The official cause of death was asphyxiation. The body has been identified as Michael George Smith, 22, from New Jersey.

According to the initial police report, which was submitted on Thursday, July 7, by Officer A. Conley, the responding officer said a security guard found the man and called police.

When the officer arrived at the scene, he said it appeared the man had hung himself with a white rope attached to a tree. The man had earbuds in his ear and a backpack around his waist.

“There did not appear to be a struggle or any foul play. The scene and the body seemed to coincide with a suicide,” the officer wrote.

The man appeared to be well-dressed and “clean cut”, the officer wrote.

Emergency responders arrived at the scene and confirmed the man had passed away.

Investigators and the medical examiner arrived at the scene and determined the death appeared consistent with suicide. The body was transferred to the medical examiner’s custody. Crime scene technicians said they were not able to locate the man’s identification card.

<http://www.13wmaz.com/news/medical-examiner-man-found-hanging-in-piedmont-park-officially-ruled-suicide/270848821>

SUBJECT: The Mayor

UPI

Atlanta mayor agrees to talks after Black Lives Matter sit-in

By: Ed Adamczyk

ATLANTA, July 12 (UPI) -- The mayor of Atlanta agreed to a formal meeting with Black Lives Matter protesters and the city's police chief after the demonstrators held an hours-long sit-in outside the Georgia governor's mansion.

The protest at the governor's mansion began after a march through the city's upscale Buckhead section that blocked traffic.

Although Gov. Nathan Deal was in Germany on a trade mission, between 200 and 300 demonstrators gathered outside his residence Monday evening after a march through the neighborhood, requesting a meeting with Mayor Kasim Reed or police Chief George Turner to address their concerns. Reed and Turner each arrived late in the night; the two men met with protest organizers inside a police command vehicle for about 45 minutes.

They emerged announcing another meeting Monday after what Reed termed a cooling-off period, to discuss grievances including affordable housing and homelessness in the city. Reed also briefly addressed protesters after the meeting.

"They wanted to have a conversation with us and that's what we're out here to do -- have a conversation. Our city is doing the right things -- that's why we're out here. We're out here trying to have a conversation with folks and figure out what we can do to move our police department to a better place," Turner said after the meeting.

Police did not allow any demonstrators leaving the protest to return, and many left after they ran out of food or were told illegally parked cars were being ticketed. Some stayed, though, past midnight. The demonstration was smaller than those on previous nights; an estimated 15,000 people were involved in marches in Atlanta over the weekend, about 10,000 on Friday.

Reed said Monday there have been fewer than 25 arrests since the start of the weekend, WTOCTV reported.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2016/07/12/Atlanta-mayor-agrees-to-talks-after-Black-Lives-Matter-sit-in/6841468320989/

SUBJECT: The Mayor

WTVM

Atlanta mayor meets protesters' demands, ending sit-in at governor's mansion

By: Rebekka Schramm

ATLANTA (CBS46) -Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed agreed Monday night to meet with Black Lives Matter activists, ending a sit-in at the governor's mansion in the city's Buckhead community.

Protesters began their fifth straight night of protesting Monday with a rally outside Lenox Square, briefly shutting down Peachtree Road as police arrested a few protesters who refused to follow police orders to remain on the sidewalk.

The protesters then marched to the governor's mansion on Paces Ferry Road. They quickly learned, however, that Gov. Nathan Deal is in Germany. So they demanded that Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and Police Chief George Turner meet with them at the governor's mansion, pledging that they would not budge until the men came.

At about 11:30 p.m., Turner showed up.

"We're out here trying to have a conversation with folks about what we can do to move our police department forward," Turner told reporters.

Then, at about 12:30 a.m., Reed arrived. He and Turner met with four protest organizers inside a police van, and the group emerged with Reed pledging to host a community dialogue at Atlanta City Hall on Monday, July 18, at 9 a.m. In return, the protesters agreed to a cooling-off period to allow police officers and state troopers to get some rest.

"Obviously they have concerns about policing, and we managed to have a very substantive conversation about how they believe the police conduct themselves," said Reed. "Tonight really was about listening and being open, and it is very important that you respect the energy they were putting into this, and so we will have a substantive talk on Monday."

