

Group #6 – Civil Unrest

On today's date at 7 pm, approximately 500 people gathered in Central Park in Central City to protest the not guilty verdict in a police use-of-force case announced at the nearby courthouse. Several Central City police officers were accused of beating a man who was accused of shoplifting at a local drug store and then falsifying their report to include resisting arrest charges. The suspect later died due to pre-existing medical conditions.

The protesters are carrying signs showing their anger over the verdict. Before the trial began, a local minister, the Reverend Burton Jones, began open protests calling for justice for the victim. The crowd that gathered was initially peaceful and had previously conveyed their peaceful intentions to city authorities. The local minister led the marchers to the courthouse.

They planned to march to the courthouse and stage a protest in front of the building. After dark, as the protesters marched to the courthouse, they began blocking traffic and grew increasingly agitated. Upon arriving at the courthouse, the crowd had grown, and the marchers had broken several windows, overturned cars, and set buildings on fire on the way to the courthouse.

Central City police attempted to block the crowd from the courthouse grounds, but were met with thrown rocks and bottles. Police then deployed pepper spray and tear gas in an attempt to break up the crowd. While moving away from the courthouse, gunshots were heard in the area of the crowd. As police moved forward to attempt to disperse the crowd further, they came across several people attempting to aid a person who was lying on the ground, the apparent victim of a gunshot. The gunshot victim was Reverend Jones.

GROUP MISSION:

Prepare and deliver a news conference regarding the jurisdiction's response to the event, including the police, local public safety and healthcare.

Your news conference should start 4 hours after the accident was reported.

The expectation is that there will be a lead PIO, city/county officials, and subject matter experts, as required

The news conferences will be organized as a multi-party briefing with time for questions by reporters. The news conference will be limited to 10 minutes, with a 5-minute question-and-answer period after the news conference concludes.