



As many of you are aware, some peaceful protests were held last night and continued through today honoring the memory of George Floyd. As Mayor Johnson stated earlier at the 12:30 p.m. press conference, "Last night we saw a very large peaceful demonstration that reflected the Dallas I know... That protest gave voice to the many people of color in the country that long felt frustration and pain... But we also unfortunately saw some reckless behavior from a small group of people who's agendas had nothing to do with human rights and civil rights. They exploited a collected cry for help for their own personal gain by looting. They chose to destroy things at a time when we should be building each other up, and we just can't allow that. "

I spent the afternoon at City Hall attending the press conference with the Mayor, my council colleagues, community and faith leaders, the City Manager and Chief Hall. I also had time to meet with City Manager T.C. Broadnax and Chief Hall. The City of Dallas supports peaceful protests but will not tolerate criminal and destructive activity. Officials learned of several scheduled protests and are taking steps to keep our residents safe. NorthPark Center and Galleria Dallas were closed at 2:00 pm due to reports of potential protests. We have officers managing traffic flows within downtown by restricting eastbound egress to 75/Central and westbound egress to I-35 North.

Protests started today at City Hall at approximately 1 pm and continued throughout the afternoon. They remained peaceful until recently, and now a crowd of 700 people has convened and is getting rowdy. They are surrounding squad cars at that location and breaking the windows. One Department of Public Safety Vehicle has been spray-painted, and we are waiting on an update of other property damage. The car demonstrators headed to Mesquite earlier today after the Dallas shopping centers closed. Mesquite PD successfully thwarted their plans to loot the local mall there but as of 4:27 p.m., the drivers were headed back to downtown Dallas.

At approximately 4:36 p.m., demonstrators began advancing towards police officers who were sitting in their squad cars across from City Hall at the intersection of Young and Akard Streets. They have broken some of the officers' car windows and in an effort to defuse the situation, DPD had its SWAT unit administer tear gas. Some demonstrators have dispersed, but several remain in the area. Additional manpower has been called in to assist DPD in monitoring the crowd and protect City Hall.

Additional protests are anticipated throughout the evening. In preparation, officers have strategically been deployed throughout downtown and in other areas intelligence has indicated as potential sites. I have been assured by City Management that DPD will have a larger presence throughout the City and will respond accordingly. There will be no tolerance for violence, looting, property damage and destructive activity. In

addition, there are approximately 500 state troopers in the City to remain until at least 2 a.m. or longer if needed. There is an abundance of social media posts targeting neighborhoods and communities in the D13 area. This is often done to incite and threaten. DPD is vigilantly scanning intelligence, taking the threats seriously, and asking the public to call 911 if you see or witness criminal or suspicious activity. I urge all residents to stay home, be aware of your surroundings and take precautions to remain safe.

You can follow @DallasPD on Twitter for the latest information.

As always, my office is here for you. if you need anything, please feel free to reach out to me or my Council Liaison Sarah Evans, sarah.evans@dallascityhall.com.



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