CBS46's Tracey Hutchins reported that the protesters were reaching out on social media for food.

Woman detained at Atlanta protest

A woman was detained by Atlanta police Monday in the fifth day of protests following recent officer-involved shootings. As the woman was being detained, there was a brief scuffle in the area where protesters met police officers.

<http://www.wtvm.com/story/32413518/atlanta-mayor-meets-protesters-demands-ending-sit-in-at-governors-mansion>

SUBJECT: The Mayor

Tifton Gazette

Atlanta mayor says police using 12-hour shifts for protests

By: Staff Writer

ATLANTA — Atlanta's mayor said Monday that police showed "extraordinary restraint" during four straight nights of protests over the police killings of black men in Louisiana and Minnesota and urged protesters to show respect to law enforcement as demonstrations continue.

"I believe that our officers have done an exceptional job," Mayor Kasim Reed said. "In some cases, they have had bottles of water thrown at them and obscenities and insults shouted at them repeatedly for hours on end. Yet they have remained calm and professional."

Reed said the long hours are taking a toll, though. He said officers also are affected by the fatal shooting of five police officers in Dallas on Thursday evening as a peaceful protest against police shootings wound down.

"When our officers are out on the street in droves, providing protection for your protest, the very least that we can do is to treat them with the dignity and respect that they deserve and the dignity and respect that you are asking for during your protest," Reed said.

Reed said about 15,000 people attended various protests this weekend, and 14 people were arrested Saturday and Sunday by the Atlanta Police Department. Two others were arrested by the Georgia State Patrol.

People holding signs gathered each night and marched through the streets chanting, with the largest crowds occurring on Friday night. Reed said the crowd changed from families on Friday to "people unaffiliated with community organizations that we are aware of" on Saturday and Sunday.

Demonstrators gathered again Monday evening and marched to the governor's mansion in Buckhead, where they staged a sit-in. An 11 p.m. closing time will be enforced at city parks, according to a statement issued by the police department several hours after Reed held a press conference on Monday at police headquarters.

Anyone violating the ordinance "will receive a warning," the statement said. "Failure to comply with the warning can result in an arrest."

Atlanta Police Chief George Turner ticked off a list of partner organizations, including the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center within the state's Office of Homeland

Security. Turner said helicopters, police in street clothes, cameras located around the city and other "intelligence gathering" helped manage the weekend demonstrations.

Reed said police worked 12-hour shifts, with staff and officers logging about 6,000 overtime hours. All off-days were canceled to manage the marches and demonstrations that continued late into the night over the weekend. He suggested officials would have to re-evaluate their strategy if the protests continue for a full week and said he's considering a curfew. Asked whether he would request National Guard assistance, Reed said "it's not an option that I prefer."

"I think the current configuration is the right configuration that has worked well for us," he said.

Reed again blasted some protesters' strategy of blocking freeways as dangerous for themselves and motorists. Law enforcement agencies have used vehicle convoys to prevent that in Atlanta in recent days.

http://www.tiftongazette.com/news/atlanta-mayor-says-police-using--hour-shifts-for-protests/article_59add1e6-4833-11e6-9877-2324f28a2a71.html

SUBJECT: Atlanta News

NY Daily News

Atlanta protests rally at Georgia governor's mansion seeking talk with mayor, police brass

By: Nicole Hensley

Hundreds of hungry protesters in Atlanta hunkered down for a massive sit-in outside the Governor's mansion following numerous arrests Monday while decrying police-involved deaths of black men across the nation.

A march that began at around 7 p.m. led protesters to Governor Nathan Deal's mansion although the state official was out-of-town for a trade mission in Germany.

Cops chowed down on fast food from Chick-fil-A as protesters — demanding to speak with the mayor and police brass — tried ordering pizza and returning to the demonstration site with dinner.

Police patrolling the gathering reportedly prohibited protesters from bypassing barricades surrounding the street while returning with food and water, according to WSB-TV.

A handful of protesters resorted to drumming and chanting “We don't need food, we need justice.”

Black Lives Matter leaders finally met with Mayor Kasim Reed and Chief George Turner for about 45 minutes inside a mobile command center flanked by cops and protesters shortly after midnight, securing a two-hour community meeting.

“That's progress, right?” shouted a rally organizer on a loudspeaker. “Tonight is a win.”

Even after speaking with city officials, protesters continued to linger outside the mansion past 1 a.m. Tuesday.

It's unclear how many arrests were made during the arrests earlier in the evening.

The demonstration followed the deaths of five police officers in Dallas, Texas, and the deaths of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La., Philando Castile in St. Paul, Minn., and Delrawn Small in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The protests in Atlanta attracted about 15,000 people throughout the weekend, Reed said.

The lively protests returned to Atlanta for the fifth night in a row.

On Friday, protesters with the Black Lives Matter tried shutting down a major highway in Atlanta — a common tactic now used during protests of late that resulted in several arrests in St. Paul on Saturday night.

A major highway was briefly shut down in Dallas during the commuting rush on Monday evening, according to the Star-Telegram.

For five minutes, about eight protesters holding signs, including a large strip that said “BlackLivesMatter,” brought vehicle traffic to a halt on US-75 at around 4:45 p.m., the Telegram reported.

There were additional protests in Denver, Colo., and Chicago, Ill., where police arrested one person, the Chicago Tribune said.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/atlanta-protests-rally-georgia-governor-mansion-article-1.2707769>

SUBJECT: APD

Atlanta Intown

Arrests made as protestors march through Buckhead

By: Staff Writer

Atlanta Police arrested more than a dozen Black Lives Matter protestors during Monday night's march through Buckhead. This was the fifth consecutive night of demonstrations in the wake of the shooting of two black men by police in Louisiana and Minnesota.

Protestors gathered at the Lenox MARTA station around 7 p.m. and marched down Peachtree Road to West Paces Ferry Road and finally to the Governor's Mansion. Along the way, APD officers warned protestors to stay on the sidewalks and not to block the roadways. Those who failed to comply were loaded into police buses and vans.

Several hundred protestors arrived at the Governor's Mansion just before 10 p.m. chanting "No justice, no peace! No justice, no sleep!" However, Gov. Nathan Deal is in Germany on a trade mission.

Protestors sat down on the sidewalk and called for Mayor Kasim Reed and APD Chief George Turner to come to West Paces Ferry and meet with Black Lives Matter organizers. Both Turner and Reed arrived after 11 p.m. and met with protestor organizers for 45 minutes. Reed and police officials agreed to meet with organizers on Monday, July 18, from 9 to 11 a.m. at city hall. Reed told assembled media that he had asked for a "cooling off" period from protests as officers were exhausted from 12 hour shifts and five days of protecting protestors and the community.

<http://www.atlantaintownpaper.com/2016/07/arrests-made-as-protestors-march-through-buckhead/>

SUBJECT: APD

Fox 5

Atlanta police officer fired after shooting, killing man

By: Deidra Dukes

ATLANTA - The Atlanta Police Department has decided to fire an officer who shot and killed a man after he was allegedly spotted breaking into cars at an apartment complex in northeast Atlanta.

Atlanta police have identified the officer as James Burns. They described him as a rookie officer.

The shooting happened on June 22 in the 2100 block of Monroe Drive. According to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, an off-duty officer put a call out about a suspicious person who he thought was breaking into a car. The off-duty officer was serving as a courtesy officer at the Monroe Place Apartments.

Investigators said a foot chase followed.

One of the responding officers, James Burns, was out of his patrol car when he said he spotted 22-year-old Deravis Rogers. According to Burns, Rogers had already entered a vehicle when Burns opened fire and shot Rogers in the head.

Rogers was taken to Grady Memorial Hospital where he later died.

Investigators concluded Burns used unnecessary and unreasonable force. Based on the findings of the investigation, Atlanta police said they moved quickly to fire him.

"We determined right away that the shooting was not something the department could stand behind," Sergeant Warren Pickard told FOX 5's Deidra Dukes.

Rogers' aunt Ella Scott reacted to news of the officer's termination Monday afternoon. "Our family is still in shock from one, finding out he was shot in the head by a police officer. No communication from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Atlanta Police Department, and then to find out ultimately he had been fired. I feel like they are ultimately not dragging their feet but maybe doing the right thing by my nephew."

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/172849052-story>